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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February 2003

Volume 56

Number 1



AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 1999:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725 or 1-800-770-2872. Individual \$25.00, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$27.50; Commercial USA \$37.00; Commercial International - \$58.75; Life (USA) - \$500.00. International Life \$575.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$27.00; Council, State or Region - \$27.00.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002.

AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. E-mail promers22@hotmail.com

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 4343 Schumacher Rd. - 196E, Sebring, FL 33872-2639.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Mary Walbrick, 5235 Kingston Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76310-3029

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Sue Hoffmann, 801 N. Villier Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Baton Rouge, LA - April 20-27, 2003; Tucson, AZ - April 11-18, 2004.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$10.50 per 100; 500 to 900 \$9.25 per 100; 1000 and over - \$7.00 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 500 to 1,000 \$23.00 per 500; 1,500 and up \$21.00 per 500.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in September issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ann Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208-3428. Requests must be in writing. List top 3 choices.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.50. Online updates \$5.00 for a year.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

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PLANT REGISTRATION: Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$8.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

Web Site: AVSA.org

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\$25 Individual (USA) 1 Year
\$49 - 2 Years \$73 - 3 Years

\$27.50 Individual (International) 1 Year
\$53.00 - 2 Years \$79.50 - 3 Years

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CONTENTS

FEATURES

Dividing Streptocarpus - Marge Huntley	14
Not Only For Beginners - Adrienne Stringer	15
How to use First Class to Manage Your Collection - Bill Daniels	16
Winter Challenges - Barbara Pershing	19
2002 AVSA Board of Directors Nominees	20
Wicking My Little Ones - Update - Joyce Myers	23
AVS of Canada Invitation - Doris Brownlie	23
Report from the Gesneriaceae Workshop Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - Dr. Jeff Smith	26
AVSA College Scholarship - Dr. Charles Ramser	31
Fluorescent Lights - Sheila Walton	34
Cultivating a New Crop of African Violet and Gesneriad...Enthusiasts! - Tami Rawlings	35
Temperature - Pauline Bartholomew	39

Phytosanitary Certificates... Did You Know? - Laurie A.E. O'Meara	39
Thank Goodness for "Sports" - Dr. Jeff Smith	40
Growing Violets While Away From Home - Vic Brinkley	44
How to Grow a Good Plant - Sheila Walton	47
What do I do with This New Leaf?	47
Two-Piece Ceramic "Self-Watering" Pots - Peg Eaton	48
Air Pollution, Drafts, and Humidity Will Affect Your Plants - Sue Gardner	49
Microfilming Project - Janet Riemer	50
First Aid for Leaf Cuttings - Paul F. Kroll	51
Taking Your Plants for a Ride - Sheila Walton	53
Natural Controls to manage Saintpaulia Pests - Joshua McKinney	55

DEPARTMENTS

Officers & Staff	2
Index of Ads	2
President's Message - Jack Wilson	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Shows & Judges - Bill Foster	5
For Beginners - Al & Cathy Cornibe	6
"And the winners are..." - Mary J. Corondan	9
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	10
AVSA Building Maintenance Fund - Mary Walbrick	11
AVSA Booster Fund - Shirley Berger	11
Question Box - Ralph Robinson	12
Registration Report - Janice Bruns	17
A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht	18
AVSA Affiliates - Bev Promersberger	24

Showcase (1)	28
Showcase (2)	32
Showcase (3)	36
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	38
Planting by Moon Signs	43
Coming Events	46
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	52
AVSA Most Wanted Violets - Barbara Elkin	52
Affiliate Update - Bev Promersberger	52
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene J. Buck	53
2002 Annual Index - Bill Paauwe	61

CONVENTION

Baton Rouge Convention Reminder	4
Saturday Auction	4
6th Annual Luncheon Auction - Edna Rourke	5
Speakin' Cajun: Pt. 4 - Elmer Godeny	8
What Should I Pack? - Elmer Godeny	9
2003 Convention Awards - Sue Hoffmann	30

COVER

The Alps
2nd Best In Show/Best Chimera
2002 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by:
Tony Hulleman
Hybridized by:
Horikoshi/Sawara
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretzky

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

African Rainforest
 Conservancy 56
 African Violet
 and Gesneriad News 58
 AGGS 60
 American Orchid Society 59
 AVS of Canada 59

B

Bayou Violets 58
 Belisle's Violet House 56
 Beverly's Violets & Gifts 58

C

Cape Cod Violetry Back Cover
 Chestnut Country Violets 57
 Cryptanthus Society 57

D

Donnie's Violets 58
 Dyna Gro 57

G

Growing to Show 57

H

Hobby Greenhouse 58

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 58

J

JoS Violets 58

L

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses 59

N

Neptune's Harvest 58
 Not Just Violets 57

O

Optimara/Selective Gardener 25

P

Pat's Pets 56
 Physan 20 60
 Prairie Violets 60

R

Rob's Violets . . . Inside Back Cover

S

Shirley's House of Violets 55
 Sonja's Violets 59

T

Anne Tinari 56
 Travis' Violets 60

V

VioletsFun Photo Journal 59
 Violet Gallery 60
 Violet Perfection 60
 Violet Showcase 57



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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message



EMITHSONIAN

JAN 27 2003

CHARLES

Dear AVSA Members,

It is difficult to believe that the year 2002 is now in the history books. It passed so quickly. One month blended into the next, and here we are into the new year, 2003. **Happy New Year** from all your Committee Chairs, Directors, and Officers.

January, named for the Roman god Janus, is a month of renewal. Janus was usually represented with his two bearded heads placed back to back so that he could look in two directions at once.

We can look back on 2002 and feel proud about AVSA. Our membership is working hard to secure new members; this is reflected in the monthly increased membership numbers. Please do your part for our continued growth. Gifts of an AVSA membership are appropriate throughout the year and are a continuous reminder of your thoughtfulness.

Our Committee Chairs and their hard working committees have continued to improve our services to the membership in 2002. I've tried to mention some of their efforts in past letters, including our great *First Class* program and the *Master Variety List on diskette*. Our great AVSA website seems to have something new and better each time I visit. Check it out at www.AVSA.org. Likewise, our Library Committee is continually adding new items for affiliate use. I'm so proud of our people, the products they produce, and the Directors who lead this great Society.

We are always looking to add new people to our ranks as Committee Chairs and Directors. Let us know of the "exceptional" violet people in your groups who could help us at the national level. We always need new, bright, hard working people to make AVSA better tomorrow than it is today.

2003 promises to be an even better year for AVSA. As we look forward, I know of many new projects that will excite and educate the members. The Executive Committee recently met in Rochester, New York. We have many items for discussion to bring before the AVSA Board at our convention in Baton Rouge, LA.

Our Publications Committee is exploring additional violet-related publications being published for AVSA members. These are still in the discussion stages so I'll not mention the possible subject matter that may be covered. Trust me, you will want your own copies for reference.

As technological advances are being made, AVSA is continuously exploring ways we can use this to AVSA's advantage. We are trying to eliminate paper as being the primary source for our records and are considering placing many of our manuals, such as the *Convention Manual* and *Policies and Procedures Manual* on CDs. This will be much more efficient and cheaper for the Society.

Our affiliates continue to increase as more people "get back" to joining organizations. Be sure you make your new members and visitors feel very welcome and wanted. Affiliates are the key to our continued growth, so do your part and bring both your group and AVSA new members.

You've probably noticed you are getting your *AVM* magazine earlier. Ruth and the publisher are getting it mailed prior to all the phone, gas, credit card etc. bills going into the postal system. In order for this to continue to happen, all deadlines **must** be strictly met. Don't be late getting your club's show announcement to the office. Check the deadlines listed in the *AVM*, or call the office if in doubt.

This issue contains the always highly anticipated "purple pages" for our 2003 convention. This year we will be going to Baton Rouge, LA. If you have never been to Louisiana, you are in for a real treat. Southern hospitality is tops, as is the food.

Look over the pages very carefully. There are some significant savings for early registration and for packages that include registration and the major meal functions. Once again, your AVSA convention team members have come up with an outstanding convention plan. Get your registration papers back to the office soon so you are part of what I anticipate will be a huge show.

There are, once again, many awards for our members at convention. Put your plants in show condition now so you will be ready to win some great awards (money!!!) at the 2003 convention in Baton Rouge.

Again, **Happy New Year**. Have a terrific year.



Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson
AVSA President



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

Happy New Year!

It's difficult to believe that it's already 2003! It's a special year for me as this is the tenth year that I've been employed by AVSA. I must say it has been an exciting ten years, filled with so many new friendships, travel to our various convention sites, and the many rewards of editing the AVM.

I hope your AVM has been arriving in a timely manner. My new production schedule and earlier mailing date seem to have solved some of the problems of late delivery for many of our members. If you are still not receiving your magazine close to the issue date, please let me know.

2002 was a year in which we suffered the loss of many of AVSA's treasured members. Along with Frank Tinari, Bill Lyons, and Don Ness, we lost Ruth Warren. Ruth contributed much to the society over the long years of her membership, and she was very good to me when I became Editor of this magazine. She will be missed.

The Purple Convention Pages are in this issue, giving you needed information and an exciting preview of our national convention scheduled for April 20 - 27 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. If you've never visited Louisiana, you are in for a real treat. The state is steeped in history, rich in various cul-

tures, and seasoned with delicious food and atmosphere. It's a friendly place to visit, and one that will supply you with warm memories when you return home.

The convention hosts have chosen some exciting tours for you, among them a visit to the wonderful Nottoway Plantation. Having been there, I suggest that you not miss this tour!

Coming Event notices must reach my desk by the deadlines listed in the inside front cover. They **must be in writing** and can either be sent by US Postal service to the office address, FAX (409.839.4329), or email (rrumsey@earthlink.net). Please use the same format that you see every event listed in each issue of the AVM. Please do not send me several copies of your event notice. I do not need three or four emails of each notice, or a notice that is sent by all of the above-listed forms of submission. If you send your notice by email, I will email you a reply that I have received it. If you use fax or regular postal mail, feel free to give me a call to see if your notice has reached me (800.770.2872). Even if you place your notice on the web site, you **MUST** send me a copy to ensure that your information is correct in the AVM.

Baton Rouge Convention

Reminder: All advertisements for the Convention Souvenir Program are due by March 2, 2003. For addition information or to send checks and ad copies, contact **Nancy David**, 110 St. Jude, New Roads, LA 70760. Phone: (225) 638-6871.

Saturday Luncheon Auction

The sixth annual luncheon auction will take place on April 26, 2003. We need the help of our members, affiliates, hybridizers and commercials to make this auction successful. As you know, all monies raised benefit AVSA.

If you haven't done so already, won't you consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming auction? Hybridizers - donations of supplies or newly introduced plants or cuttings would be very much appreciated

Your help will insure the success of this auction. Anyone making a donation will receive special notice and all donations and contributors will be acknowledged in the AVM.

Remember you must attend the luncheon in order to attend the auction. Won't you join us?

Robert Truax has graciously consented to be our contact for Baton Rouge. Donated items may be sent to him at: 408 Hearthstone Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Please let me know if you will be donating any items. A description of the item donated would be appreciated.

My thanks for your help and support.

Edna Rourke, 99 Old Stratford Road, Shelton, CT 06484-6129 (203) 926-9716, email Apapillon@aol.com

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
Shows and Judges Committee
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
email:bpfooster@airmail.net

Hopefully, all of you had a great holiday season. Now is the time to make some resolutions for the New Year. Some suggestions for show chairs and judging school chairs is to read the rules in the HANDBOOK on registering judging schools and applying for the SSA Packet and abide by them. There were a number of "last minute" requests for both of these in 2002. Please, try to help us out with this problem!

Here are a few questions:

Should a small 8 1/2" standard with 12-15 blossoms be reduced to a red ribbon with the comment "shows potential" written on the card?

A. This question has been discussed many times in this column and at many judges' breakfasts. There must be some judges not reading or not listening! If the 8 1/2" plant with 12-15 blossoms is a nice plant with few flaws, it should NOT be scored down because of size, and remarks such as "immature" or "shows potential" should be avoided.

What can be done about judges who give red ribbons and write no comments?

A. We can keep stressing the importance of comments, especially on exhibits receiving red or white ribbons, at our meetings and judges' councils. It is important to comment on these entries so the exhibitor will know how to improve on future exhibits. If they are given a red or white ribbon without any explanation, they may decide not to enter again.

A natural garden contained plants wrapped in plastic and nylon stockings. The exhibit received a red ribbon. Could the exhibit have been eliminated?

A. The HANDBOOK states that plants must be planted in container gardens, and yes, it could have been eliminated for non conformity.

Start making plans now to attend the convention in Baton Rouge. All the information can be found in this issue of the African Violet Magazine. Register and submit your requests to judge, clerk, or attend the judges' school early.



6th Annual Luncheon Auction

Edna Rourke

99 Old Stratford Road • Shelton, CT 06484-6129

Email Apapillon@aol.com

The Sixth Annual AVSA Luncheon Auction will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2003. With all that has been planned for this convention by the Baton Rouge, LA Convention Committee, this luncheon is sure to be a wonderful time for all. Our past luncheon auctions have always been so much fun in addition to being a success. The reason for this is your generous donations. I hope you will be generous in your donations to this luncheon auction.

Our affiliates continue to have a great deal of talented craftsmen among their members. Won't you consider donating

a violet-related item or craft either as an individual member donation or as a club? Hybridizers, your donations of supplies or newly introduced plant material would be most appreciated. Donations of violet related items of a rare, unique, or unusual nature would also be gratefully accepted.

If you plan to make a donation, need further information, or want to help in some way, please let me know at your earliest convenience. I'll look forward to hearing from you. Look for further information in upcoming issues of the AVM. Many thanks in advance for your continued help and support.

For Beginners



Al & Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
e-mail: cathycornibe@aol.com

Happy New Year! We hope that 2003 will bring you tremendous happiness and good health.

Thank you for your kind emails. African violet growers are definitely the nicest people in the world!

After hearing from readers who liked our column of "TIPS" (May/June 2001 *AVM*), we decided to do another one. If you have a tip that could help other growers, please share it with us so we can pass it along in a future column.

DISHWASHER

It's a lot more fun when the dishwasher washes our pots and tools, instead of us. The smallest pots (less than 2 1/2 inches) are put in a covered basket so they won't fall onto the heating element.

NEWSPAPERS

Old newspapers can be used as matting. When they get too dirty, just throw them away. No more mats to wash!

They also come in handy for repotting. Put a sheet of newspaper down on your table, and repot your plants on top of it. Cleanup is faster and easier.

To avoid spreading pests and diseases, use a new sheet of newspaper for each plant. We also wash our hands and tools between working with new plants. Better safe than sorry!

THRIPS AND GNATS

In the March 1986 *AVM*, a grower shared that you can get rid of thrips and gnats by putting a yellow container filled with water near your plants. We decided to try this after someone accidentally left a door open in our plant room and we ended up with gnats.

Two yellow, plastic cereal bowls filled with water and a few drops of liquid detergent were placed in-between our African violets.

After only a few days, dead gnats were floating in both bowls. We don't have thrips, but if you do, give this a try and let us know the results so we can pass them along.

BICOLOR BLOOMS

In that same *AVM*, a grower shared that some of her bicolor blooms had changed to a solid color. So she moved those plants from under fluorescent lights to a windowsill, and they all reverted back to the original bicolor.

A few growers have had their multicolor blooms revert to a solid color during extremely hot weather. Then, after the weather got cooler, the new blooms were multicolor again.

NEW FLUORESCENT BULBS

If you are growing your plants under fluorescent fixtures that hold two bulbs, don't replace both of them with new bulbs at the same time. Replace only one bulb, and then wait at least a few weeks before you replace the other one.

Your African violets will adjust better if the light that they receive is increased a little at a time, instead of all at once.

HUMIDITY

Our African violets look so much healthier and the blooms last so much longer when we keep our humidity around 55–60%.

There are many ways to increase your humidity, such as:

- Plants can be placed on trays filled with wet sand, pebbles, or capillary mats.
- Plants can sit on egg crating, with water in a tray below them.
- Vaporizers or humidifiers can be used as needed.
- Depending on the type of floor, mopping with water can increase the humidity.

HITCH-HIKERS

After working outdoors, shower and change clothes before you go near your African violets. You don't want to bring in mites or other problems from outdoors to your violets.

To be on the safe side, wash your hands and tools after you work on a new plant, regardless of where it came from. You don't want to spread a problem from a new plant to your healthy ones.

MOISTURE METER

When you first start growing African violets, a moisture meter can be very helpful. The meter will let you know if the soil **below the surface** is too wet or too dry. Never water a plant just because the soil “looks” dry on the surface; the soil by the roots could be soaking wet.

After you use it on a new plant, clean the probe with a paper towel or tissue that has rubbing alcohol on it. Better safe than sorry!

OVER-WATERING

More African violets are killed by over-watering than anything else. If you don't have a moisture meter, you can usually tell if a plant needs to be watered by its weight.

If you pick up the pot and it feels extremely light, the soil is dry so you should water it. If the pot feels heavy, then the soil is wet and you don't need to water it.

BRITTLE LEAVES

In our past columns, we mentioned that brittle leaves can be caused by many things such as: too much light, too much chlorine or chloramine in the tap water, over-watering, and too much fertilizer.

In a March 1984 *AVM*, it mentioned that cold drafts and cold temperatures can also cause brittle leaves.

During extremely cold or extremely hot weather we always cut back on the amount of fertilizer that we feed our plants, since they are not growing as fast as normal and don't need as much fertilizer.

MR. CLEAN

An old article said that Mr. Clean (1 tablespoon to a quart of warm water) killed mealybugs. They removed as much of the soil as they could from the roots and “swished” the roots in the warm water and Mr. Clean solution. Then they repotted the plant.

If you decide to try this, as with anything new, experiment on only one plant until you see the results.

LEAVES CURLING DOWN AROUND THE POT

Leaves can curl down around the pot if they are getting too much “reflected” light. This can happen when the area that your plants are sitting on is a light color.

To solve this problem, add black plastic or a dark shelf liner under the pots. Since the curled leaves usually stay that way, you might want to take them off and use them for propagation.

WATER RESERVOIRS

If you are wick watering your plants, empty the reservoir and rinse it out with plain water several times each year.

Since the water is slowly evaporating, over time the solution in the reservoir will eventually become a higher concentration of fertilizer than you started with. So, you might be giving your African violets a lot more fertilizer than you think you are.

DIRTY FLUORESCENT BULBS

Now that electricity is so expensive, dust off your dirty fluorescent bulbs so that you get the maximum benefit from them.

ROOM TO GROW

If you want beautiful, symmetric African violets, space them far enough apart so the leaves of one plant won't touch the leaves of another.

Space is also needed around the plants so air can circulate to prevent powdery mildew.

BROKEN LEAF?

Sometimes when you order a plant, a few of the leaves will get broken during shipping. You can use these leaves for propagation even if the petioles are broken off. As long as they are still healthy and firm, you should get babies from them.

OLD STOCKINGS

Don't throw away those old stockings that have a hole or run in them. They can be cut up and used as “wicks” to cover up the holes in the bottom of a pot so the soil won't fall out, or to help conceal a rootball in an Interpretive Plant Arrangement.

“MOLD” REPOTTING METHOD

If you are a beginner, repotting can be stressful. Try this when one of your plants needs to be repotted into a larger pot.

You need a duplicate of the pot your plant is in now, a larger pot, soil mix, and maybe some perlite.

In the larger pot, add a small amount of “whatever” you prefer in the bottom of your pots (we use a layer of perlite). Then add a little of your soil mix.

Put the duplicate pot in the center of the larger pot, flush with the top. Add moist soil around the outside of the center pot until the soil is up to the top of the center pot (which is still empty). Twist the center pot a little until it firms up the soil surrounding it, and then remove it.

This gives you a perfect “mold” for your plant to sit down in. Remove your plant from its pot and set it down into the “mold” (hole).

OLD TERRARIUMS

An old terrarium is perfect for propagating leaves. It keeps the humidity high, which gives the leaves a better chance of surviving.

TIPS FOR AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB SALES

Jeani Hatfield made cards for the sale plants at the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society show this year. Each card had a beautiful color photo of a sales plant in full bloom, along with its name and description. What a great idea, especially for leaves and plants that are not in bloom!

Color photos of African violets can be easily obtained from many sources, including AVSA Commercial Sales Catalogs, the Internet, First Class (available from AVSA), and digital cameras.

We have also seen some wonderful displays mounted behind sales tables. These usually include African violet blooms inserted into blossom tube holders, filled with water to keep the blooms fresh. The name of the African violet is listed with its blooms.

AVSA's WEBSITE

Visit AVSA's website at: www.avsa.org.

AVSA has a fantastic website filled with valuable information. You can even locate an African Violet Club or an AVSA

Commercial Grower in your area and find the answers to the most frequently asked questions about African violets.

If you do not have a computer, or you are not on the Internet, visit your local library. Many libraries have computers with Internet access that you can use.

WANTED: TIPS TO SHARE

Don't forget to write or email us with your favorite tips so we can share them in a future column. Be sure to give us your name so we can include it with your tip.



Speakin' Cajun

by Elmer Godeny (Part 4 of 4)

This is my last installment of our Cajun Dictionary. If the last installment didn't get your mouth watering, this one will.

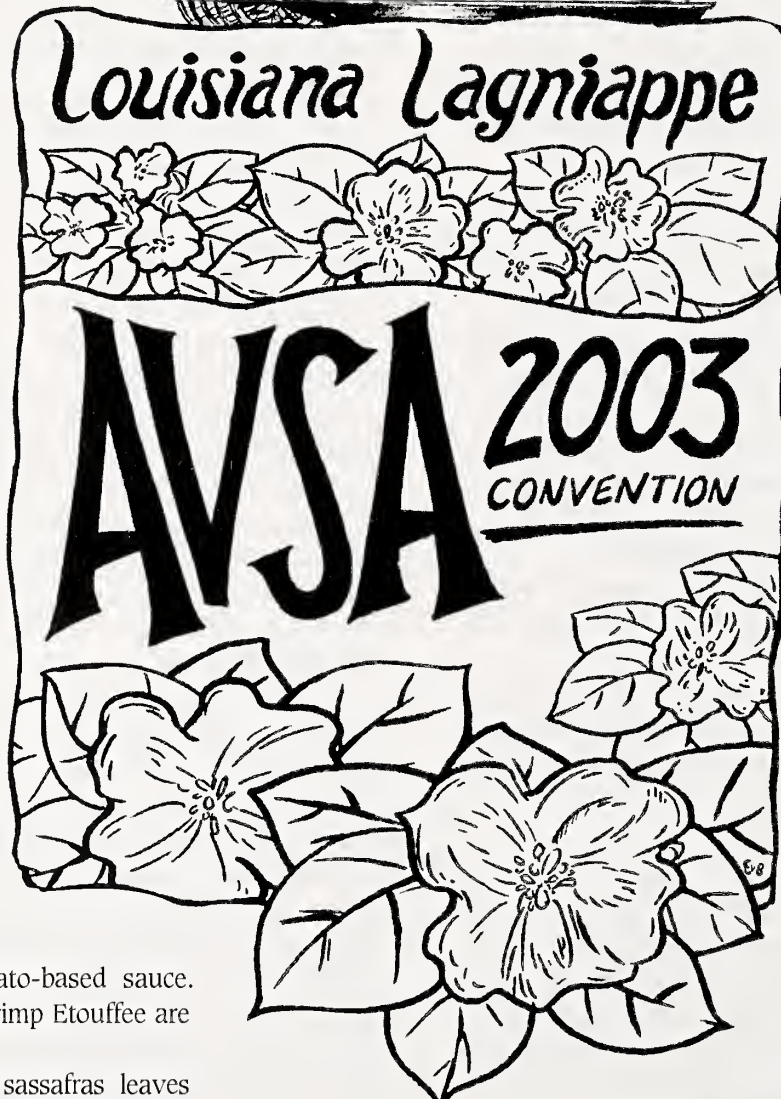
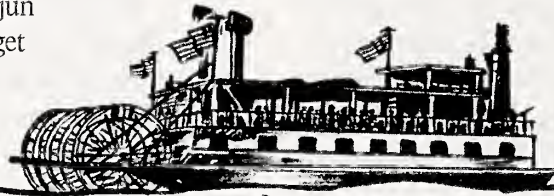
After studying our *Speakin' Cajun* installments, you will be able to come to Baton Rouge for the 2003 AVSA Convention and feel confident as you order anything you want from the restaurant menus. Many of these definitions are provided by Louisiana's internationally known Chef John Folse.

Boudin (boo'-dan) - Hot, spicy pork mixed with onions, cooked rice, and herbs stuffed into sausage casing.

Courbouillon (coo-boo-yon') - A rich, spicy soup or stew, made with fish filet, tomatoes, onions, and sometimes mixed vegetables.

Etouffee (ay-too-fay') - A succulent, tangy tomato-based sauce. Crawfish Etouffee and Shrimp Etouffee are New Orleans specialties.

Filé (fee'-lay) - Ground sassafras leaves used to season, among other things, Gumbo.



Gumbo (gum'-boe) - A thick, robust soup with thousands of varieties including shrimp, sausage, turkey, chicken, seafood, and filé among others. Usually served over white rice. A delicacy of South Louisiana.

Jambalaya (jum'-boe-lie'-yah) - Louisiana chefs "sweep up the kitchen" and toss just about everything into the pot. Tomatoes and cooked rice, plus ham, shrimp, chicken, celery, onions, and a whole lot of seasonings - another Louisiana Tradition.

Red Beans and Rice - Kidney beans cooked in seasonings and spices, usually with big chunks of sausage and ham. Served over a bed of white rice. Lastly, if you don't want to stick out among the locals, you must learn how to pronounce "New Orleans". There will be a couple of tours going to the "Crescent City" during the AVSA convention. "New Orleans" is pronounced "Nawlins" by Southern Louisianians. Interestingly, "Nawlins" is located within Orleans (orleans) Parish; no one has been able to explain the different pronunciations of the same word to me.

“And the winners are ...”



Mary J. Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA – Winners – Best AVSA Standard Collection: Silver Brocade, Bertha, Lyon's Plum Pudding; Best Standard: Bertha, **Leona Faoro**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Bob Serbiri, Cinnamon Candy; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Oscar Faoro**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Firefly; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **June Fallaw**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Vera Parker**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* seedling, **John Rizzi**. Best Design, **Mae Mendes**. Design Sweepstakes, **Kathy Roubal**.

VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, TN – Winners – Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Coral Beauty, Smooch Me, Victorian Parasol; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Kid Wheezy, Rob's Seduction, Thunder Surprise; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Yellowstone; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's June Bug; Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink, **Brenda Brasfield**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Satin Rose, Bogeyman; Best Trailer: Foster Trail, **Katherine Steele**. Best Gesneriad: *Achimenes* 'Apricot Glow', **Marion Zoller**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ginger Ilardi**.

What Should I Pack? Baton Rouge Convention

by Elmer Godeny

Everyone is asking themselves the same question as they are getting ready to come to Baton Rouge for the 2003 AVSA Convention: What should I pack? Here is some information about the area that may help you decide what to put in your suitcase. Regardless of what you pack, remember these words: comfortable and casual.

The April weather in Baton Rouge is very unpredictable. There is a popular saying "if you don't like the Baton Rouge weather, wait five minutes and it will change!" Although I have heard that saying in most places that I have lived throughout the United States, it is really true for Baton Rouge. The spring weather is usually very pleasant. April temperatures in Baton Rouge are usually in the low 80s and get into the low 60s during the night. However, temperatures in the upper 90s and into the lower 30s, although unusual, would not be a surprise. It is suggested that slacks and short sleeve shirts be worn. Shorts may also be needed. The hotel has an outdoor pool so you may want to bring a swimsuit. A light jacket or sweater may be useful if it gets chilly or if the air conditioning in the hotel is too cold.

The average April rainfall in Baton Rouge is 4.77 inches. Spring is our rainy season. Be prepared with an umbrella or appropriate rainwear if you plan to leave the hotel.

Thunderstorms can develop without warning but don't usually last long.

The Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge is easy to get to; it is located right off I-10. It is conveniently located to other facilities that conventioners may want to visit. Although the hotel has a restaurant, at least thirty restaurants are located within a half mile of the hotel, fifteen of which are within two blocks. These restaurants vary from various international cuisines to steak houses to fast food. Breakfast can also be obtained within a two block walk.

A supermarket, post office, pharmacy, beauty salons, and various banks are within walking distance. Other specialty shops are also located near the Radisson. For those of you who need last minute materials for designs, Hobby Lobby is a short walk from the hotel.

Across the interstate are more restaurants, movie theaters, and other specialty shops. The Mall of Louisiana is located a few exits down on I-10.

In short, there are many stores and restaurants near the AVSA Convention hotel in Baton Rouge. Should you forget to bring something, you will be able to get it here with little trouble.

For additional information about Baton Rouge, you can visit www.batonrouge.com or www.batonrouge.simplylocal.com.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
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Muncie, IN 47306
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Two types of Africa violets that have been very popular over the years are the Fantasy blooms and the striped flowers of Chimeras. Recently, a number of questions about these two types of plants were asked on several of the e-mail discussion groups devoted to African violets and other gesneriads. Here is a summary of some of the questions and discussions.

Q: *Is it possible for a chimera to reverse the colors of the stripes?*

A: I have seen one report where this may have happened. The original plant had pink flowers with irregular white edges. The edges were never solid stripes, but the overall appearance of the plant was that it might be a chimera. A sucker from this plant produced a nice chimera with white center strips and pink outer stripes. Apparently the original plant had a mixture of cell lines that weren't totally lined up into regular stripes. The sucker somehow stabilized the cell lines into the familiar stripes of a chimera. I would think that a reversal of the chimera color pattern would be rare and most likely to occur in plants where the original pattern of cells and stripes were unstable.

Q: *Will using a chimera in a cross help produce chimera offspring?*

A: I am skeptical that using a chimera in a cross will have any influence on producing chimera offspring. However, there are reports of plants with striped flowers that are not chimeras and reproduce true to type from leaves. If these plants were used in a cross, they might be able to pass on the striped flower pattern to their offspring. Given the popularity of striped flowers, I would expect hybridizers to try this cross frequently, resulting in a large number of cultivars with striped flowers. Since striped flowers remain relatively rare, I have to question if striped flowers can be reproduced through sexual reproduction.

Whether a true chimera can reproduce stripes in the offspring is a cross that seems to lack hard data. However, Dale

Marten reported that a cross of the striped flowered plant 'Little Jayhawker' produced various degrees of striped flowers in about 30% of the offspring. A survey of growers on the e-mail discussion groups suggested that 'Little Jayhawker' is a chimera and doesn't reproduce true to type from leaf cuttings. Dale's results would suggest that perhaps a chimera can reproduce the stripes into offspring, but more data with many other chimeras is needed before a general statement can be made.

Q: *If a fantasy plant blooms solid, will it be that way forever?*

A: Yes, in most instances, once a fantasy plant has lost the spots and produces solid flowers, it will not revert back to original type. Likewise, if part of the plant has started to produce solid flowers, it is likely continue to do so.

Q: *If a fantasy plant starts to produce solid blooms, can I still get fantasy flowered babies from leaf cuttings?*

A: If you use an older leaf, you might be able to get fantasy babies. Look for a leaf where the flower stalk above it produced fantasy flowers. This leaf should be free of the sport to solid flowers and should produce fantasy babies. If you use a leaf under the solid flowers, chances are the babies will have the solid flower mutation.

Q: *If the first baby produced from a fantasy leaf blooms solid, does that mean that all of the babies will have solid flowers too?*

A: No, each baby is produced by a separate single cell from the petiole of the leaf. A percentage of the babies should still produce true to type. I would grow them out to blooming before discarding all of the babies. However, if you notice birth spots or irregular pigment areas in the leaf, this is a sign

that the new plant may be unstable or mutant and not flower true to type.

color. Chances are good the puffs will increase in intensity as the plant matures.

Q: *Are some types of fantasy more stable than others?*

A: It's my experience that the puff style fantasy plants are the most stable type. I've noticed fewer sports to solid colors with this plant type as compared to the traditional dot fantasy plants. I have noticed that sometimes the first blooms of a puff fantasy don't develop many puff areas, so don't be too quick to throw out a puff fantasy baby that appears to have gone solid

Q: *Can a reverse fantasy plant also revert to solid colors?*

A: Yes, I have a sport of 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' that has sported to a pale creamy pink flower. Actually, the bloom is very attractive against the dark green foliage, but show judges are unlikely to consider the sport an improvement over the original plant.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029
E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836

Donations received

August 1 - September 1, 2002

Spring Branch AV Club, Kingwood, TX	\$25.00
The African Violet Society of South Bay, Redwood City, CA	25.00
The Unpredictable's AVS, Lees Summit, MO	10.00
Peggy Casarella, Southington, CT	5.00
Martha Menard, Murphysboro, IL	20.00
Wilma J. Wolverton, Grain Valley, MO	5.00
TOTAL	\$90.00



Donations received

August - October 2002

AVC of Morris County, Morristown, NJ	\$5.00
Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX	20.00
Elizabeth C. Evans, Memphis, TN	10.00
Thelma Heinrich, Scottsdale, AZ	5.00
Debra Landrey, Old Saybrook, CT	50.00
Sarah Opie, England	5.00
Penny L. Smith-Kerker, Austin, TX	20.00
Barbara D. Taswell-Miller, Raleigh, NC	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Terry, Hargarville, AR	5.00
Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA	3.00
Lin Zhang, Atlanta, GA	10.00
TOTAL	\$153.00

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger • 4343 Schumacher Rd- 196E • Sebring, FL 33872-2639

DONATIONS RECEIVED AUGUST 1, 2002 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2002

Marvin K. Nester, Lakeland, FL	\$ 5.00
Margaret Weaver, Valencia, CA	10.00
Shelley Valladao, Folsom, CA	10.50
Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY	5.00
Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS	25.00
Ethel Spurlin, Mililani, HI	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari and Bill Lyons</i>	
Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA	20.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari</i>	
Tatiana N. Kalgin, Moscow, Russia	20.00
Laurie O'Meara, South Yarmouth, MA	5.00
Margaret E. Wright, Spartanburg, SC	10.00
Maxine Geiss, Frederic, MI	10.00
Clifford Hunt, Oak Park, IL	2.00
Hisao Tanaka, Inashiki-Gun, Ibaraki, Japan	7.00
Jan Johnson, Southlake, TX	20.00
Joy B. Phillips, Morristown, NJ	5.00
Dale Locher, Corpus Christi, TX	10.00
Virginia Nelson, Des Moines, IA	2.00
Noel K. Williams, Whitney, TX	10.00

Millie Dellarco, Leesburg, FL	1.00
Thelma Heinrich, Scottsdale, AZ	5.00
The Unpredictable's AVS, Lees Summit, MO	10.00
AVS of South Bay, Redwood City, CA	25.00
Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society, Oakdale, PA	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari</i>	
Georgene Albrecht, Oakdale, PA	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari</i>	
Amethyst AVC, Saint Charles, MO	10.00
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE	10.00
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
Joyce Stork, Fremont, NB	20.00
<i>In memory of Bev Phillips, former president of the Happy Hour AVC, Lyons, NB</i>	
Mid-America AVS, Kansas City, MO	20.00
AVC of Burlington County, Willingboro, NJ	100.00
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
TOTAL	\$422.50

Question Box



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Dorothy Kosowsky
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Whittier, CA 90601
email: dot3joe@earthlink.net

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at robsviolet@aol.com or via our web-site at www.robsviolet.com. The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

African violets are only one member (genus) of the gesneriad family. Most serious violet hobbyists also have at least a few other gesneriads in their collection. We grow nearly as many of these "other" gesneriads as we do violets. As a result, we get a lot of questions about their culture and care. Fortunately, most all members of the family have the same needs and are happy under the same (or similar) conditions. Knowing how to grow one member of the family well makes it easier to grow other members well.

This column will take a different approach than usual. The questions won't concern how to grow African violets well or solving "violet problems". Each question is one we are frequently asked concerning the care of another gesneriad. True, you may not grow or have any desire to grow these plants. Knowing how to grow these plants well, however, will make you a better violet grower. The principles are the same.

QUESTION: *Do you grow "gold fish plants" or "lipstick vines"?*

ANSWER: We do, but that's not the reason I've chosen this question to answer. This is a very frequently asked question, both at the shop and by those calling us. I've chosen this to illustrate the importance of using the botanical names of plants. It's true that we don't follow this rule when we call a

Saintpaulia by its common name, African violet. Fortunately, "African violet" is so commonly used and so universally understood to identify *Saintpaulia*, that there's almost never any confusion about what one is referring to. Unfortunately, this is often not the case when referring to other members of the gesneriad family.

What one may see identified as a "goldfish plant" at one garden center is identified differently at another. Keep in mind that most retailers are interested in selling you plants, not educating. It's quite likely that few of those working at the garden center of "X-Mart" even know what they are selling, common name or otherwise. They realize that common names are far less intimidating and more consumer-friendly than botanical names. Unfortunately, often because they don't know any better (or care), there is no real effort to use the **same** common name on the same plants sold by different retailers. What you saw identified as a "goldfish plant" at one retailer may have been labeled a "dolphin plant" at another (only yesterday a customer at the shop had this problem). Why not simply call the plant a *Columnnea*, the correct botanical name of what is most likely being referred to? A *Columnnea* is always a *Columnnea* (pronounced "koe-lum-nee-ah") - but sometimes that "goldfish plant" is actually something else, like an *Aeschynanthus* or *Nematanthus*, two other gesneriads usually grown as basket-plants and with blooms of the same colors.

Yes, some botanical names can seem a bit intimidating at first, but using them ensures that you get the plant that you are looking for, not what the seller guesses you are looking for. Besides, when you think about it, are they really any harder to pronounce than the names of some people you know, or things like "cellular" phones, or "florescent" lights, words that you probably say without hesitation?

QUESTION: *I love episcias. Mine seem to grow really well. They produce lots of leaves and look healthy, but never seem to bloom. Are they difficult plants to get to bloom, or am I doing something wrong?*

ANSWER: Most people think that *episcias* are difficult plants to get to bloom. Even the best of growers often have problems getting them to bloom well - it seems that most *episcias* seen in shows are in the **nonblooming** classes. This is unfortunate, since *episcias* are actually very free and constant-flowering plants. Yes, their leaves alone are usually beautiful enough, but why not have the leaves and the bloom? The secret is not allowing them to produce too many stolons, or runners. A few of the species can be a bit stubborn, but most varieties can be kept in almost constant heavy bloom with good culture and regular pruning.

The basic logic is simple. All plants have two means of reproduction. They can either do this vegetatively by producing suckers, rhizomes, tubers or, in the case of *Episcia*, stolons. These stolons can be rooted, producing additional plants and, so long as it can successfully reproduce itself this way, it will continue to produce them and not bother to flower. The plant will try to reproduce sexually, producing flowers that might be pollinated and produce seed, only if other, easier, means of reproduction aren't possible. The lesson: lots of stolons means few flowers. This shouldn't be surprising, since we've all been trained to remove "suckers" (the small crowns growing beneath leaves) from our violets. Doing so not only improves appearance, but encourages the plant to bloom. Also, mature violets that have begun to bloom tend to produce far fewer suckers than immature plants that have yet to bloom. Your violet *has* to, if it wants to produce more of its kind. Exhibitors also know that violets that are disbudded (not allowed to bloom) tend to sucker more - trying to reproduce vegetatively since it's not being allowed to sexually.

Apply the same rules to your *episcias* that you apply to your violets. Here's what we do, and we always have lots of *episcias* in bloom - always let the crown mature and set buds before allowing stolons to grow. For a young plant, this means growing it as a **single crown** until you see flower buds. At this point you can allow the plant to produce stolons. Let each of these (secondary) crowns mature and produce buds before you let them produce even more stolons, and so on. If this is done, you eventually can have a large plant, with lots of fully-developed crowns, each producing lots of blooms. Few things are more spectacular than a mature, well-grown *Episcia* in full bloom.

QUESTION: *What size pot should I grow my Episcia in? Can I grow more than one plant in a pot?*

ANSWER: *Episcias*, like African violets and most gesneriads, are relatively shallow-rooted plants that don't need a very deep pot. As your plant grows, you can repot it into a larger diameter, but not much deeper, pot. This means that "azalea" or "pan" pots are better than standard pots, since they are more wide than deep. Sometimes this means you need to be creative, since large but shallow pots can be diffi-

cult to find. We've used deeper pots that we've cut-down to make shallow, and have some of our larger plants in saucers that we've drilled holes into for drainage. None of these pots are more than a few inches deep, even for the largest of plants.

In many ways, *Episcia* and other stolon-producing or spreading gesneriads can be treated much like trailing African violets. All grow very well in shallow pots. Our older, larger trailing violets are grown in the same saucers. We grow both as "ground covers", in the sense that we like to cover a large area of soil with dense growth, rather than allow the plant to sprawl over the pot edges. The "runners" are moved and pinned into the soil surface to fill-in empty spaces, much like we arrange the stolons of an *Episcia*. Either plant could just as easily be grown as a "hanging basket" by growing in a smaller pot and letting the runners or stolons grow and fall over the edge of the pot.

There is one important difference between growing trailing violets and other gesneriads for exhibition, though. Only trailing violets and *Saintpaulia* species can be shown multiple crowned, while all other gesneriads may be properly shown with either single or multiple crowns. Further, though trailing and species violets can be shown with more than one crown (a trailer, in fact, must have three or more), only one plant is allowed in a pot, whereas there is no restriction on the number of individual plants per pot for other gesneriads. While it's perfectly allowable to fill a pot with many *Episcia* cuttings (plants), only one trailing violet plant per pot is permitted (though this one trailer may have many crowns).

QUESTION: *My Columnea are never as beautiful as yours. My conditions are good, but they always look weedy and don't bloom very heavily. What am I doing differently?*

ANSWER: Like violets and most other plants, *Columnea* nearly always bloom from the newest growth. This means that the more new, healthy growth there is, the more potential there is for blooming. Assuming that there is sufficient light and the culture is otherwise good, proper pruning is important in maximizing both foliage and blossom production. Treat *Columnea* and other branching or vining gesneriads like *Nematanthus* and *Aeschynanthus* like you would a hedge. Why do you regularly trim a hedge? If you don't, it just grows tall and spindly, and never has that dense, thick, lush look. Trimming it occasionally forces it to branch and produce new growth, filling in those empty spaces and giving it a full look.

Doing the same to your *Columnea* has the same effect. Let each branch produce one or two new pairs of leaves, then cut the tips. This cut branch will then produce two (or more) branches which can, themselves, be cut when they've produced enough new growth. If done regularly, what began as relatively few cuttings in a pot can be made into a very full-looking plant with lots of new growth being produced. Once you achieve the "full" look that you desire, stop pruning and let the plant grow. Disciplining the plant's growth early will reward you later.

QUESTION: I recently purchased a young *Streptocarpus* from you in a 2" pot. It started blooming for me almost immediately in this small pot. The problem is, the plant itself hasn't seemed to grow very much since I got it. Even though it's blooming, am I doing something wrong?

ANSWER: *Streptocarpus* are one of the easiest to grow and most rewarding of all gesneriads you can grow. They can be very tolerant of neglect, and given the same conditions as African violets, will bloom almost constantly. We've grown streps that have been in bloom (or bud) every day for five years or more. Their readiness to bloom, though, can be a problem, especially for those varieties that are especially eager to flower. There are some varieties that bloom before they've "matured" - before much foliage has fully developed. When this happens, all of the plant's energies are diverted away from foliage production and towards bloom production. This can result in some pretty odd-looking plants. Two examples are 'Bristol's Sunset' and 'Bristol's X-Ray Vision', hybrids of ours that seem to want to bloom after having produced only one leaf in the pot. Left alone, they'll sit there with one lonely leaf in a tiny pot and a full head of 6 or 8 flowers or more.

Eventually, of course, they'll bloom themselves out, leaving old, yet undeveloped, foliage that is unattractive and can barely sustain itself.

Our solution is to **not** allow these plants to bloom until they have produced enough foliage and matured enough to sustain both foliage and flowers. We simply cut off flower stems before they have a chance to develop. This forces the plant to produce more leaves, larger leaves, and produce them faster. When the plant is finally allowed to bloom, it will bloom even more heavily than it would have, had it not been disbudded. As a general rule, we don't allow streps to bloom until we've potted them into 3" pots. Except for the smallest growers, most varieties will eventually grow into 5" (or larger) pots when fully mature.

We do the same for our violets, removing the first set of flower buds that appear. This allows the plant to develop more fully before first bloom. This means waiting a few more weeks, but it also means that when the plant does bloom, it produces a full head of bloom and a more developed plant. The plant is happier, and the reward is worth the wait.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print

Dividing *Streptocarpus*

by Marge Huntley

There comes a time when all *Streptocarpus* need to be divided. This may be a year after reaching maturity, or even after looking nice for two years. Not only does the top growth need thinning, but the vast amount of root in the pot leaves little room for water to be held in the remaining mix.

Action Stations.

Gather together:

- a selection of pots of different sizes
- African violet potting mix
- A sharp knife (which you may not need)
- Scissors
- Ice cream container to place the smaller divided segments into so that the leaves stay clean

Do not have the plant too wet or too dry. Plants should not be watered for two or three days before the operation.

Place several large sheets of newspaper on the table and remove plant from pot. Do not up-end it as the mix will get all over the foliage. Run a knife between soil and pot. A long tined fork plunged into the surface can act as a lever to assist removal. Knock off as much mix as possible. Take away the top paper with its soil mess, and start again on the fresh sheet. A knife can be used to divide between the growths, but I would rather break up the mass with my hands. The plants separate easily without damage. Look at the piece you have removed, and knock the roots on the table to remove a little more soil

and hopefully any loose roots. Leaves which have already produced flowers should be removed. They will not flower again. The remains of the flower stems are easily seen at the base of the large center vein. There will be several stems, about 1cm long, dry and hard.

Place each division into the ice cream container. Continue in this way. If you work around the plant, you may find that the center part is fairly shabby and could be discarded. So much depends on the condition of the plant. You may like to keep a section with several growths so that you get a full looking pot quicker.

When all the dividing is done, remove newspaper so that the repotting can be done on a fresh sheet. Check each division, and remove or trim any damaged leaf. If there is the base of a removed leaf evident, trim it back cleanly. Are all the roots you see attached to the plant? A combing action with a skewer or swizzle stick helps.

Pot each division into an appropriate size pot for the amount of root. *Streptocarpus* do not grow well in a large quantity of mix. It stays too wet. Streps should be moved up into larger pots regularly rather than planted into a large one at the outset. If you wish to use self-watering containers, do not use for new divisions.

Now that all the divisions have been potted, what next? Water, fertilize, and provide good light. Enjoy.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

Not Only For Beginners

by Adrienne Stringer

I read Al and Cathy Cornibe's "For Beginners" column on neglect in the September/October 2002 issue with great interest. I'm not really a beginner any longer, but it's always good to get back to basics – to really take a look around in the plant room. You never know, you might learn something new! And so I took a good hard look around and, even though I had recently repotted and am following a 12-week pre-show schedule, I had to say that, yes – things were looking a little raggedy. A little rough around the edges. A little . . . neglected.

Don't Panic.

I'm calm. After all, nothing's really dead-looking . . . and Al and Cathy said that sooner or later this happens to everyone.

Did Your African Violets Go Without Water?

Well, no. Not really. I don't use reservoirs, but I do wick my plants in their individual saucers. But, I did lose my 'Petite Jewel' to what I call "reactive over-watering" earlier this summer ("What's that," you say? That's when a violet looks droopy and you *do* panic and over-water it in a misguided attempt to *force* it back to life.) Therefore, I decided that more time spent watering on a more REGULAR basis might be a good idea.

Did you Over-Water Your Plants?

Reactive Over-Watering. Need I say more?

Did They Go Without Artificial Light?

No – all is well on this score. I've got plant stands with lights on timers. They get their daily dose on a regular basis. In fact, they're getting increasing doses due to the pre-show schedule.

When Was the Last Time your Plants Were Repotted?

August 4th. I wrote it on the calendar! I'm feeling quite proud of myself – two questions in a row where I'm on the money. This is good!

Figure Out What's Causing the Neglect

Well now, *this* is getting interesting. Did you read this part?

"But, if you are neglecting your African violets over and over again, you need to figure out what is causing the problem. Then try to find a solution."

Make an Appointment With Your Plants

I do check them regularly. Every day. OK. At least every other day. Hmmm, this is probably an area that I could work on.

Finding Ways to Save Time

Al and Cathy talked watering methods. I've tried wicking. Believe it or not, in my conditions, the plants were not always happy with it – especially the minis and semis. So now I keep the wick but only use the reservoirs when we are going out of town. A watering system is not feasible in the upstairs bedroom, and the plants seem to be happy with the weight of the mix they are potted in. I think I'm doing pretty well in this area!

Are You Trying to Grow "Too Many" Plants?

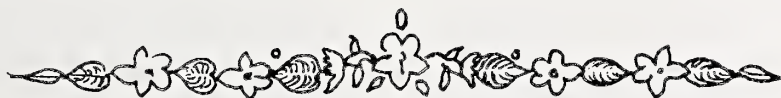
Well. Who Let The Dogs Out?! (You can insert your own popular metaphor of choice here.) I am definitely trying to grow too many plants. How did I wind up with so many? How many is too many? That depends on your lifestyle. I work full-time. I spend two hours a day commuting. I have a house (two and a half baths sounded great until I realized it meant there were *three* toilets to clean). I have a husband. We have two large cats. I play the bagpipes. I'm president of my violet club. I'm an African violet student judge. Are you tired yet?

I have 99 varieties of African violet – mostly standards. That's down from 106 and, for me, it's still *way* too many. I also have a handful of *Streptocarpus*, and a couple of "other gesneriads." Thankfully many of the violets are still in the leaf propagation stage, and I will not keep them all. Some are babies that I am waiting on to bloom to see if I like them as well as I did their photo. If I don't, they will go to new homes. Interestingly enough, I've discovered that I'm not the only one who's in "too many" turmoil!

I have friends ask me, "how do you decide what to get rid of?" I'm ruthless. I've begun to give cultivars away. We have an "opportunity table" at our club meetings and a silent auction at our council meetings. If I find that I don't like the way a plant is shaping up for me, it goes. If a plant doesn't take to the hot and dry conditions here where I live, I take it to a club where most of the members live in the cool coastal air. If a plant doesn't bloom true, it goes to a new home (where they don't show violets and don't care if they're not true).

I know people (not commercial growers – just everyday people) with 300 or 400 or more plants. I've begun to think they don't have anything else to do!

So, Al and Cathy Cornibe, thanks for the extra push. I've figured out the problem and am taking steps to solve it. In the meantime, you should see my plant room. With all this regular care and watering, everything's coming up violets!



How to use First Class to Manage Your Collection

by Bill Daniels

Now that you have received the latest version of First Class, how can you fully use it to your advantage?

When I received the new version of First Class, I added many African violets that I have collected into the database that are not listed in the Master List. This gave me a complete list of all the different African violets, including those unknown plants from the supermarket. Next, I categorized my collection several different ways. I listed the usual: miniatures, semi-miniatures, standard, chimeras, and trailers. The list can continue to be broken down (i.e., into semi-miniature pink blossoms or just variegated leaves.) I took advantage of the program and also listed my different leaves and sale plants. Now at any given time, I can bring up the different lists under the "Load List" button, and I'm able to select any collection.

Every time you repot or receive leaves, just go into the "Load List" and select 'My Leaf Collection'! You can add to the list by going back to the AVML file and selecting the plant, highlighting it, and then selecting 'Add to print list'. You can delete a leaf by highlighting its name and selecting the delete button on the bottom. Remember to **save** the list each time you use it! You can maintain an accurate account of any list by a simple click of a button.

The First Class program can help organize your collection for shows. If you are a serious grower and show your African violets, you can cater the list into show categories: a Standard Collection, Semi-miniature Collection, Texas Hybridzier, Western Hybridzier, Vintage Violet, or Dixie List, for example. You can even devise a list for Show Class 25, listing all your plants for that classification. Or a special collection of just one hybridzier can be made, too.

Joe Bruns, the author of First Class, has made several wonderful additions to the Version, 2.2. The one I like the most is the ability to copy to a clipboard and send it to either a Microsoft Word document or to a email. You do this by going to the Print menu and then selecting Print options. Along with this feature is the ability to select whether you want the hybridzier names or registration date and number to be listed on your final copy. Please do not forget the note option. This is especially good for new arrivals like leaves. A click of the mouse allows you to select File, then go to Personal Note. A text box will pop up, and you can add any type of note and print it if desired. My Leaf List has over 50 different leaves listed, and right next to it is the date I planted them into soil-less mix for rooting. As an example:

My Leaf List

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Crushed Velvet | [6/1/02 put down] |
| 2. Candy Crystal | [6/1/02 put down] |

In this way you can view your printed list on a daily or monthly basis. I have a Sales List as well. These are leaves that have been potted up and are now plantlets. The next time our club has a sale, I know exactly what plants they are and how many I have for the sale.

With the ability to print photographs of the different African violets, sales should increase. Place the photo and description on a bamboo skewer and place into the potted soil. The added photo really helps the sale of a plant that is not in bloom.

Another exciting feature is when you are printing labels; you can select where to start printing. Let's assume you are using Avery Label 5162, the photo/label, which print fourteen to a sheet. If you have used five labels already, you might think that the label sheet is useless. Think again! Go to the print page, click on the third dot to the right, then take the mouse and click on the different individual labels. This eliminates each individual label so you can start anywhere on the page.

If you are one of those people that still keeps hand written 3 x 5 index cards of your African violet collection, you now have the ability to print out a photo label for each violet. You can still use these cards for keeping track of when you've potted up/down, disbudded, etc.). Print a set of labels with the pictures and then attach the labels to one side of the 3x5 card and use the other side for any notes. It's nice to have a picture to refer to, especially with a plant you are not familiar with in order to be sure the blossom is growing true.

Don't forget to include a Wish List. All those beautiful plants you have seen at shows or pictures seen in the AVM that keep whispering to you, "grow me" can be easily tracked. By listing the different African Violets you want to add to your collection, you can have a printed list in just seconds to take to shows or email to your friends. You can decide whether you want the hybridzier, registry number, or description on it. Your personalized lists can be endless!

It has never been this easy to keep track of your hybrids. With my first genetic cross, I developed 25 new plants. Accurate record keeping is then determined by whether you are a large time hybridzier or small time dabbler.

1. For the Large time grower: You would make a new plant name in the database section, call it Cross# 001 Hot Shot x Dizzy Linda. Print out as many labels as necessary, and place the label/tag in each pot. Your next hybridizing would be Cross # 002. Joey X Aunt Jo-Jo. At any time you will be able to see the different cross identification by the Cross number # 001 or # 002 and so on. To recap you have only added two different new plant names into the

(continued on page 17)

Registration Report



Janice Bruns
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
jbruns@attbi.com

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

NEW REGISTRATIONS

Pat Hancock – Middletown, OH

***Buckeye Gift-wrapped** (9144) 9/27/02 (P. Hancock) Semi-double-double bright pink star/raspberry sparkle edge. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**



(continued from page 16)

database. As you grow out the seedling into blooming plants, you will need to add future names to the best hybrids.

- 2. For the smaller grower:** I have a separate collection saved for each different cross. Each new seedling is classified as a new plant such as: Seedling #001, then Seedling #002, Seedling #003 etc. With the ability to print out different nametags, I have set out 25 new labels for the new seedlings. After seeing the generations grow and bloom, I can choose to continue to produce a second or third generation or throw the plant out. All I will need to do is push the delete button under the database file if the plant is thrown out. Once the plant blooms, you can edit the seedling number and add your description of the bloom or leaf.

The following are a visual picture of the 'Load Button' from my computer.

- 001 My Collection of Miniatures.fcl
- 002 My Collection of Semi-miniatures.fcl
- 003 My Collection of Species.fcl

NAME RESERVATIONS

Lynda Welchel – San Antonio, TX

* Forever Ruthellen *

Mike Lovell – San Antonio, TX

* Marina's Legacy *

REGISTRATION CHANGES

The following descriptions have been changed at the request of the hybridizers:

Buckeye Incognito (9076) **variable** white edge (add 'variable')

Kiwi Candy Floss (9031) **Small standard** (was Standard)

Kiwi Velvet Glow (9035) **Standard** (was Large)

- 004 My Collection of Standards.fcl
- 005 My Collection of Chimeras.fcl
- 006 My Collection of Trailers.fcl
- 007 My Collection of Leaves.fcl
- 008 My Sales Plants.fcl
- 009 My Collection of Hybrid 001.fcl
- 010 My Collection of Hybrid 002.fcl
- 011 My Collection of Western Hybridizers.fcl
- 012 My Collection of Gordon Boone plants.fcl
- 013 Show Class # 25 Semi-mini variegated with/ lavender.fcl
- 014 Show Class # 45 Vintage Plants.fcl
- 015 My Wish List.fcl
- 016 Violets I do not Like.fcl

I added a numeric number in front of each collection to sort how I wanted my collection to be viewed: for example 001 My Collection, 002 My Collection, etc.

As you can see, the First Class Program has something for everyone. You can have a simple list, or you can create as many lists as necessary to meet your needs. We all owe Joe Bruns a great deal of gratitude!

A Family Portrait



Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Kohleria 'Manchu'

During the last several months, I have seen this plant as Best Gesneriad three times. What a great show plant! I purchased it last spring, and it grew vigorously during the summer of draught and heat. This plant was best gesneriad a month ago in our club's exhibit and has double the blooms now. They hold on for weeks. *Kohleria* 'Manchu' has the most wonderful, green velvet foliage with reddish veins. The blooms are a bright red with a white throat, covered in great dark red dots. Last week this single-growth plant had twelve flowers. I have been using a high phosphorous fertilizer regularly.

The diameter of the plant is about twelve inches, but it is growing contentedly in a three-inch pot.

I wrapped the huge rhizome in whole moist sphagnum moss before it was planted in regular African violet soil. I was careful that it never dried out and that it was very close to the center of my fluorescent tubes that were relatively new. Speaking of fluorescent tubes, members of my club were debating the use of certain watt bulbs in new fixtures that need 34-watt tubes. Ron Ferrie, our expert, tells me that one can use a 34-watt tube in a 40-watt fixture, but you can't use a 40-watt tube in a 34-watt fixture. I hope that helps. If you use that 34-watt fixture, be sure to keep the plants even closer so they get more exposure.

I have never had better luck with kohlerias (koh-LEER-ee-ahs) until this September and October, and my plants seem to be growing better than ever. I have made an effort to

keep plants groomed really well. This has helped keep blossom blight under control. I covered almost all my trays with plastic domes so that thrips could not get through. My variegated violets did not like this confinement in the heat of the summer, and I lost a lot of lower leaves. My plants have been doing very well on a wide variety of fertilizers, almost any brand and kind available.

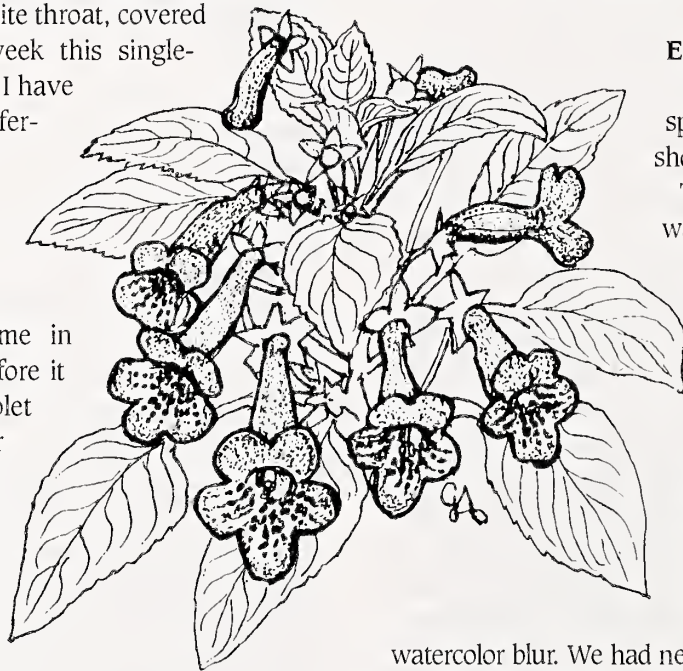


Exhibit News

Cyndi Boesse grew the best species African violet that became our show's Best Violet.

The perfect *Saintpaulia velutina lite* was absolutely perfect. She grew it on her office window sill. There was not a mark on the three-plus rows of leaves. The flowers had perfect, dark eyes, and each petal had a big white dot on the tip. She also grew the best miniature/semi-miniature, 'Ness' Satin Rose'. Best standard was grown by Ron Ferrie who entered 'Optimara Cora', a striking violet and white, frilled, pansy-type flower that has an unusual

watercolor blur. We had never seen this before.

Best fibrous gesneriad was my *Episcia* 'Kee Wee' (eh-PISH-ee-ah) grown in a flat terrarium. Planted in almost pure whole-sphagnum moss with all the stolens removed, it had four perfect blooms and great coloring from intense light exposure.

Barry Miedel grew the best tuberous gesneriad with *Sinningia speciosa* 'Emperor Wilhelm' (William). Pronounced sin-NIN-jee-ah spee-see-OH-sah, this old-fashioned, glorious specimen was proudly placed on the honors table. He had

grown it from a cutting, and he wishes more growers would tackle these magnificent plants. After the plants are finished blooming, he stops watering and allows them to wilt completely. They then rest for several months, and he starts watering them and places them only an inch or two below the center of two light tubes. They are compact and present him with five to six open blooms at one time.

SAD NEWS

One of my all-time favorite plants is 'Ness' Crinkle Blue'. We will always remember Don Ness as the quiet, gentle man who was always accompanied by his sweet wife, Jean. He left us a wonderful legacy of beautiful hybrids that will be

grown by many generations to come. Condolences to his dear family and a thank you to them for sharing his wonderful venture.

Laura Shannon conducted the first gesneriad workshop I ever attended in 1975. She was the most sharing person ever, never without a cutting for someone. Several years ago a terrible wind storm tore apart her enormous collection of hanging baskets and window sill plants. She simply went about gathering the "cuttings", identifying, rooting, and repotting them to be give-a-ways. Her last statement to me in July included words of encouragement to continue this column. If she found a way, I bet she took "cuttings" with her. Peace be with you both.



Winter CHALLENGES

by Barbara Pershing

The plant room with blooming violets is such a wonderful contrast to the bare trees and brown grass we see every time we look outside these cold winter days. But our houses are dry in winter, and the temperatures vary a great deal from night to day and from floor to ceiling. The drier air seems to suck water from the plant trays and from the plants themselves. It seems like I just filled the trays yesterday, and they are dry again!

Mildew can appear from out of nowhere overnight, especially in areas where there is less air circulation. It can cause damage to plants if left untreated. I have found that a light spray of Phyton 27 will get rid of the mildew quickly. If I find a plant with the tell-tale gray dusty appearance on the leaves, it is usually on a lower shelf in the back of the trays where the air is stagnant. I take it to the sink, and give it a warm bath, then give it a spray of the Phyton 27 and return it to the shelf. A fan helps a great deal to keep the mildew away. The air from the fan should not blow directly on the plants. They don't like this. A floor fan that is aimed at the ceiling will keep the air moving and helps to keep the pockets of cold air from settling on the lower shelves (remember that cold air sinks and warm air rises).

With an open stairway, the cold air from my upper level settled downstairs, causing a great deal of temperature variation in the lower level where my plant stands are. I found some plants showing evidence of root rot - mushy lower leaves, deteriorating root system, and lack of thriving - which I attrib-

uted to the inconsistent temperatures. I finally resorted to installing a 'dog door' in the wall so I could keep the door at the bottom of the stairs closed. It made a great deal of difference in the temperatures - both day and night - in the plant rooms. The plants are much happier.

Winter is a good time to repot. The guidelines of repotting every three or four months for standards and two months for semi-miniatures and miniatures have merit, although these are not easy rules to follow. It is especially important for the little ones, however. I always mark the re-pot date on the label. Without looking at the last re-pot date, I can look at the semi-miniature and miniature plants and tell which ones have been let go too long. The little ones really aren't happy with the old soil and mineral build up on top of the soil if left more than two months. This is especially important for those you hoping to show in the fall. Keep them disbudded as much as possible now, and repot frequently. I keep all of my little ones in 2 1/4 inch pots. Remove damaged leaves, but try not to take more leaves off than necessary right now. If the roots completely fill the pot, take a sharp knife or scissors and cut a slice of the root ball off at the bottom to allow 1/2 inch of fresh soil to be placed in the bottom. Then return the plant to a clean pot of the same size.

From *The Bloomin' Violet*,
publication of the Cedar Valley AVC

2002 AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES



For Director: Janet Riemer

Janet Riemer is from Pennington, New Jersey, and has been a member of AVSA for thirty-eight years. She has been a member of the Union County Chapter since 1969, and has served in many offices for that club. Janet became an AVSA Honorary Life Member in 1996 and is a Master Judge. She served as show vice chair and entries chair at the Philadelphia AVSA convention in 1984. She has been a member of the NJ Council of AV Judges and the TriState AV Council since 1971, and is a great promoter of the much-loved Max Maas hybrids.

Janet has served AVSA on many committees: as director, nine years as Secretary, two years as Second Vice President, and two years as First Vice President. She is currently the AVSA archivist. Janet received the first Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership in 1984 and a Continuing Service Award in 1987.

She is married with two adult children. She holds a BS and a MS degree and taught college for fourteen years. Retired from a position of preservation archivist in Special Collections & University Archives at Rutgers University in 1999, she is employed part-time as a preservation aide at Rider University. Janet has been a genealogist for many years, is co-editor of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, and is past president of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey.



For First Vice President: Linda Owens

Linda Owens of Columbus, Ohio has been a member of AVSA for twenty one years. She is a Life Member, a Senior Judge, and a Teacher. She is a member of the Springfield African Violet Club and the Columbus African Violet Society where she has held numerous offices and committee positions.

She has been a member of the Ohio State Judges' Council since she became a judge. She is currently serving as Treasurer of the Ohio State African Violet Society and was Convention Chairman for the recent convention.

Her first AVSA convention was in Orlando in 1987, and she has attended each convention since then, serving as Convention Chairman for the 1992 Convention in Columbus. She was a member of the Board of Directors from 1990 through 1992, serving on the Finance committee. Since 1995, she has served as Assistant Convention Director and is currently also serving as Finance Committee Chairman.

She has three step-children and five grandsons. She and her husband, Jim, have been married for twenty seven years.



For Second Vice President: Joyce Stork

Joyce Stork is from Fremont, Nebraska and has been a commercial member of AVSA since 1975. She has been an accredited judge since 1980. She is a member of the Lincoln AVS, currently serving as president, the Omaha AVS, currently serving as vice-president, and the Missouri Valley AV Council, where she has served as president, editor, and parliamentarian. She served as Show Chairman for the Kansas City AVSA Convention in 1979 and as Convention Chairman for the Omaha Convention in 2000. She was elected to the Board of Directors in 1990 and has since served on the Awards, Bylaws, Convention, Future Directions, and Membership Committees. She and her husband, Kent, have written the column, "For Beginners" since 1991. They were honored together in 1989 with the Bronze Medal Award.

A former teacher with two sons, she now works with her husband of 32 years operating their combination flower shop and violet business, Kent's Flowers. She is active in her church youth program, and serves as parliamentarian for the congregation.



For Third Vice President: Ron Davidson

I was born in Kansas and raised in Oklahoma. I graduated from Oklahoma State University with an Engineer Degree. I retired from the U. S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1990. I have been married to my wife, Janice, for thirty-eight years. We have two wonderful daughters and two grandchildren. After spending a number of years traveling around the U.S.A. and world with the army, we settled down to Red Oak, Texas (just south of the Dallas area).

I'm a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas with a consulting firm. I specialize in structural foundation and drainage. I assisted the AVSA office staff and Board of Directors when they had a major foundation re-leveling problem with the AVSA building in Beaumont, prior to the convention in Houston in 1999.

I'm current President of the North Texas African Violet Judges Council and Treasurer of the First African Society of Dallas. I have served as past president, treasurer, show chairman, classification and entries chairman in the local

clubs and shows. I have served as co-editor for the Lone Star African Violet Council Newsletter. I have served as show chairman and entries/classification chairman for a number of state shows.

I served as past Director for AVSA, and currently I am on the Shows and Judges Committee. I'm the Shows and Judges Committee coordinator for classification/entries and the commercial section judging during the shows. I'm a Life member of AVSA and a senior judge.

I have exhibited African violets, gesneriads, and designs in the local, state, and national conventions and shows. I have been lucky to go home with the Tri-color awards for the Best-In-Show-Design. I grow in excess of one hundred and fifty African violets and gesneriads. I enjoy the quiet time in the plant room while watering and grooming the plants between shows. I also grow two to three new different gesneriads every year to see how they grow and bloom.



For Treasurer: Gary Gordon of Ashton, Maryland, has been a member of AVSA since 1990 and is a Life Member and advanced judge. He is an avid grower and has won many awards in local and regional shows for his horticulture and design entries. Gary attended his first AVSA convention in Columbus, Ohio in 1992 and has attended every convention since.

Gary is currently Chairman of the AVSA Finance Committee, President of the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges, President of the National Capital Area Chapter of AGGS, First Vice President of the Dixie African Violet Society, and Treasurer of the Baltimore African Violet Club. Also, he is a member of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Gesneriad Hybridizer's Association, Bromeliad Society International, and is an AGGS judge.

Gary is a 1968 graduate of Louisiana Tech where he received a BA in Business and an MBA in Financial Management. He has held the positions of Division Controller of Maremont Corporation, Nashville, Tennessee; Chief Executive Officer of HealthAmerica Corporation of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio; and President of Healthcare Corporation of America, Washington, D.C. Currently, he is semi-retired, but works part time as a business consultant and investor. He is active in several community organizations, serving as Treasurer of the Brinkwood Community Association since 1993.



For Secretary: Nancy Hayes

I have been a member of AVSA for 39 plus years. I have attended over 30 conventions and served as a judge for nearly 33 years. I am currently a Master judge, Life member, and Judging School Teacher.

I have served on over 10 AVSA committees, notably 20 years on Convention

Committee and 14 years on Library Committee. I have chaired the Nominating Committee and currently serve as chair of the Membership and Promotion Committee. This latter job is a real challenge in this day and age; I am well aware of the concerns over dwindling membership.

I have greatly enjoyed presenting the Social Hour Slide program at convention each year for many years. One of my greatest satisfactions was writing the Question Box column for nearly ten years. Contact with membership is indeed a privilege! Serving with various Shows and Judges chairs as a consultant at convention show judging for over 20 years has been a great source of education and pleasure.

I am member of many local and regional African violet organizations as well as AGGS.

We have four children and five grandchildren. Raising this family was never dull and leaves us with many happy memories. My life revolves around the kids, and African violets. Never a day goes by that I do not put a stitch in some form of counted thread embroidery, knitting, or quilting. John and I have been married for over 40 years and look forward to our retirement to our place in the mountains of Maine on the lake.



For Director: Kazuo Horikoshi of Tokyo, Japan has been a member of AVSA since 1982. He is a life member and an advanced judge. He has attended every convention since the 1985 convention in Los Angeles, California.

He has been a member of Japan International Saintpaulia Society for twenty years. Also, he has served as Secretary and newsletter editor for seventeen years.

He studied Psychology at University, and after graduating, he has worked as a social worker in Shinjuku City, Tokyo. He has been growing African violets, Gesneriads, and Begonias in his plant room. In addition to growing these plants, Kazuo enjoys traveling to the United States to attend AVSA and AGGS convention every year.



For Director: Carolee Carter

I have been growing African violets since 1990. I got hooked by attending a judged show, and it's been a love affair ever since. I joined a local club, The Violet Patch of South Florida, and began to grow as many as my one plant stand could carry.

I held various offices in The Violet Patch, was president for two years, and published their newsletter for six years. During this time, I attended a judging school and became a student judge. I love the process of judging and welcome any opportunity to improve my skills. I am currently an Advanced Judge.

After moving to San Jose, California, I joined the San Mateo County African Violet Society. I became president of

the affiliate in 2002 and still hold that office. I also joined the Northern California Council of African Violet Societies and eventually became its Treasurer in 2001-2002; I joined the African Violet Judges Council of Northern California, serving as Secretary in 2001-2002.

I currently am a member of the Publications Committee and the Membership and Promotions Committee. I assisted in the early start-up of the Internet Committee when the web site was being formed, and currently share the load in answering questions from readers in the Frequently Asked Questions part of the website.

I have written several articles over the years for African Violet magazine and strongly believe that communication is the most important tool in getting and keeping members.

I live with my husband, Clive, who is retired, and Humphrey, our Maine Coon cat. I have two grown step-children and four grandchildren. Clive and I plan to return to Florida in 2003. Other than tending to my African violets, my other current interests are embroidery, needlepoint, sewing, photography, chess, and gourmet cooking.



For Director: Joan Watts of Colo, Iowa, has been a member of AVSA for 20 years. She is also a member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council and the Evening African Violet Club of Des Moines. She has been President and Vice president of the Des Moines club besides serving as Show Chairman, Schedule

Chairman, Publicity Chairman, Classification Chairman, Entries Chairman, and Judges Chairman at various Des Moines Shows. Joan has attended 16 AVSA National Conventions and is a Senior judge. At the national level, she has been Placement Chairman, has served on placement, and helped with judging and photographing the violets at the end of a show. Joan retired as manager from Donnelley Marketing after 20 years of service. She is married to Wayne Watts and has three children and six grandchildren. In addition to growing violets, she enjoys antiques, crocheting, and spectator sports.



For Director: Elmer Godeny from Baton Rouge, Louisiana has a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He is currently an Associate Professor of Virology in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the Louisiana State University, School of Veterinary

Medicine.

Elmer has been growing African violets since 1994. He is the current Vice-President of Sundowners' African Violet Society in Baton Rouge, has served as treasurer for the previous seven years, and has been Show Chair many times for this local club. He is also the Vice-President of the Louisiana

Council of African Violet Judges and Growers and was a previous editor of their newsletter. Elmer currently serves on the AVSA research committee and is Chair of the 2003 AVSA Convention in Baton Rouge. He has also chaired the Convention Schedule Revision Committee and served on the Convention Pre-Proposal Committee. He is currently an Advanced Judge in AVSA.

In addition to African violets, Elmer enjoys fishing, water skiing, boating, decorative painting, stained glass, and Mardi Gras. Working at a Vet. School, he also has a love of animals. Two dogs, four cats, a bird, a water garden with koi, and a coral reef aquarium fill Elmer's house and yard.



For Director: Cheryl Salatino

Growing African violets has been an ideal balance to the demands of a career in marketing for computer technology. After joining AVSA, she became a member of the Bay State AVS and a local affiliate club.

Over the past eight years, Cheryl has worked as a director, committee chair, and secretary for the Bay State AVS of New England. She has been a contributor to the regional publication, *Ye Bay Stater*, providing practical answers to grower dilemmas in its "Question Corner" column. Some of those articles have been reprinted in the AVM. She has also designed the staging and co-developed schedules for several of the Bay State organization's annual shows.

Cheryl is currently an advanced judge. She also serves as an active member of the AVSA Membership and Promotions Committee by welcoming new members to the organization.

Cheryl is a 25-year veteran of computer technology marketing. She is currently a Senior Vice president at a business consulting firm directing strategic marketing for high tech start-ups and emerging growth companies. During her high tech career, she has been employed by some of the most visible technology firms including Sun Microsystems, Computervision, and Prime Computer.

Cheryl also earned a certificate in Landscape Design from Radcliffe Seminars of Harvard University earlier this year.



WICKING MY LITTLE ONES – UPDATE

by Joyce Myers

It seems the subject of using floral foam has been of great interest on the African Violet Internet Groups. My mailbox is full of questions that come up, so I am responding with an update.

Since last spring, I have found cutting each foam block into fourths works better. To make cutting really easy, cut it wet. The knife slides right through, so I recommend doing it over a sink on a cutting board.

There are no preservatives in the floral foam that I use. I understand other people are using floral foam with preservatives. I do not recommend using this type, as it may be detrimental to the plants.

Most of my leaves are now wicked with the floral foam. I place a wick in the pot, making sure it is coiled up to the end of the leaf stem. The soil is pre-moistened and so is the wick. Therefore, the wicking action begins, without watering from the top.

I let the top of the foam go dry, and during this time, there is still moisture in the pot. When the top appears dry, I add enough water for the foam to absorb, and the top feels wet to the touch. It doesn't take a lot of water, as the bottom of the foam is still wet or at least moist.

Each of us has different growing conditions, so telling you how much water to use is a waste of time. Again the type I use is Oasis Advantage Plus Floral Foam Bricks. I do not recommend any other type, as I have not tested them.

My newest experiment is propagating leaves using the floral foam. I've been saving scraps of floral foam and never knew why until recently. The foam has little air holes, so I gently slide a leaf into the hole. The foam is cut to 1/2 inch thick. The foam is kept constantly wet. At the time of this writing, I am on the ninth day of using this, and the leaves appear just as nice as the day they were planted. They have roots! I planted 'Tiny Moon Goddess' and 'Aly's Blizzard Bunny', which don't seem to be easy for me to propagate using soil. Now that I have completed that experiment, I am trying a larger piece of foam and have inserted various types to see how they do.

A word of caution! As with any community tray, pests can be a problem. I was watering about every three weeks with a cupful of Murphy's Oil Soap to a gallon of plain water, just as a precaution. A capful holds 1 teaspoon. I noticed some white scum forming on the foam, so I now use 1 capful to 1 gallon of water. I use it every six weeks. There are no side effects to the foam or the plants. My aunt, who started me on violets, swore by Murphy's Oil Soap for many years, and she said it would kill most soft-bodied pests. Her collection was beautiful, and I never saw a bug. To me, it was worth a try, and the knowledge was rewarding. Some people use bleach in their collection, but I felt Murphy's was a little gentler.



AVS of Canada Invites You to "A Celebration of Violets"

Dear members of AVSA,

Please join us in Mississauga, Ontario, on May 7 - 10, 2003, for a few days of fun, festivities and Canada's premier African violet show.

The 2003 convention of the African Violet Society of Canada, a "Celebration of Violets" promises to have it all - lectures, fabulous food, raffles, auctions, and hundreds of beautiful African violets to buy and to view. It is all waiting for you at the Novotel Hotel, just 20 minutes from the Toronto Pearson International Airport, and near major highways from all directions.

Meet friends in the hospitality room, join the tours to Niagara Falls and to nearby downtown Toronto. Head across the street to see a movie or shop at Square One, the largest shopping center in Eastern Canada. The U.S. dollar has a very favorable exchange rate in Canada. There are plenty of activities nearby for non-violet husbands or wives.

We look forward to seeing you! For more information check our website at www.avsc.ca and click on 'Convention 2003' or contact me at 905-270-6776 or by e-mail at jtbrownlie@idirect.com

Doris Brownlie (Convention chair)



AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Chairman
 7992 Otis Way
 Pensacola, FL 32506
 promers22@hotmail.com

Program Planning, Part I

"Program Planning" was the topic of the DC Convention Affiliate Meeting. There were so many ideas and suggestions for those attending that everyone returned home with new ideas to share with their affiliates. I thank all of you who made this meeting one of the best yet. Whether it was questions or ideas you brought with you, whether you were in the audience or one of the panel of experts, we appreciate you all.

Please keep in mind that not all of the following ideas and suggestions will work for all clubs. Some may need to be altered to fit your club, and others may not be suitable at all. Hopefully, some of them can be used or tailored to introduce variety into your club programs.

General planning suggestions

1. **Find out what club members want.** Considering members' problems, needs, and interests makes programs more meaningful. Members can be asked to fill out a form or to express their interest verbally concerning program interests for the coming year. One club passes a paper around at the first fall meeting asking for program topic suggestions. One club asks a 'roll call' question at the beginning of each meeting. Instead of each person's answering "here", he/she answers the question for the month. The question for the last month of the year is: "What programs would you like to see scheduled next year?" The roll is taken, and everyone has a chance to be involved and have his/her ideas considered. Some members don't know, but they get ideas from those who answer before them. Repetition usually suggests a real need or interest.
2. **De-emphasize "Growing for Show" programs.** Violets are fun! Many members are discouraged by the need to enter a show, or hearing too many programs on the topic. They just want to learn to grow.
3. **Try to plan one or two programs a year with speakers from outside the club.** A speaker once told me that the definition of an "expert" is simply someone from out of town. That's not necessarily true, but it is nice to look

forward to a special speaker each year. It can be turned into a special meeting - special refreshments, a potluck dinner, or a night to bring guests. Call some of the older members who have become less regular in their attendance, or even contact that list of people who bought plants at the last show or sale. Use all the means available to publicize you shows, sales, and sometimes meetings. Make it a special occasion, and invite the public. If your club doesn't mail out newsletters to the members, this could be an exception. A newsletter, or a calling committee could inform all the members.

4. **Plan ahead and follow through.** I once drove an hour and a half to a meeting to find that a VCR was not available for the video to be shown. A second time, the speaker had the wrong date on her calendar and did not show up. The program chairman should contact the speaker in advance to see if there is anything that is needed.
5. **Have a 'backup' program planned.** In case of a lack of communication, or an emergency, it is good to have a person that you can call to fill in, a video, or slide program that can be readily substituted.
6. **Plan diverse programs.** There are some programs, like a 'Dawg Show' or 'Blossom Contest' that are so popular that the members want them repeated each year. As a general rule, however, the members like something new, different. Even if the topic is "recycled," it is important to vary the way that it is presented, or vary the information presented. Some clubs include programs on design, culture, and show each year. Some clubs rotate the basics, commonly referred to as the ten proper (lights, fertilizer, etc.), highlighting a different one each year. Selecting a different "other" gesneriad each year also provides variety.

The information shared on programs will be continued in the May/June issue. In the meantime, if any affiliate has not yet received the five page listing of suggested program topics, it may be requested by sending a SASE to the snail mail address above.



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Report from the Gesneriaceae Workshop Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

by Dr. Jeff Smith

Thanks to the sponsorship of the African Violet Society of America, I was able to represent the AVSA at the Gesneriaceae Workshop that was held September 25-28, 2002. The Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, Scotland, hosted the workshop. Here is a summary of some of the items learned at the workshop that relate to the AVSA.

1. Possible Taxonomy changes for genus *Saintpaulia*.

Recent molecular taxonomic studies over the last several years on the Gesneriaceae found in Africa and Madagascar have concluded that all of the genera show a very close genetic similarity and relationship. Based on the DNA studies, the present genera of *Saintpaulia*, *Shizoboea* and *Linneaposis* are clearly descendents of the genus *Streptocarpus*. Because of this relationship, suggestions have been made that all of the genera be lumped together into one genus, that being the genus *Streptocarpus*. While this suggestion is only at the discussion level thus far, I would not be surprised if a scientific publication in the near future called for such a taxonomic rearrangement. This would affect the AVSA in that their control over all taxonomic issues related to genus *Saintpaulia* would become null and void. If the AVSA wishes to continue to control the taxonomy of genus *Saintpaulia*, they should start to consider plans to challenge such a recommendation.

Another result of the molecular taxonomic studies is that many of the current *Saintpaulia* species have been found to be extremely closely related to each other. The relationship is so close that the current arrangement of taxa into species is under reconsideration. Future molecular work will not likely be done to **separate** the current *Saintpaulia* species, but rather focus on how to **lump** them together. Although the discussion on this issue was less clear, it is likely that a future proposal will be made to place many of the current species together under one to four species, then give each current species a subspecies or variety level of classification. This rearrangement will change the AVSA Master Variety List of the species and would affect our show classification system. A reclassification of the species will also affect conservation efforts as it become less clear as to what is the "species" that should be protected.

2. Field Research and Collecting.

The general consensus at the workshop was that single expeditions for collection, study, or a Gesneriad species or genus would be unlikely to obtain the necessary permission from foreign governments. Instead, expeditions that cover entire ecosystems or biomes are much more likely to be approved. Therefore, the study of any member of the Gesneriaceae would have to be a smaller study within part of

a larger group. This was exactly the situation with Dr. Gerard Hertel's recent request to the AVSA for funding with a grant from the Boyce Edens Research Fund for a study conducted in the forests of the Teita Hills of Kenya. Although there was some discussion in the research committee about not approving Dr. Hertel's request because the *Saintpaulia* study was only part of a larger expedition, it appears that the request was in line with what is occurring in other situations.

During the workshop, I was able to discuss a possible expedition lead by Dr. Dirk Bellstedt from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. Dr. Bellstedt has contacts in Tanzania that may allow him to set up an expedition for the summer of 2003. Dr. Bellstedt's primary research areas are in Orchids and *Streptocarpus*. However, he is very interested in *Saintpaulia* and would like to include them as part of the work of the proposed expedition. I have encouraged Dr. Bellstedt to apply for funding from the AVSA when his plans are more concrete.

3. Conservation efforts for the Gesneriaceae.

The loss of suitable habitat is threatening many species of the Gesneriaceae worldwide. Many of the species are climax vegetation species and do not respond well to disturbance. In fact, the presence (or absence) of Gesneriaceae species is an excellent indicator of the amount of disturbance and should be used as part of the decision making process on suitable areas to set aside for conservation. The AVSA should remember to use this argument when working on conservation projects for *Saintpaulia*. Pristine areas must be set aside and protected if *Saintpaulia* is to survive in the wild.

One way to help with the conservation of *Saintpaulia* is to maintain as many clones and species in cultivation as possible. AVSA should encourage its membership to grow the species and work to better educate them on the worth of these plants. I was surprised to discover that my personal collection of the *Saintpaulia* species was much more extensive than the research collection maintained at Edinburgh, as well as possible other botanical gardens. I have been sharing and distributing material from my collection with others (amateur growers and professional scientists) and will continue to do so.

4. Interaction between the AVSA, other plant societies, and research scientists.

One thing that became apparent during the discussions at the workshop is that the research scientists have done very little sharing or seeking of information from the various plant societies. For example, I was astounded to learn many of the researchers at RBGE didn't know about the checklists for

genetic traits in *Saintpaulia* that been published in the African Violet Magazine. One character that they reported as a “new” discovery for *Streptocarpus* during the workshop is the same thing as girl foliage in violets. They had no idea that this trait existed in other gesneriads or that the AVSA knew so much about it. There were also questions raised about the basic biology of many gesneriads, such as time from pollination to seed maturation, longevity of the seeds, time to first flowering, etc. that the membership of the AGGS or AVSA would know. Granted, this information isn’t field data, but any information at this point is better than none at all.

Conversely, the AVSA needs to be aware of the molecular biology research of these scientists, especially as their results might upset the taxonomic status of genus *Saintpaulia*, as discussed earlier. Communication needs to go both directions, and the society should look for methods to accomplish this goal.

One such method might be through gesneriad web sites that are being published as exchange forums for information on these plants. One new site that was presented at the workshop is “The Genera of Gesneriaceae” which will be located at: http://www.botanik.univie.ac.at/morphology/genera_gesneriaceae/index.htm.

Discussions indicated an interest in posting data at other locations, and the Smithsonian Institute will be developing an e-mail list of the workshop participants for regular exchanges of information.

AVSA has information that the plant scientists need. For example, very little information is known about the growth requirements of the *Saintpaulia* species plants. I have already forwarded copies of my AVM articles on growing the warm and cool species to RBGE to improve their success in maintaining their species collection (they currently have all of the species *Saintpaulia* in their warm greenhouse and didn’t appreciate that some species require cooler temperatures in order to thrive). The data observed by AVSA members have a place in the overall scientific community.

5. Future AVSA research goals or directions.

Some possible future research goals include:

a) The use of genetic engineering techniques to add new traits such as the yellow gene from snapdragons to African violets. One student of a RBGE scientist is working out a genetic transformation process with *Saintpaulia*. The DNA for the gene for yellow pigment has already been isolated from snapdragons. This stu-

dent may examine the possibility of moving the yellow gene into tissue culture, then regrowing the tissue back to plants. Scent is another trait that might be possible to be added to violets through genetic engineering techniques.

- b) More molecular work will likely be done on the African gesneriads to further clarify their relationships. Although *Saintpaulia* is clearly descended from *Streptocarpus*, AVSA needs to be aware of such work in light of the previously mentioned taxonomic changes suggested for the genus.
- c) . . . The possibility of intergeneric hybrids bet *Saintpaulia* and *Streptocarpus* needs to be studied. All attempts to date have failed. Continual failure would support a separate genus status for *Saintpaulia*. On the other hand, the creation of viable hybrids may allow the movement of desirable genes between the two genera. Either situation is a win/win cause for the AVSA.
- d) More basic fieldwork and conservation efforts are needed in Tanzania and Kenya. These countries have become increasingly reluctant to allow single plant or genus collection work because of the possible future economic implications. AVSA support would likely need to be given to larger projects, such as the one suggested by Dr. Bellstedt.
- e) The AVSA needs to take a more active role in encouraging the growth of the species plants by the membership. This effort will help place duplicates of the plants in multiple places, preventing the accidental loss of a clone. The use of the species in new hybridization studies should also be encouraged in order to help conserve this genetic material for future hybridization work.

In summary, I greatly appreciated the willingness of the AVSA to sponsor my trip to the Gesneriaceae Workshop at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and to represent the AVSA. I felt the trip was successful on a number of levels, both professional and personal. The contacts made at the workshop should assist future research aims and projects of the AVSA, as well as assisting the development of the exchange of information between the professional scientists and the AVSA.



Susie's Delight

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

Margaret Gratto

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Pink Dove

Best Miniature

2002 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Ron Ennis

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Party Print

From Best AVSA Collection

AVSA 2002 Show

Exhibited and Hybridized by: Marie Burns

Large

2003 Convention Awards

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

by Sue Hoffmann

Society Awards - Amateur Horticulture Division

- Best African Violet in Show - \$50 & Tri-color rosette
- 2nd Best African Violet in Show - \$35 & rosette
- 3rd Best African Violet in Show - \$25 & rosette
- Best Standard - \$25 & rosette
- Best Trailer - \$25 & rosette
- Best Semiminiature - \$25 & rosette
- Best Miniature - \$25 & rosette
- Best Species - \$25 & rosette
- Best Vintage Violet - \$25 & rosette
- Best Other Gesneriad - \$25 & rosette
- Sweepstakes in Horticulture - \$50 & rosette
- Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture - \$25 & rosette
- Best Standard Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette
- 2nd Best Standard Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette
- Best Mini/Semimini Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette
- 2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette

Society Awards - Design Division (Amateur & Commercial)

- Best Design in Show - \$50 & Tri-color rosette
- 2nd Best Design in Show - \$35 & rosette
- 3rd Best Design in Show - \$25 & rosette
- Sweepstakes in Design - \$50 & rosette
- Sweepstakes Runner-up in Design - \$25 & rosette.

Society Awards - Commercial Display Tables

- Best Commercial Display Table - \$125 & Blue rosette
- 2nd Best Commercial Display Table - \$100 & Red rosette
- Best African Violet on Display Tables - \$50 and rosette

Society Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

- Best African Violet in show - \$50 & rosette
- 2nd Best African Violet in show - \$35 & rosette
- 3rd Best African Violet in show - \$25 & rosette
- Sweepstakes in Specimen plants - \$50 & rosette
- Best Other Gesneriad - \$25 & rosette
- Best Standard Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette
- 2nd Best Standard Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette
- Best Mini/Semimini Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette
- 2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette
- Best New Cultivar - \$75, Blue rosette & plaque
- 2nd Best New Cultivar - \$50 & Red rosette
- 3rd Best New Cultivar - \$25 & White rosette

Membership Awards

Wooden tray with hand painted African violet tiles goes to the member getting most new AVSA memberships for calendar year 2002 - Nancy Hayes, Membership & Promotion Committee Chairman \$50 for the affiliate with the most new members in calendar year 2002 - Nancy & John Hayes

Specified Awards - Commercial Division

- Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300 & rosette
- 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette
- 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette (Holtkamp Awards are courtesy of Holtkamp Greenhouses)
- Best New Introduction - \$100 *in memory of Frank Tinari - Mary & Art Boland (VA)*
- Commercial Showcase Awards - \$75
- African Violets International - Internet AV Group *in memory of Nancy Blanton*

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

- Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300, rosette & Coin
- 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette
- 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette (Holtkamp Awards are courtesy of Holtkamp Greenhouses)
- Best Robinson Collection - \$150 & rosette
- 2nd Best Robinson Collection - \$50 (Robinson Collection awards courtesy of The Violet Barn, Rob & Olive Ma Robinson)
- Best African Violet in Show - Silver Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall - Ovella Hall (AR)
- Best African Violet in Show - \$50 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
- Best African Violet in Show - \$20 *in memory of Nancy Blanton - Good Earth Nursery/Stephen Phillips (SC)*
- 2nd Best African Violet in Show - \$25 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
- 3rd Best African Violet in Show - \$25 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
- 3rd Best African Violet in Show - \$25 - Mid-Atlantic AVS (regional)
- Best Semiminiature - \$25 in memory of Fannie & Elmer Hall - Ovella Hall (AR)
- Best Semiminiature - \$25 - Mid-America AVS (MO)
- Best Semiminiature White Blossoms - \$10 *in memory of Annabelle Hart - William & Robin Yager (NY)*
- Best Miniature in Show - \$25 - St. Louis AV Judges Council
- Best AVSA Standard Collection - \$50 *in memory of Bill Lyons - Mary & Art Boland (VA)*
- Best AVSA Standard Collection - \$50 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
- Best AVSA Mini/Semiminiature Collection - \$50 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)

- Best Species in Show - \$50 - Cape Cod Violetry (MA)
- Best Species in Show - \$50 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
- Best Species in Show - \$25 - San Mateo County AVS (CA)
- Best Species - \$10 - Alice Easter (PA)
- 2nd Best Species in Show - \$25 - Mid-Atlantic AVS (regional)
- Best Standard Chimera - \$50 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)
- Best Standard Edged Blossom, green foliage - \$25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)
- Best Standard Pink Blossoms - \$25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)
- Best Standard Red Blossoms - \$25 - Norma Flynn (TX)
- Best Standard White Blossoms - \$25 - Norma Flynn (TX)
- Best Vintage Violet - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)
- Best Vintage Violet - \$25 *in memory of Irene Fredette - Nancy G. Hayes (CT)*
- Best Vintage Violet - \$15 - Windsor AVS (CT)
- Best Other Gesneriad - \$50 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
- Education table - \$20 - Barbara Stewart (VA)
- Best Girl Foliage - \$25 - Sue Hoffmann (VA)
- Best Fantasy - \$50 & rosette - Baltimore AVC (MD)
- Best Variegated African Violet - \$15 - Louisiana Council of AV Judges (LA)
- Amateur Horticulture Sweepstakes - \$30 - Metro. St. Louis AV Council (MO)
- Best Fantasy Streptocarpus - \$25 - Sydney Rose (VA)

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Horticulture

- Best Alps - \$50 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
- Best Blue Boy - \$10 - Nadine Tichy (TX)
- Best Bristol's Hey Mei - \$25 - Ovella Hall (AR)
- Best Buckeye Candy Kisses - \$75 - Pat Hancock, Pat's Patch (OH)
- Best Concord - \$50 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
- Best Dean's Arctic Frost - \$25 - Shirley & Sandy Sanders (TX)
- Best Dean's Cupid - \$25 - Shirley & Sandy Sanders (TX)
- Best Everdina - \$25 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)
- Best Irish Flirt - \$50 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)
- Best Lillian Jarrett Variegated (#2902) - \$50 *in memory of Frank Tinari - Anne Tinari (PA)*
- Best Maas' Mark - \$25 *in memory of Max Maas - Union County Chapter AVS (NJ)*
- Best Mickey Mouse - \$25 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)

Best Ozio - \$100
in memory of L.T. Ozio - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
 Best Precious Pink - \$25
in memory of Sallie Wunderlich - Mary McFarland (LA)
 Best Rob's Bed Bug - \$25 - Ovella Hall (AR)
 Best Sundown Trail - \$25 & rosette -
 Sundowner's AVS (LA)
 Best Windy Day - \$25 -
 AVS of Greater Tulsa (OK)

Specified Awards - Design Division

Best in Design - \$50 - Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
 Design Sweepstakes - \$50 -
 Baton Rouge AVS (LA)
 Design Sweepstakes - \$30 - Metro. St. Louis AV
 Judges Council (MO)
 3rd Best Design in Show - \$25 - Mid-Atlantic
 AVS (regional)

Other Awards - Amateur Horticulture or Undesignated

\$100 donated by:
 North Star African Violet Council (MN)
in memory of Don Ness
 Illinois AVS (IL)
 Lone Star AV Council (TX)
 Missouri Valley AV Council (MO)

\$75 donated by:
 Ovella Hall (AR)

\$50 donated by:
 Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society (FL)

\$30 donated by:
 AVS of Minnesota (MN)

\$25 donated by:
 Aloha Rhodes (TX)
 Andrea Worrell (IL)
 AV Council of Southern California (CA)
 AVSA Judges Council of Northern California (CA)

Dorothy Kosowsky (CA)
in memory of Don Ness
 Nutmeg State AVS (CT)
in memory of Irene Fredette
 Southern California Judges Council (CA)
 Alpha AVS (TX)
 Libby Behnke (DE)
 Bluebird Greenhouse (NC)
 Doris & John Brownlie (Ontario, Canada)
 Central Texas Judges Council (TX)
 Delta Gesneriad and AVS (CA)
 First Austin AVS (TX)
 First AVS of Dallas (TX)
 First Nighter AVS (TX)
 Bill & Paula Foster (TX)
 Delores Gibbs (TX)
 Lakes Area Violet Growers (MN)
 Ruth & Will Loomis (AZ)
 Milwaukee AVS (WI)
 New York State AVS (NY)
 North Texas AV Judges Council (TX)
 Janet Riemer (NJ)
 AVS of Rochester (NY)
 South Coast AVS (CA)
 Spring Branch AVC (TX)
 Jim & Linda Owens (OH)
 Unpredictables AVS (MO)

\$20 donated by:

Lois W. Giles (FL)
 Indy AVC (IN)
 Nancy Amelung (MO)
 AVC of Greater Kansas City (MO)
 Linda & Jim Golubski (MO)
 Shirley & Sandy Sanders (TX)
 Tidewater AVS (VA)

\$15 donated by:

Richmond AVS (VA)
 Chestnut Country Violets (NH)
 Ron & Jan Davidson (TX)
 Quanapowitt AVC (NH)

\$10 donated by:

Lynnhaven AVS (VA)
 Amethyst AVC (MO)
 Dorothy L. Bengé (LA)
 Gateway West Gesneriad Society (MO)
 Memphis AVS (TN)
 Mid-Polk AVS (FL)
 Nite Bloomers (FL)
 Windsor AVS (CT)

Other donations:

violet needlework picture - Laurene Jones (VA)
 \$25 gift certificate - Pat's Pets -
 Gary Dunlap (MD)
 \$15 gift certificate -
 Chestnut Country Violets (NH)
 \$10 gift certificate - Violet Venture - Fay
 Wagman (NY)

Other Awards - Design Division

\$25 - Kathi Lahti (MN)
 \$25 - Albuquerque AVC (NM)
 \$20 - Maury & Jackie Jones (IA)
 \$10 - Amethyst AVC (MO)

Other Awards - Commercial Division

\$15 - Bill & Kathryn Paauwe (NY)

Sincere thanks to these members and affiliates for their generous support! Each award will be presented to a deserving exhibitor. Your award donations make this possible. Why not add your name to the list? It's not too late!

Deadline for awards to appear in the Baton Rouge souvenir book is February 15, 2003. Please send checks (payable in U.S. funds) or items to: Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman, 801 N. Villier Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. susan.hoffmann@juno.com



AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



We are proud to announce the guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship, available for the third year.

- Applicants should be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program or in a graduate program in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.
- Applicants should have completed 24 semester or quarter hour credits by completion of the fall 2002 semester, with a minimum "B" grade average.

The award is \$1,000, which may be used for tuition, books or fees.

This is a one-time award with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years, and is funded by the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

Applications may be downloaded from AVSA's web site, avsa.org, or may be ordered from the AVSA Office - AVSA Scholarship Application, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

All completed applications should be mailed to:
 Dr. Charles Ramser
 2413 Martin Street • Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Showcase

Van Whipple Sport Exhibited by: *Carol Eros*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Red Shadow

Exhibited by: *Jean Melnechuk*
Hybridized by: *D. Rutherford*
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE "BATON ROUGE, LA"

2003

Horticulture Division – Amateur

SECTION I - COLLECTIONS

Class

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

2. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).

3. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

4. Robinson Collection of three registered Rob's Violets plants, all of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures or three semiminature trailers) or three standards.

SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE

5. Dark blue and purple
6. Light to medium blue
7. Light to medium pink
8. Dark pink, rose, and coral
9. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
10. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
11. Multicolor, and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
12. Multicolor, and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
13. Fantasy
14. All edged

SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

15. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
16. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
17. White, cream, and blush
18. Multicolor and chimera
19. Fantasy and all edged

SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

20. Purple and all shades of blue
21. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
22. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
23. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged
24. Fantasy
25. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
26. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
27. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
28. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
29. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

30. Purple and all shades of blue
31. Pink and coral
32. Red and fuchsia
33. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
34. All edged

35. Multicolor and chimera
36. Fantasy
37. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage.
38. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
39. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
40. Multicolor and chimera, variegated foliage
41. All edged, variegated foliage
42. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE

43. Standard trailers
44. Miniature trailers
45. Semiminature trailers
46. *Saintpaulia* species and natural hybrids
47. Vintage Violets (must be at least 25 years old)

SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

48. Seedlings
49. Sports or mutants

SECTION VIII- AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT IN UNUSUAL CONTAINER

50. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in container
51. One African violet trailer in container

SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

52. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted; no single plant more than 5" in diameter)
53. Tuberous-rooted (*Sinningia*, *Nautilocalyx*, *Chrysothemis*, etc.)
54. Scaly-rhizomed in bloom
55. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (*Streptocarpus*/*Streptocarpella*)
56. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Long stemmed such as *Aeschynanthus*, *Columnnea*, *Nematanthus*, etc)
57. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (All other blooming fibrous-rooted such as *Chirita*, *Episcia*, *Petrocosmea*, *Alsobia*, etc.)
58. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (All *Episcia*)
59. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (Other than *Episcia*)

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

All entries in this section are to be designs using one or more blooming African violet plants, removed from their pots, with the root ball encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant materials and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American or national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted. Tables in all classes are covered in white.

Class 60. **Rosedown** - Dreams, past and present, permeate Rosedown Plantation like a melody playing over and over in your mind. However, the magnificent plantation house in St. Francisville is much sturdier than a misty dream. A survivor of frontier settlement, cotton era wealth, yellow fever, Civil War, reconstruction, and several changes of ownership, the house still stands. Classic architecture and lavish 18th and 19th century furnishings are like something out of "Gone With the Wind." The house still is a place of dreams. A Louisiana treasure, Rosedown became a Louisiana State historic house in November of 2000. Staged in a white niche 28" x 21-1/2" x 15". Limit 6 entries.

Class 61. **The French Market** - There has been an open-air market in the French Quarter since the 1790s. Like almost every other city on the Continent, New Orleans developed an area where farmers bring their fresh produce. Strings of garlic, fresh tomatoes, and other local vegetables and citrus fruits, along with crafts and souvenirs continue to draw crowds of locals and visitors alike. To be staged in a white niche 28" x 21-1/2" x 15". Limit 6 entries.

Class 62. **Zydeco** - Zydeco is a type of dance music which originated in the state of Louisiana. It is similar to cajun music, but more heavily influenced by blues and music from the West Indies. Fast and bouncy, zydeco uses instruments such as the accordion, saxophone, and washboard played with spoons or beer can openers. Vocal wails and shouts have also been adapted to the music, while syncopated percussive playing techniques have been absorbed. To be staged in a white niche 28" x 21-1/2" x 15". Limit 6 entries.

SECTION XI - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each entry is a design using fresh-cut African violet blossoms. Fresh-cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant material, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American and national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by individual classes. Tables in all classes are covered in white.

Class 63. **Cajun Cuisine** - The best dishes in many Cajun country restaurants reflect traditions carried out on home dining room tables for centuries - crawfish pie, crawfish etouffee, boiled crawfish, andouille sausage, hot gumbo, rabbit, quail, alligator and large Gulf shrimp. Cajun food is not necessarily hot, but if a menu lists an item as such, be forewarned that by anyone else's standards, it is probably a "three alarm" dish. To be staged in a white niche 24" x 18-1/2" x 15". Limit 6 entries.

Class 64. **Mardi Gras** - This spirit of light-heartedness culminates into America's most famous festival, the New Orleans Mardi Gras, a carnival that begins on Twelfth Night and ends on Mardi Gras Day. A festival called the greatest free show on earth, Mardi Gras attracts visitors from all over the country and world. The parades begin about two weeks before Mardi Gras day. Beautiful and elaborate floats, built throughout the year, have costumed riders who throw out tons of colorful strings of beads, doubloons, and souvenirs. Marching bands, jazz combos, and people dancing with colorful umbrellas over their heads parade the streets. Cries of, "Throw me something, mister," greet every float as it passes by. The whole city seems to be wrapped in the colors of Mardi Gras: purple, green and gold. Create your impression of Mardi Gras in this standard flower arrangement to be staged in a white niche 24" x 18-1/2" x 15". Limit 6 entries.

Class 65. **Audubon** - John James Audubon, best known of all nature artists, did important work in Louisiana. He and his student, Joseph Mason, traveled down the Mississippi River to New Orleans in 1820 where Audubon painted on commission and taught. During this time, Audubon developed the styles and techniques in his work

that were his signature. Naturalistic compositions and enhanced water-color application, using different media to express textures, became his trademark. His famous portrait of the wild turkey found in his great work, "Birds of America", was done near St. Francisville. To be staged in a white niche 24" x 18-1/2" x 15". Dowel rods to go across niche to be provided by designer. Limit 6 entries.

Class 66. **Aquarium of the Americas** - The "Aquarium of the Americas" includes multiple aquatic habitats including the Caribbean Sea, the Amazon Rainforest, the Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico. Having more than a million gallons of water and over 15,000 species of marine life and animals, it is ranked one of the top five in the nation. Let the viewer feel the exciting environment in your underwater arrangement. To be staged for viewing from the front only. Containers must not exceed 12" in width. No backdrops or underlay permitted. Limit 8 entries.

Class 67. **"You Are My Sunshine"** - Considered by many to be the Louisiana State song and sung worldwide, this song was written and composed by twice governor of Louisiana, Jimmie Davis. Many have wondered if it was a dedication to his love for his wife Alverne, his love for his horse Sunshine, or the Sunshine Bridge that spans the Mississippi River just south of Baton Rouge which was built during his administration. To be staged in a lighted white niche 10" x 8" x 5". A background drape is required. Limit 10 entries.

SMALL INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Class 68. **The Blue Dog** - This is a painting by George Rodrigue, a world renowned artist from Louisiana with true cajun blood in his veins. It was a tribute to his black and white terrier/spaniel who kept him company in his studio throughout his life. Create a tribute to one of your favorite pets you have owned. Staged in a white niche 8" x 6-1/2" x 4". Limit 8 entries.

Class 69. **Tabasco Sauce** - Tabasco sauce may be the ultimate cajun country product. It is hot, it is the red color of boiled crawfish, and it is made with secret ingredients including a special vinegar blend and fresh Avery Island salt and pepper. An arrangement that is hot, hot, hot! Staged in a white niche 8" x 6-1/2" x 4". Limit 8 entries.

Class 70. **Café du Monde** - The "Café du Monde" coffee stand was established in 1862. It closes only on Christmas Day and the day an occasional hurricane passes too close to New Orleans. The name literally translates into "coffee of the world." Sitting here and sipping coffee with chicory, it seems the whole world passes by down Decatur Street where you can hear sounds of gospel, jazz, rock, and blues. Demonstrate the ambiance in your small arrangement to be viewed at eye level on an 8" square black wooden base. No background or underlay permitted.

Class 71. **Louisiana Lagniappe** - Lagniappe (lan' yap), by definition is an added attraction, a little something extra, a gratuity, a bonus, a gift, or a prize which is given to a customer with a purchase. There are so many extra attractions in Louisiana. Tell us something extra special to you about Louisiana in this small arrangement. Not to exceed 8" in any dimension. To be viewed at eye level on an 8" square black wooden base. No background or underlay permitted. Limit 8 entries.

SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

These designs are miniature gardens or landscapes with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plant specimens. All plants must be planted in the container. See Class for container size. No height restrictions. No cut plant materials, artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, or American or national flags

are permitted. Accessories are optional. No limit on number of entries in each class, but only one entry by each exhibitor in each class.

Class 72. **Sportsman's Paradise** - Louisiana, indeed, is truly considered by many to be a sportsman's paradise. Hunting abounds for rabbit, quail, deer, duck, squirrel, and birds in the heavily wooded areas. Even alligator is hunted in bayous and sold for hides as well as meat. Any type of fishing is available for the sportsman, both fresh water and salt water. A natural garden planted in a container formed by nature rock, sponge, shell, wood, etc. May have more than one planting pocket. Not to exceed 24".

Class 73. **Baton Rouge** - On the high banks above the Mississippi River, the Indians stripped a cypress tree of its bark and painted it red to mark the boundary between the Houma and Bayougoula hunting grounds. They called the boundary post, Istrouma. When the French came, they called the post a baton rouge, meaning a red stick or pole. The Sieur d'Iberville made a mark on his map and called it Baton Rouge. It has had that name ever since. A planting in a shallow dish-like garden container not to exceed 24".

Class 74. **The Gardens of New Orleans** - Each of the mansions, cottages, shotguns, and bungalows that fill the refined and crusty neighborhoods of New Orleans has some kind of a garden, at the least a spontaneous one, courtesy of the lush subtropical climate that sprouts things without asking permission. Balconies become elevated gardens for those who live in second and third story apartments. Some gardens are magnificently tended, some are in a state of dreamy dilapidation, and lots of them are somewhere in between, each having their own beauty. A shallow dish garden with a small scale landscape. Not to exceed 12".

Class 75. **Atchafalaya Basin** - America's largest freshwater swamp, a vast jungle within levees, lies in an area of natural beauty on the scale of the Grand Canyon. Unlike the Canyon, however, the Basin, as it is locally called, is teeming with wildlife that has supported generations of Cajun trappers, hunters, moss pickers, lumberjacks, fishermen, and most recently a burgeoning oil and gas industry. The Basin flows south between Lafayette and Baton Rouge before pouring into the Gulf below Morgan City. It is surrounded by levees for flood water protection. A covered transparent aquarium. Not to exceed 24".

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIII-EDUCATION EXHIBIT

76. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION XIV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

A. COLLECTIONS

77. AVSA Collections-Standard Plants
78. AVSA Collections-Miniatures and Semiminiatures
79. Holtkamp Collections

B. NEW CULTIVARS (from seed or mutation)

80. Standard African Violets
81. Miniature African Violets
82. Semiminiature African Violets
83. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

C. SPECIMEN AFRICAN VIOLETS

84. Standards, plain green foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms

85. Standards, plain green foliage, all other blossoms
86. Standards, variegated foliage
87. Miniatures, plain foliage
88. Miniatures, variegated foliage
89. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
90. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, all other blossoms
91. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage
92. Trailers, (standard, miniature, semiminiature)
93. Saintpaulia species
- D. GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS
94. Fibrous-rooted gesneriads in bloom
95. All other gesneriads in bloom
96. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

SECTION XV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

97. Display Tables
98. Commercial Showcase - Horticulture only
99. Commercial Showcase - Horticulture plus - includes a creative aspect

HORTICULTURE DIVISION Amateur-Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY** and on Thursday, April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Members ON TOUR THURSDAY ONLY MUST turn in a list of design entries at the Convention registration desk on Wednesday or Thursday and MUST receive a late pass to enter on Thursday, April 24, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 5 through 47.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 46, 47, 48, 50, and 51 as those in classes 5 through 47.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 51 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon *velutina*, S. Amazon *grotei*, S. Sigi Falls and S. House

of Amani will be accepted in Class 46.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in any of the collection classes, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, must be AVSA registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. All African violets entered in the Robinson Collections, Class 4, must be AVSA registered.

16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 2, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, Robinson Collection, Class 4.

17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

18. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, April 26. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

DESIGN DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 23, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. **FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY.** Entries will be accepted on Thursday, April 24, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. and 1:00 to 6:00 P.M. Members ON TOUR THURSDAY ONLY MUST turn in a list of design entries at the Convention registration desk on Wednesday or Thursday and MUST receive a late pass to enter on Thursday, April 24, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Design entries will be closed on Thursday, April 24, at 9:00 P.M. and all designs must be in place for classification. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class and is limited to a total of 8 entries in classes 60 through 71 (interpretive flower and plant arrangements) and 1 in each of the container garden classes.

3. All tables will be covered in white cloths, and all niches are white.

4. A written subtitle defining the exhibitor's interpretation of any class may be written in black ink on a white 3" x 5" index card.

5. Advance written reservations are required for ALL design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a completed

reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than February 3, 2003 or later than April 5, 2003, to: Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons wishing to cancel confirmed reservations or ask questions concerning schedule or staging of designs may call (972) 398-3478 after 6:00 P.M., e-mail mcorondan@yahoo.com, or write to the above address.

Commercial Horticulture Division Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter this Division. A commercial exhibitor may enter EITHER a display table OR a commercial showcase, but not both. Exhibitors in a commercial showcase class may also enter specimen horticulture, Section XIV. All commercial exhibitors are eligible to enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months prior to convention. All African violets must be in bloom and must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, classes 77 and 78 and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 79, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as they are for amateurs.

5. Any African violet plant in Specimen Plant, Display Table, or Commercial Showcase sections may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards. To be considered for these awards, plants must be designated as and labeled "New Cultivar".

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings plants originally from seed, sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or the rights and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".

7. Exhibitors in the Commercial Showcase section will be allotted table space sufficient for their display. Table covers must be neutral.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged as one unit.

9. Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase Section shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminature, standard, or trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Showcases must be predominantly (more than 50%) African violets or designs using African violets. Class 98, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only shall be a collection of 6-10 plants with NO embellishment. Class 99, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture plus must include a creative aspect, and may include designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating African violets. Each design will count as the equivalent of one entry. No merchandise will be allowed in this section.

10. In Commercial Showcases each entry in the exhibit will be judged. Class 98 shall use standard plant name and entry tags supplied by Entries. In Class 99, the exhibitor has the option to use the standard plant name tag provided by Entries, or to provide his own tag or diagram. The entry book number of each plant or arrangement must appear on the tag or diagram. For class 99, no ribbon awards will be given. Instead, each showcase with all blue ribbon exhibits will receive a rosette award. A point score sheet shall be given each exhibitor showing how awards were determined.

11. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section. Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitor may provide their own covering, but selection is limited to a solid color. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be cov-

ered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

13. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables or commercial showcases.

14. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

16. Entries in the Display Table Section and the Commercial Showcase Section will not count toward Commercial Sweepstakes or Design Sweepstakes Awards.

17. Rosettes will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of Display Tables receiving first, second, and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.

18. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each Display Table exhibitor to show how awards were determined.

19. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

20. To reserve a display table, space for a commercial showcase, or for further information, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004. Phone (913) 829-425, e-mail, Patter257@aol.com. Reservations must be made no later than March 1, 2003.



African Violet Society of America, Inc. 2003 Tours – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Tour #1 Monday, April 21, 2003



Nottoway stands in a remarkable state of restored beauty. After touring Nottoway Plantation we will have lunch in the restaurant. Lunch includes a cup of Soup du Jour, Popcorn Chicken Salad with Honey Mustard Dressing and Assorted crackers, Iced Tea or Coffee and a dessert of Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce.



Our next stop is the **Houmas House** Plantation and Gardens. The plantation's name is derived from the Houmas Indians who originally held this strip of land. Houmas House, a magnificent Greek revival mansion with Spanish characteristics, affords a commanding view for several miles up and down the mighty Mississippi. The plantation is rich in history dating back to the early 1800's and is furnished with museum pieces of early Louisiana craftsmanship, which reflect the period prior to 1840. Most of the garden is permeated with the scent of sweet olive. Huge azaleas form a colorful background for the "Four Seasons" statues of Carrara marble. The moss-laden oaks are over 200 years old and measure twenty-five feet in circumference. This plantation has been featured in National Geographic, Life, House Beautiful, House and Garden, Ladies Home Journal and Holiday magazines.

Visit on the web: <http://www.nottoway.com/>
<http://www.houmashouse.com/>

Cost: \$52.00 (Includes Lunch)

Plantation Tours 8:30 AM 4:30 PM

Tour #2 Monday, April 21, 2003



Alligator Bayou, "A Louisiana Wilderness Adventure" just 15 minutes from Baton Rouge in the heart of Louisiana, winds into the 13,000 acre Spanish Lake Basin and wetland habitat of bayous, swamps and lakes. While cruising in the comfortable, canopied Alligator Queen, you will hear about wetlands ecology, wildlife, the exiled Cajuns, and the rich cultural legacy of the Spanish Lake basin. Be inspired by the beauty of giant old-growth cypress trees, abundant wildlife, and the many cultures, which settled here (Acadian, African, Canary Islander, Creole, French, German, Scotch-Irish and Spanish). Experience a wilderness adventure and hospitality you will never forget. Le Nid de Canard Shoppe contains native crafts, books, souvenirs, and much more. After visiting Alligator Bayou, we will stop at Tangier Outlets for shopping and lunch on your own.

Visit on the web: <http://www.alligatorbayou.com/>

Cost: \$41.00

Tour #3 Tuesday, April 22, 2003

Baton Rouge 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Drive through the Louisiana State University (LSU) area and tour **Louisiana State Capital** and the **Old State Capital**. After lunch on your own, we will visit the **Hilltop Arboretum** and **Rural Life Museums**. So many plants - so little room. Ever mindful of your gardening needs, Hilltop plant gatherers are scanning the nurseries from Houston to Tallahassee, reserving truckloads of plants. The word for this garden tour is "Lagniappe" - (lan' -yap) Cajun for "something extra", an unexpected, nice surprise. The rural life museum contains many artifacts of the area as well as the Windrush gardens, a semi-formal garden filled with crepe myrtles, azaleas, camellias and other plants. Enjoy this day of history!

Visit on the web: <http://rurallife.lsu.edu/lhin/rfm/html/www.lsu.edu/hilltop>

Cost: \$34.00

Tour #4 **New Orleans Aquarium, Zoo Cruise**
Tuesday, April 22, 2003 **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM**

The New Orleans Aquarium, Zoo Cruise combines the John James Audubon riverboat, the Aquarium, and the Zoo into one complete package. We will begin with the internationally acclaimed **Audubon Zoo**. Here you will find more than 1,800 of the world's rarest animals and an award-winning **Louisiana Swamp Exhibit**, which is unique to any American zoo with over 100 animal species. At 1:00 pm we will board the **John James Audubon riverboat** for a trip to the Aquarium. The riverboat has a Deli, snacks, and beverages, in addition to specialty items in the gift shop. The **Aquarium of the Americas** is home to more than 6,000 specimens (500 species) including fish, reptiles, birds, and amphibians. There are 60 exhibits in 110,000 square feet ranging from 500 to 400,000 gallons of water ... a combination of one million gallons fresh and salt water. After visiting the aquarium we will again board the riverboat for the return trip to the bus and the hotel. In addition to seeing the zoo and aquarium you will have the pleasure of cruising the river.

Visit on the web: <http://www.aquariumzooecruise.com/>
Cost: \$51.00

Tour #5 **Lafayette**
Wednesday, April 23, 2003 **8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**



Ever wonder what it was like to be an Acadian settler? At Longfellow Evangeline State Historic Site, visitors can step back in time. On this tour we will drive by the Cathedral to see the large oak tree on the way to the **Acadian Cultural Center**. The Acadian Cultural Center serves as the headquarters

for the Acadian Unit and includes museum exhibits, a theater which features a 40 minute film on the story of the Acadian people, a bookstore, and an information facility. After our visit to the Acadian Cultural Center, we will walk around the corner to **Vermilion Ville** for lunch (included with the tour). Vermilion Ville is A Cajun & Creole Living History Museum & Folk life Village.

Here you will learn about the French speaking Acadians of what is now Nova Scotia who were driven from their homes for refusing to swear allegiance to the British Crown, and their rich history dating back to 1755. Vermilion Ville faithfully and authentically represents the depth, endurance and resolve of a segment of American culture that never quite dissolved into the great melting pot.



Visit on the web:
www.nps.gov/jela/Acadian%20Cultural%20Center.htm
<http://www.vermillionville.org/>
Cost: \$36.00 (Includes Lunch)

Tour #6 **St. Francisville**
Wednesday, April 23, 2003 **8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**



Our trip to Plantation Country continues with a stop at **Oakley Plantation** where you will experience a bygone era in the South's most beautiful setting. Oakley Plantation begins with its spectacular trees. A quarter-mile alley of twenty-eight sheltering oaks over 250 years old still greets you today. The present day plantation, a national Historic Landmark, was built in 1839 when Southern aristocracy ruled the land.

Enjoy her beauty and dream of her rich past! Our trip continues with a walking tour of **St. Francisville** and lunch at **Djohns** (both on your own). After lunch, we will visit **Rosedown** (pictured here) to continue our exploration of stately homes. Here you will find century-old gardens inspired by the fabulous gardens of 18th century France that have been restored to their original grandeur. Tour the mansion and visit the gift shop. Our last stop will be the Filician Winery where you can see how award-winning wine is made, taste the product, and purchase wines from their store. (*Their Evangeline, a sweet white made with Carlos muscadines, and Galvez, a semisweet white also made with Carlos muscadines, won awards at the annual Indy International Wine Competition at Purdue University.*)

Visit on the web: www.crt.state.la.us/crt/parks/audubon/audubon.htm
www.river-road.net/steamboatcharley/rosetdown
<http://www.felicianawinery.com/>
Cost: \$37.00

Tour #7 **Dinner at Prejean's**
Wednesday, April 23, 2003 **6:30 PM to 11:00 PM**



Prejean's Restaurant serves up Cajun cuisine prepared by Award-Winning Executive Chef Nonato and Team Prejean's. We will travel to the heart of French Louisiana to dine in this world famous restaurant where you can order gold medal dishes from the menu (No set menu selections). The menu contains Prejean's Famous Seafood Platter, Eggplant Pirogue Louis, Shrimp Louella, Catfish Catahoulla, Yellow Fin Tuna Rockefeller, Gumbos, Etouffees, Steaks, and Wild Game Specialties, to name a few. **Dinner cost is not included** with the tour. Prices for dinner start at \$12.95 and average \$21.00 - \$22.00 per person. Here you will find Fresh Gulf Seafood, Live Cajun Music Nightly, Fun and a Casual Atmosphere. The meals are "Simply Cajun! Simply Delicious!" Visitors from around the world come to taste the exquisite cuisine that has made the restaurant a favorite dining spot in Acadiana.

(Tour Directors note: We have eaten here. You won't want to miss this fine dining experience!)

Visit on the web: <http://www.prejeans.com/>
Cost: \$20.00

Tour #8 **New Iberia**
Thursday, April 24, 2003 **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**



Our first visit today is to the **Konriko (Conrad) Rice Mill & Country Store** where we will view a film about the mill and tour the facilities. The Konriko Rice mill began operating in 1912 and is said to be the nation's oldest rice mill still in operation. You can watch them package rice and make rice cakes as the old mill creaks and groans, but still produces the finest quality rice in America. Some of the products are cooked and placed out for you to sample, plus they have the best coffee in town and some great recipes. After lunch in New Iberia (on your own) we will visit **Tabasco Factory and Avery Islands Jungle Garden**. Touring the visitor center and the pepper sauce factory is just one part of the Avery Island experience. Avery Island contains prized rare plants which enhance the Island's natural landscape with numerous varieties of azaleas, Japanese camellias, Egyptian papyrus, and other botanical treasures. The wildlife population expands each spring when thousands of snowy white egrets and other migratory water birds return to Bird City. Avery Island has remained a natural paradise; inhabited by exotic plant and animal species from throughout the world.

Visit on the web: <http://www.konriko.com/>
<http://www.tabasco.com/>
Cost: \$35.00

Tour #9 **New Orleans**
Thursday, April 24, 2003 **9:00AM to 5:00 PM**

On this tour we will drive St. Charles Avenue to see a splendid street lined by Oaks, beautiful old houses and Tulane, Loyola, and Audubon parks. Then we will drive back on Magazine to the **D-Day Museum**. After our visit to the museum, you will be dropped in the **French Quarter** for lunch and exploration of the French Quarter (Moon Walk, Cabilk, French Market on Royal with shops and many places to eat). Shortly after the French founded New Orleans in 1718, a formal city plan established the French Quarter or *Vieux Carre* ("old square"). It is now a National Historic District. Within the French Quarter is a visitor center featuring exhibits highlighting the cultural diversity of the Mississippi Delta Region. Performances and demonstrations portray the traditions of the delta. The center is located at 419 Decatur Street and is the center of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The center is just one of the sights you might want to see on your own. Walking will be required in the French Quarter.

Cost: \$33.00

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or before **March 21, 2003** will receive table assignments. All reservations received after that date will have unreserved seating at meal functions.

Special meal requests must be made to the AVSA Office at time of registration. Requests made directly to the hotel will **not** be honored.

New for 2003!!!

We are instituting a “package deal” this year. For one price you can register and get tickets for both banquets and the auction luncheon at a significant savings. Any other meal functions you wish to attend may be purchased separately.

Please look for the **“Package Deal”** on the registration form.

**Don't forget the
AVSA Auction at the
Saturday Luncheon!
See page 5 of the
January/February 2003
AVM for details!**

“Meet the Board of Directors” Luncheon

This year we will again open the Wednesday Luncheon to all members.

Meet your officers and board members in an informal setting. Avoid the crowds at the restaurants. Relax and dine with your friends. Come one, come all!!

57th Annual AVSA Convention & Show
Sunday, April 20, 2003 to Sunday, April 27, 2003
"Louisiana Lagniappe"

SUNDAY, April 20, 2003

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. AVSA Convention Pre-Con
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Information

MONDAY, April 21, 2003

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #1 – Plantation Tours
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #2 – Swamp Tour
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Information
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Information

TUESDAY, April 22, 2003

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. to Completion Executive Board Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour #3 – Baton Rouge
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour #4 – New Orleans Aquarium and Zoo Cruise
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Information
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Information
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Convention Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 23, 2003

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Judging School
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. New Director's Orientation
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #5 – Lafayette
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #6 – St. Francisville
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Board of Director's Meeting
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Information
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ways & Means Table, Tucson Promotional Table
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. "Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Information
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Registration
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Awards Committee Meeting
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Affiliate's Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classification and Entries –FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY
6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Tour #7 – Dinner at Prejean's

THURSDAY, April 24, 2003

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Teacher's Breakfast
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Commercial Sales Open
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Information
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour #8 – New Iberia

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
 8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.
 9:00 p.m.

Tour #9 – New Orleans

Nominating Committee Meeting
 Hospitality Room Open
 AVSA Information and Sales
 Classification and Entries
 Ways & Means Table, Tucson Promotional Table
 Classification and Entries
 Information
 AVSA Information and Sales
 Publications Committee Meeting
 Hospitality Room Open
 Registration
 Membership & Promotions Committee Meeting
 Future Conventions Meeting
 President's Reception for Board of Directors
 2002 Washington, DC Convention and New Introduction Slides
 Entries for **Those on Tours Only**
 Social Break
"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum
 Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

FRIDAY, April 25, 2003

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to Completion
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 3:00 p.m. to Completion
 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 7:00 p.m. to Completion
 9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n

Design Exhibitors will be permitted to "touch up" designs and replace blossoms *only*.
 Information
 Registration
 Judges and Clerks Instructions
 Judging of Show
 Hospitality Room Open
 AVSA Information & Sales
 Commercial Sales Open
Presentation #1 – "Hands on Growing for Show" by Richard Nicholas
Presentation #2 – "The Evolution of African violets" by Jeff Smith
 Ways & Means Table, Tucson Promotional Table
Presentation #3 – "Hands on Growing for Show" by Richard Nicholas
Presentation #4 – "2002 Featured Grower" by Shannon Ahlman
 Information
 Registration
 AVSA Information & Sales
 Commercial Members Luncheon
 Hospitality Room Open
 Commercial Sales Open
Presentation #5 – "Gesneriads: A Panel Discussion" Moderator Jack Wilson,
 Panelists: Dale Martens, Bill Price, Gary Gordon
Presentation #6 – "How to Use First Class Version 2" by Adrienne Stringer
 Photography – Library and AVM
 Opening Reception (cash bar)
 Opening Dinner – Show awards will be announced
 Show opens to **AVSA Convention Registrants Only**

SATURDAY, April 26, 2003

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Showroom open to photographers only
 Judges' Breakfast and Workshop
 Registration
 Information
Presentation #7 "Growing Violets in the Humid South" by Phyllis King
Presentation #8 "Advanced Judging Skills: Species" by Paul Kroll assisted by
 Barbara Pershing and Linda Golubski
 Hospitality Room Open

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Show Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transportation into controlled countries and states
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Ways & Means Table, Tucson Promotional Table
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Violets "On Line" Meeting
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.	Luncheon and Auction
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (cash bar)
7:00 p.m. to Completion	Installation Banquet
9:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.	Commercial Display Tables Checkout
9:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n	Commercial Sales Breakdown
10:15 p.m.	Entry Checkout Begins
12:00 m/n	Show Room Closes

SUNDAY, April 27, 2003

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Commercial Sales Breakdown
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Local Storage Clean-up
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Commercial Storage Clean-up
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Show Room Clean-up
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Board of Directors Meeting

DIRECTIONS TO THE RADISSON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

From The Baton Rouge Airport:

As you come out of the airport, make a left onto Veterans Memorial. Follow the signs to I-110 SOUTH. Make a right on Harding Blvd and stay in the right lane. Take the immediate right after you go under the overpass. You will now be on I-110 South. At 6.6 miles, I-110 SOUTH will merge with I-10. Stay in the left or center lanes and follow the signs for I-10 EAST, New Orleans. Turn right, approximately 3.3 miles, at EXIT 158, College Dr. The exit will fork. Take the right fork, but stay in the left lane after the fork. Follow the signs for Constitution Ave. by crossing College Dr. at the light. The hotel will be on the right approximately 1/4 mile up the road.

From New Orleans Airport:

Follow the signs to I-10. Take I-10 WEST to Exit 158, College Dr. The exit will fork. Take the left fork. Turn left onto College Dr. and go under I-10. Immediately after the overpass there will be two lights. Turn left at the second light, Constitution Ave. The hotel will be on the right approximately 1/4 mile up the road.

From Beaumont, TX:

Take I-10 EAST through Lake Charles, Lafayette and cross the Mississippi River into Baton Rouge. Turn off at EXIT

158, College Dr. The exit will fork. Take the right fork, but stay in the left lane after the fork. Follow the signs for Constitution Ave. by crossing College Dr. at the light. The hotel will be on the right approximately 1/4 mile up the road.

From Shreveport, LA:

Take I-49 SOUTH. In Lafayette, take I-10 EAST and follow the directions from Lafayette. See Beaumont, TX.

From Slidell, LA:

Take I-12 WEST through Hammond and into Baton Rouge. I-12 will merge with I-10. Take I-10 WEST and stay in the right lane. Take the first exit, EXIT 158, College Dr. The exit will fork. Take the left fork. Turn left onto College Dr. and go under I-10. Immediately after the overpass there will be two lights. Turn left at the second light, Constitution Ave. The hotel will be on the right approximately 1/4 mile up the road.

From Jackson, MS:

Take I-55 SOUTH into Louisiana. In Hammond, turn right onto I-12 WEST and follow the directions into Baton Rouge. See Slidell, LA.

BATON ROUGE, LA AVSA CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

1. Hands On Growing For Show

Friday April 25, 2003

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

By Richard Nicholas, Denton, Texas
\$15 fee (collected at the door)

Richard Nicholas is a university vice president who has proven his skill in growing African violet show plants by winning top prizes with both large standards and the "small ones". He will take students through the steps of choosing a violet that will do well in show, as well as repotting, disbudding, and grooming. Each participant will receive an African violet plant or two, potting materials, and grooming tools to use during the presentation. Students may bring favorite tools from home to use as well. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to learn how to grow plants that win blue ribbons! Limit of 30 students per session.

2. The Evolution of African Violets

Friday April 25, 2003

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

By Jeff Smith, Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

Dr. Smith is a much treasured resource to the African violet world because of the academic expertise he has been able to offer, especially in regard to genetics and hybridizing. Now he will bring us a presentation of his published report (see November 2001 African Violet Magazine, page 42-44) on the studies he has done regarding the evolutionary development of the violet species. He will discuss the DNA differences between species and present his theory of which of the species were the first to develop and why he believes this to be true. This is a rare opportunity for a truly scientific analysis of the genetic structure of violets.

3. Hands On Growing For Show (Repeat of Session 1)

Friday April 25, 2003

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

By Richard Nicholas, Denton, Texas
\$15 fee (collected at the door)

Richard Nicholas is a university vice president who has proven his skill in growing African violet show plants by winning top prizes with both large standards and the "small ones". He will take students through the steps of choosing a violet that will do well in show, as well as repotting, disbudding, and grooming. Each participant will receive an African violet plant or two, potting materials, and grooming tools to use during the presentation. Students may bring favorite tools from home to use as well. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to learn how to grow plants that win blue ribbons! Limit of 30 students per session.

4. 2002 Featured Grower - Shannon Ahlman

Friday April 25, 2003

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

By Shannon Ahlman, The Violet Showroom, Grand Island, Nebraska

Shannon has been growing violets actively since his college days. Soon after graduation, he opened a flower shop in central Nebraska which included African violets. Shannon and his wife have attended many AVSA conventions since, selling in the commercial sales room and competing in the commercial division, often with great success. For all the beauty of his violets, he is consistently outshone by his two adorable preschool daughters who are often found playing near his sales area. Shannon is a lively speaker with many excellent personal observations about what works best to achieve perfect plants. Just this last year he made his first hybrid crosses and hopes to share some of the results of this work. Shannon is truly an up and coming star of the violet world.

5. Gesneriad Panel Discussion

Friday April 25, 2003

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Moderator: Jack Wilson, Manassas, Virginia
Panelists: Dale Martens, League City, Texas
Bill Price, Vancouver, British Columbia
Gary Gordon, Brookville, Maryland

The other gesneriad plants continue to delight and challenge growers everywhere. This panelist group brings top growers and gesneriad judges from several corners of North America, who will be able to share what works best for them in growing this varied family. Dale is well known for her knowledge of the newest and most unusual gesneriads, as well as for her hybridizing. Bill has extensive experience with many gesneriad genera but has recently wowed conventions with his amazing ability to grow *Petrocosmea* to perfection. Gary, also our AVSA treasurer, currently grows about 100 different gesneriads and has won top awards with his *Streptocarpus*, *Chirita*, and *Codanthe* although he is also fond of *Petrocosmea* and *Sinningia*. These experts will be masterfully moderated by our own AVSA President Jack Wilson, a good gesneriad grower himself. This should be a lively discussion for both experienced and novice growers.

6. How to Use First Class Version 2

Friday April 25, 2003

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

By Adrienne Stringer

First Class 2! It's what you've been waiting for! It's bigger! It's faster! It's got PHOTOS!! The new release of First Class is now available. If you have been thinking about getting this program, this is your opportunity to see how it can work for you! Presented by Adrienne Stringer, one of the "beta testers" for the new release, this presentation will include a hands-on demonstration and plenty of time for Q&A. Attendees will come away with an understanding of the basics of the program, including searching, printing, and user databases, and how it works with the AVSA Show Entries program. Adrienne (you may have met her online as "Annie 97") has taken top awards in affiliate shows with her standard violets, and is very computer-literate when it comes to software, working with many different programs at work, at home, online, and at play.

7. Growing Violets in the Humid South

Saturday April 26, 2003

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

By Phyllis King, Seminole, Florida

For Beginners! At your request, we are pleased to offer this workshop especially for novice growers. Learn the basics of violet horticulture with special notes on the challenges of growing in the Deep South! Presenter Phyllis King was originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, but she has spent much of her adult life in the south where she has mastered the special skills for growing violets where the humidity is high. The mother of five, and an artist, she is also very skilled in growing and educating the public about African violets. She has been president of clubs in the Shreveport, Tampa, and Upper Pinellas areas, and currently leads the African Violet Council of Florida. Phyllis has won many prizes in both horticulture and design. Don't let all that expertise scare you... she is a down-to-earth grower who takes great joy in teaching basics.

8. Advanced Judging Skills: Species

Saturday April 26, 2003

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Teacher: Paul Kroll, East Aurora, New York

Assistants: Barbara Pershing, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Linda Golubski, Blue Springs, Missouri

Sharpen your skills for judging species African violets under the tutelage of Paul Kroll, who has been growing African violets for more than 40 years and is an AVSA Senior judge and Judges Teacher. He grows and exhibits nearly all the *Saintpaulia* species. Barbara Pershing and Linda Golubski, who also have extensive collections of the species, will assist Paul in teaching about the unique considerations for correct judging of the *Saintpaulia* species as a whole, and for evaluating the special qualities of many of the individual species. This popular series is open both to accredited AVSA judges as well as non-judges who wish to be better informed about violets that grew in the wild.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

57th Annual Convention & Show

April 20 - April 27, 2003 - Radisson Hotel - Baton Rouge, LA

Call for 2003 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 26, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. at Radisson Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA, for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 2003 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, April 23, 2003, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at Radisson Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA, and Sunday, April 27, 2003, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 2003 Open Forum Meeting

The 17th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 26, 2003, at Radisson Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School For New Students & Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday, April 23, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's school and for judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Judging Status: Student (1st exam) _____ Student Renewal _____ Advanced _____ Auditing _____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars) to Meredith Hall, 1205 Hilltop Run, Lindall, TX 75771. The test will be based on the latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, the 1998 printing plus any updates. **Registration for the judging school must be received by April 1, 2003.**

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2003.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **Do Not** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after March 30, 2003 will be filed and used in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge you will be notified of your assignment.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: _____ Advanced _____ Senior _____ Master _____ AGGS _____ Nat'l Council

Experience: _____ Minis/Semis _____ Trailers _____ Species _____ Design _____ Commercial

Attention Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled with AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any remaining positions will be filled by AVSA members in the order in which the applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete this form below and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These applications must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2003.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Student Judge _____ Advanced Judge _____ AVSA Member

Design Division Reservations

(Please type or print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

I would like to enter the following design classes: (Limit eight, excluding container gardens)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____

Alternate Choices: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

I would like to enter the following Container Gardens classes: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked February 3, 2003 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations **no later than April 5, 2003**, to: Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

AVSA's 57th Annual Convention & Show
"Louisiana Lagniappe"
 April 20 - April 27, 2003 - Radisson Hotel - Baton Rouge, LA
AVSA Convention Registration Form

NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form, Xerox copies may be used if more are needed.

Please send this completed pre-registration form, with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the Baton Rouge Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office - 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by March 21, 2003. There will be a \$5.00 paperwork fee charged for cancellations. Registrations received after March 21, 2003 will be \$75.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information, and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership #	Last Name	First	Initial	Area Code/Phone #
Street or P.O. Box	Apt. #		City/State	Zip

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children if attending Convention _____
(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest or child attending. Xerox copies may be used.)

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member | (E) Judge | (H) Commercial Member | (K) Board Member |
| (B) Life member | (F) Senior Judge | (I) Judging School Teacher | (L) Affiliate President |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge | (J) Bronze Medal Winner | (M) Non-Member (guest) |
| (D) Associate Member | | | |

This is my (#) _____ convention. Name to go on Badge _____
 (Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in as well.)

Yes No **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?
 (If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)**

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? _____
Name

Relationship	Address	City/State	Area Code/Phone #
--------------	---------	------------	-------------------

TRAVEL BY:

Personal Car _____ Plane _____
 Rental Car _____ Airline _____
 Other _____
 RV _____
 If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____
 If by plane, departure day/date and time _____

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Radisson _____
 Other _____

**TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE
 SHUTTLE SERVICE BE SURE TO FILL
 OUT THE DATE/TIME OF YOUR ARRIVAL.**

NEW: Package Deal (includes Registration, Both Banquets and Auction Luncheon \$140.00 \$ _____
 (Circle Friday Banquet selection below) **Package not available after March 21, 2003**

After March 21, 2003, each registration will be \$75.00 or \$78.00 respectively.

REGISTRATION:

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$50.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after March 21, 2003)	\$75.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount)	\$53.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after March 21, 2003)	\$78.00	\$ _____
International Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$45.00	\$ _____
International Member (after March 21, 2003)	\$70.00	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION		\$ _____

Meals:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Wed. "Meet the Board of Director's" Luncheon (Turkey Club Croissant)	\$17.75	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Thurs. Teachers' Breakfast (Pecan Praline Waffle)	\$17.50	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Fri. Commercial Luncheon (Roast Pork Loin Dijonnaise)	\$20.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Fri. Opening Dinner (Circle Selection) LA Seafood w/Cajun accompaniments or Chicken Amaretto	\$40.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Sat. Judges' Breakfast (Traditional Breakfast)	\$17.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Sat. Luncheon/Auction (Cajun Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad)	\$26.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Sat. Installation Banquet (Tournedos of Beef)	\$43.50	\$ _____
TOTAL MEALS		\$ _____

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 8 PER TABLE) **MUST** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, **BEFORE March 21, 2003. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. **REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

TOURS: (meals are included for Tours 1 and 5)

___ 1.	Mon. Apr. 21 Plantation Tour\$52.00	\$ _____
___ 2.	Mon. Apr. 21 Swamp Tour\$41.00	\$ _____
___ 3.	Tues. Apr. 22 Baton Rouge\$34.00	\$ _____
___ 4.	Tues. Apr. 22 New Orleans Aquarium and Zoo Cruise\$51.00	\$ _____
___ 5.	Wed. Apr. 23 Lafayette\$36.00	\$ _____
___ 6.	Wed. Apr. 23 St. Francisville\$37.00	\$ _____
___ 7.	Wed. Apr. 23 Dinner at Prejean's\$20.00	\$ _____
___ 8.	Thurs. Apr. 24 New Iberia\$35.00	\$ _____
___ 9.	Thurs. Apr. 24 New Orleans\$33.00	\$ _____
			TOTAL TOURS \$ _____

Thursday, April 24, 2003

___ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Social Hour, Slides of 56th Washington DC Convention and New Introductions
 ___ 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum"
 Moderator: Jack Wilson
 Panelists: Dr. Ralph Robinson, Doris Brownlie, Paul Sorano, and Pat Hancock

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Friday, April 25, 2003

- ___ 1. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Hands on Growing for Show" by Richard Nicholas
- ___ 2. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "The Evolution of African Violets" by Jeff Smith
- ___ 3. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Hands on Growing for Show" by Richard Nicholas
- ___ 4. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "2003 Featured Grower - Shannon Ahlman" by Shannon Ahlman
- ___ 5. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Gesneriad Panel Discussion" Moderator: Jack Wilson, Panelists: Dale Martens, Bill Price, Gary Gordon
- ___ 6. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "How to Use First Class Version 2" by Adrienne Stringer

Saturday April 26, 2003

- ___ 7. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Growing Violets in the Humid South" by Phyllis King
- ___ 8. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Advanced Judging Skills: Species" Teacher: Paul Kroll, Assistants: Barbara Pershing, Linda Golubski

PAYMENT:

Please double check to ensure all numbers are listed correctly.

Check one:

Total Package \$ _____
 Total Registration \$ _____
 Total Meals \$ _____
 Total Tours \$ _____
 TOTAL
 PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Visa # _____
 Expires _____
 MasterCard # _____
 Expires _____
 Check or Money Order Enclosed

NOTE: Cancellations must be received

by March 21, 2003 to be entitled to a refund.

There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

Send payment and completed registration form to:

Convention Registration

AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722

(409) 839-4725

 Signature (If using card)

AVSA 2003 Baton Rouge Convention Grower's Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" . . . Grower's Forum

Thursday, April 24, 2003 8:15 p.m.

Moderator Jack Wilson

Panelists. Dr. Ralph Robinson, Doris Brownlie,
 Pat Hancock, and Paul Sorano

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts". If you have questions about any aspect of growing African violets and other Gesneriads - horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques and perhaps even using African violets in designs - don't miss this opportunity. This open forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.

Hotel Reservation

2003 AVSA Convention Show and Annual Membership Meeting

Please mail to:
Radisson Hotel
4728 Constitution Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 925-2244

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number (_____) _____

Sharing Room with _____

Make check or money order payable to **Radisson Hotel**. Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

One Night's Deposit Enclosed MasterCard
 American Express Visa

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone - **Radisson Hotel**. Cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to check-in. Phone number: 1-225-925-2244 ask for Reservation Department. Identify that you are with the African Violet Society of America.

Room Rate: \$85.00 + Tax of 13% (up to 4 persons per room)

Accommodations requested:

Single
 Double (two persons)
 Triple (three persons)
 Quad (four persons)
 Smoking Non Smoking

_____ number of persons in room
Arrival Date _____
(check in 3:00 pm)
Departure Date _____
(check out by 12:00 noon)

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)
Reservations **must** be received by: **March 21, 2003**
The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

**The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to and from hotel and airport.
Call for pickup. Be sure to indicate flight arrival time on your registration form.**

CAMPGROUNDS

There are three campgrounds located in the Baton Rouge area;
all are located within approximately 12 miles of the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center.
You can call the facilities for directions and rates.

***Baton Rouge KOA
Campground***

Located in Denham Springs,
Exit 10 of I-12. 1-800-562-5673
Full hookups, pull-through,
cabins, tent sites, water, electricity,
dumping site, picnic tables, pool,
playground, store, laundry
facilities, game room, pets
allowed. \$27-\$29 / night

Cajun Country Campground

Located in Port Allen, across the
river from Baton Rouge, Exit 150
of I-10. 1800-264-8554
Good Sam member
Full hookups, pull through, water,
electricity, dumping site, fuel,
picnic tables, pool, playground,
store, laundry facilities, stocked
fishing pond, pets allowed.
\$17.50 - \$21.25 night

***BREC Campgrounds -
Farr Park***

Located off River Road in
Baton Rouge. 1-225-769-7805
Water, electricity, dumping site,
pets allowed. Run by the Baton
Rouge Parks Department.
\$12.00 / night

HOSTS – HOSTESSES

If you would like to help at the Washington, DC Convention by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below by March 21, 2003 to: **Celia Dazet, P.O. Bx 625, Empire, LA 70050, (504) 657-8731, leagasce@att.net**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

Room sharing has become very successful. Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

\$85.00

Plus 13% Tax

Non-Smoker _____ Smoker _____ No Preference _____

Age: Under 25 _____ 26-50 _____ 51 and Over _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Any other considerations: _____

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA Office immediately.

All requests must be made by March 7, 2003 so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is March 21, 2003.

Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone (800) 770-2872

WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 56th Washington, DC Convention. They will be shown at the Thursday night social hour. Include any information about the slide (names, state, etc.).

Slides sent in from the 2002 Washington Convention will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by March 21, 2003 to:

**Nancy G. Hayes
9 Cobblestone Rd.
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Thursday Night Social at the 2003 Convention in Baton Rouge. This year's narrator will be Nancy Hayes. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a written description of each slide, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your slides before March 21, 2003, to:

**Anne Nicholas
3113 Deerfield Dr.
Denton, TX 76208**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*Ness' Crinkle Blue,
Optimara Little Moonstone,
Orchard's Bumble Magnet*

Exhibited by: Meredith Hall

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

by Sheila Walton

The comments here on artificial light assume that all other requirements for your violets are being met - potting mix, temperature, food and water. The following is not an exhaustive comment on artificial lights; it is intended to give you something to think about, and no doubt add more questions too. As with most things connected with growing African violets, these are general suggestions which you need to adapt to suit your particular circumstances. When light is right, leaf color is strong and green, growth pattern is flat and symmetrical (assuming that is the characteristic of the hybrid), and flower and leaf stems are strong. The plant is the best it can be.

Why would you want fluorescent lights? You obviously enjoy growing African violets or you wouldn't be a member of the society. How well are your plants growing in natural light? Are the flower and leaf stems weak and long? Are the leaves not the full-size, or pale in color? Is the growth more upright instead of flat? Is the growth pattern rather open looking? Does your plant have less flowers than other growers with the same plant? Would you like to have more control over when your plant flowers, perhaps to enter a show, or maybe to give to a friend on a special occasion?

Before you decide to go for extra light, there are a number of things to consider.

Do you have a place for lights in your home?

Could you have a light stand specifically built for violets, or is there no floor space for that? It is not ideal to have a light stand boxed in by three solid walls, as this will restrict airflow and could be detrimental to your plants.

Is there somewhere you could have one or two fluorescent tubes, over a sideboard, dresser or bookcase? Can you afford the cost of a light stand and the extra electricity? To quote from an AVM article, a guideline for cost of running fluorescent light units is that for each unit with two tubes operating 11 hours a day, approximately one kilowatt hour of electricity will be consumed. Count the number of light units you have, multiply by one KWH then multiply that by the cost of a KWH on your electricity bill. This gives you the cost per day of running your lights. The writer suggests if that amount seems all right, multiply it by 30 to find the monthly cost. If that seems too much, think how beautiful the plants will look in their new home! I think we usually manage to afford what we most want! Could the lights from the light stand be used as general lighting so that other lights in the living area would not be required as well?

What will happen if I do get a light stand?

You will need to learn how to use it. This may seem an odd comment, but you and your plants will need to adjust. As with anything new, a little at a time. If you have a collection of

twenty plants growing in natural light, and you went home today (the start of winter with cooler weather and shorter daylight hours) and put them all under fluorescent light for 12 hours a day, the results would not be satisfactory - to say the least! Plants will need to slowly adjust to extra length and intensity of light. There is also a degree of warmth from the tubes.

If your plants have too much light, the leaves may be smaller, yellowish in color, and may have some burn spots. Flower and leaf stems may be short, leaves may spoon, and centers could be tight.

Having survived all those questions and comments, you have decided to go for it! Good, but there are some more questions to answer.

What kind of light stands are there? And which are best?

If you are going to build a stand or have one built, you have the advantage of doing some of your own design. You can build your stand to suit the available space, but it will need to have the correct length to safely accommodate the fluorescent tubes. A white or similar reflective color material for the shelves will make best use of the light. The shelves may as well be as large as you can have them compared to the size of board available for the shelves. You will be paying for a sheet of material, so you may as well use as much as you can as there's no refund for unused off-cuts!

Your shelves will need to be appropriate to what you intend to grow. If you want to use trays, you will need a size that will take trays - no point being a couple of inches short and thinking "if only I'd had it a little larger". Plan the distance between the shelves. Eight to twelve inches is the suggested distance from the tube to the leaves of the plant. You also need to allow space for the water reservoir that you use. You can always boost your plant a little higher, but if it needs to be further away from the light, that could be more difficult if you do not have sufficient space. If you are buying a second hand light stand, it will be cheaper and you and your plants will learn to live with any minor problems. Always be aware of the dangers of electricity. If you are not capable of fitting the tubes - or checking if it is second hand - please get an electrician to do the job for you. The expense could far outweigh the dangerous result of unsafe wiring.

What kind of tubes should you use?

I will not go into technical details. That is not an area I am familiar with. What I will say is that if you have the choice, select fixtures that are single, not double. The reason for this is that the single tube will spread the light across the width of the shelf, whereas the double fixture in the middle causes stronger

light in the center of the shelf. Plants on the outer edges will tend to lean to the middle. The wide spectrum tubes by Gro-lux are no longer available - cool white or warm white seem to be the most commonly used; however, some growers use whatever is available. How often you replace the tubes is a matter for you to decide. Some growers change the tubes regularly, some when the tubes turn darker at the ends. Some will use them until they stop working. It is said that they can become less energy efficient as they get older. The older the tube, the less the intensity of the light. You may need to adjust the length of time the lights are on if you replace both tubes on a shelf at the same time.

How long do the lights need to be on?

An average is ten to twelve hours a day, once your plants have become acclimatized to their new conditions.

Remember plants operate on a twenty-four hour time

clock. A timer can be a very useful purchase to regulate when your lights come on and off. Plants need at least eight hours of darkness, so don't run your artificial lights at night and leave the plants in the day light all day. They will not appreciate it.

Building a stand.

The most popular method at present of creating a light stand is with the use of aluminum tubing. This can be purchased cut to the required lengths and has plastic connecting pieces for fitting together. Plans are available, with suggested sizes. I would recommend that, if possible, you have castor wheels fitted. Although you are not going to be pushing your stand around all day, it is much easier and safer to move with wheels.

From the *Newsletter*, publication of the
Early Morn AV Group, Australia



Cultivating a New Crop of African Violet and Gesneriad.... Enthusiasts!!!

by Tami Rawlings

An idea has been germinating in the back of my mind for some time and has finally blossomed. I hope that it will take root in others as well, and that it will be hybridized into new shapes and colors, bringing new life and new vibrancy to the world of African violets and gesneriads.

This idea has formed from some recent experiences, and I'd like to present each and every one of you with a challenge: invest in the future of African violets and gesneriads by finding or creating opportunities to share our hobby with young people, to cultivate a new interest in our favorite plants. Where might someone begin? Schools everywhere, scouting groups, church groups, and after school activity programs can supply the future enthusiasts. Club members can provide the information, plant materials, and supplies, to whatever degree we are able, possibly including sponsorship and assistance from our clubs.

I am a parent of school-age children, and try to involve myself in their classes and schools. All of their teachers, indeed, all the teachers I have known, look for ways to reach out to students in unique and effective ways, with demonstrations, hands-on learning opportunities, and practical les-

sons. They are also generally accepting and supportive when offered an opportunity to share new information with their students.

At the very least, I have been able to talk to the students about the plants and give each student a starter plant. I also gave them an instruction sheet to keep so that they'll know how to care for their plant at home.

Another class wanted to know more. We did some experiments with leaf propagation and varied the light sources. I supplied a portable plant light with a timer, as well as the plant materials. The class ended up re-doing this experiment for the Science Fair and asked me to come back and help them set it up.

This year my opportunities to share violets with students have increased. When the quantity of plants needed for the students exceeded what I was able to produce, other Desert Sun African Violet Society members came to the rescue! They have repeatedly supplied plantlets and gesneriad cuttings, and even gone so far as to donate plant stands! Teamwork, 3 ounce plastic Solo cups, yarn, a bit of soil, some creativity, and imagination are going a long way!

Showcase

Ness' Candy Pink

Exhibited by: Marion Hamtil

Hybridized by: D. Ness

Standard



Photo Credit: Fran Russom

Streptocarpus *'Calico Print'*

Best Other Gesneriad

(Commercial Specimen)

2002 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: David Thompson



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Grape Slush

Exhibited by: Gertrud Schneider

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Large



Photo Credit: Pat Hancock

Buckeye Candy Kisses

Exhibited by: Anne Thomas

Hybridized by: P. Hancock

Large

Thinking Small



Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

Just a little "something" for inspiration: something to look forward to, something to keep the enthusiasm going, something to brighten your day. I encourage everyone to look over the commercial advertisements at the end of this issue and consider adding something new/special, to your collection. Request catalogs, familiarize yourself with the offerings, and go for it! It's a new year, and with the holiday season over, we can all use a little boost. Now, let's discuss a minor concept on fertilizing.

FOLIAR FEEDING

Foliar feeding is the technique where small doses of nutrients are administered to a plant via lightly misting the foliage. It is intended only to supplement fertilization, not to replace it. When done properly, the end result is darker, healthier, shinier foliage. It is most effective when used to supplement nitrogen, as that element translocates (moves) through plant cells easily. Some growers claim it can also boost bloom production when additional doses of phosphorous are administered; however, phosphorous does not translocate well, so if this type of foliar feeding is done, it should be done over a short period of time.

Best results are obtained when a small amount of fertilizer is used and when foliar feeding occurs regularly over an extended period of time. Results will be spotty and less than satisfactory if the feeding is done irregularly or infrequently, with possible culture breaks being the result. Remember, the goal is to augment an already established feeding program.

Some growers may also question foliar feeding with respect to minis and semis because luxurious, lush foliage is less important to overall effect and success than with standards. However, a good foliar feeding regimen will result in healthier foliage in any plant and will not necessarily result in too-large foliage.

MISTING MARVELOUSLY

How to do it? First, decide which type of fertilizer you will

use. For the *Saintpaulia* connoisseur, there is no finer method of foliar feeding than with fresh fish emulsion. This is usually a very weak fertilizer, with key minerals in a mild nitrogen base. It is smelly (when they say fish, not only does it indicate the source, but also the odor), but the scent does not last, and over time, you will come to associate the smell with the wonderful result it yields. I would caution against the use of fish emulsion in living areas though, as a family revolt might result! You can use manufactured, crystalline fertilizers, but make sure they are clearly labeled for use as a foliar supplement because some fertilizers contain dye agents which will stain foliage.

Use a small amount of the fertilizer (the more frequently you foliar feed the more critical it is to watch the amount). A couple of drops of fish or a pinch of granular fertilizer to one quart of water is sufficient. The temperature of the water is also important, as too cold water is not good for various reasons. Warm water is better, but hot water is preferred. Don't be afraid you'll burn your plants, as when you spray the hot mist, it cools as it falls onto the foliage. This leads to another important point: make sure your mister will spray a fine mist, and not large droplets of water. Again, the idea is small doses in small amounts. There should never be a buildup of mist on the foliage. In fact, if your air circulation is good enough, misted plants should dry rather quickly.

LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULEZ

Please consider attending the 2003 annual AVSA convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Elmer Godeny, et. al., will ensure we have a great time. You'll see exquisitely grown plants, including a wide variety of African violets as well as their gesneriad cousins. You'll gain access to buying from some of the most renowned African violet growers and hybridizers in the country, and you'll be able to meet and greet African violet enthusiasts from all over the world. Hope to see you there!

Temperature

by Pauline Bartholomew

from her book "Growing to Show"

In their native habitat *Saintpaulia* species grow under a wide range of temperatures. Some species have adapted to warm tropical forests and others thrive in the sometimes frigid conditions of high elevations. However, modern hybrids are sub-tropical and an ideal temperature range is 75 degrees F during light hours and 65 degrees F during the dark hours. They are among the group of plants that require at least a 10 degrees F drop in nighttime temperature in order to grow and bloom properly.

The ideal temperature range to maintain for show plants is 60 to 80 degrees F. For the casual grower, African violets are quite tolerant of temperatures that are less than ideal. They will survive brief exposures to temperatures as low as 55 degrees F and as high as 90 degrees F. But when these temperatures are reached, growers must take action to counteract them. Quality will suffer if violets are exposed to these extremes for very long.

Growers who live in areas of extreme weather conditions can duplicate the same conditions as growers who enjoy the conditions of more temperate zones. The difference lies in the expense of artificially creating the most desirable conditions for plants and personal comfort. For areas with seasonal high temperatures, refrigerated air conditioning is the usual cooling method used. This type of air conditioning depletes moisture in the air so that humidity needs to be supplemented. Evaporative water coolers are suited for use only in low-humidity climates, but they do help increase humidity.

It may be necessary to use some form of supplemental heat if the home heating system doesn't keep the plant room temperature at 60 degrees F or more. Heating systems also deplete moisture from the air so that additional humidity must be provided.

Phytosanitary Certificates..... Did You Know?

by Laurie A.E. O'Meara, Artist and Horticulturist, Cape Cod, MA

Perhaps you have seen written somewhere that imported plants must be inspected and must have the proper phytosanitary certificate. Although African violets may not be the most highly imported plants when talking about the international plant trade coming into the United States, perhaps you didn't know that many states require similar paperwork when shipping plants across their borders.

A phytosanitary certificate is issued when plant material has been "inspected by appropriate procedures, are considered to be free from quarantine pests, and practically free from other injurious pests; and that they are considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country/state." That statement is from a phytosanitary certificate issued here in Massachusetts.

The bug that gets the officials "hopping" is mainly the Japanese beetle, with a second runner-up being the gypsy moth. States that have a major agricultural industry cannot take the chance that insects such as these, or other damaging insects or disease, infest the crops. Their protection measures are not only for their own state's agricultural or financial interests; many of the states that are most strict are growing our nation's food crops.

So, you say you haven't seen any Japanese beetles or gypsy moths on your African violets? Neither have I. But, in addition to visible pests, soil is an important factor regarding interstate importation. Soil can harbor pests that although very

benign in some ways, could wreck havoc if unchecked. Nematodes are one example. I have been told that one state in particular, and probably more than one state, has specially trained dogs, similar to bomb - or drug-sniffing dogs. These are dirt-dogs, perhaps more properly referred to as soil-sniffing canines. These "deputies" work the borders, sniffing packages at the postal stations, at the private shipper stations, and of course the agricultural points of entry. Some states require that plant material be shipped without soil, thus the term bare-root. Using a soil-less mix eliminates soil as a factor when shipping.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, the following are states that require phytosanitary certificates for all plant material: Alabama (AL), Arkansas (AR), Arizona (AZ), California (CA), Florida (FL), Hawaii (HI), Idaho (ID), Kansas (KS), Minnesota (MN), Montana (MT), Nevada (NV), Oregon (OR), Tennessee (TN), Texas (TX), Utah (UT), Washington (WA), and Wisconsin (WI).

Procedures vary from state to state, but here in Massachusetts, the plant inspectors will travel to your home or business to inspect the plant material prior to shipping. The fees also are variable. Again, here in Massachusetts, the inspection service is free, although if shipping plant material on a regular basis, registration and inspection as a nursery, and the subsequent fee for that, is required. To find out more about the regulations in your state, contact your state Department of Food and Agriculture.



Sundae 2



Sundae 3



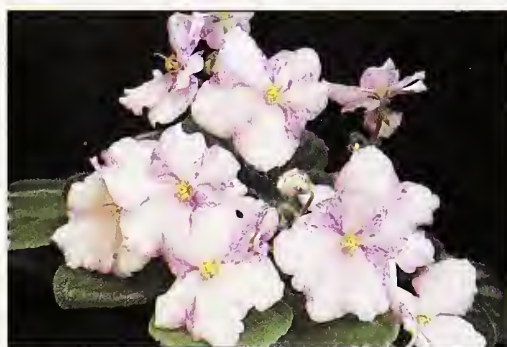
Sundae 4



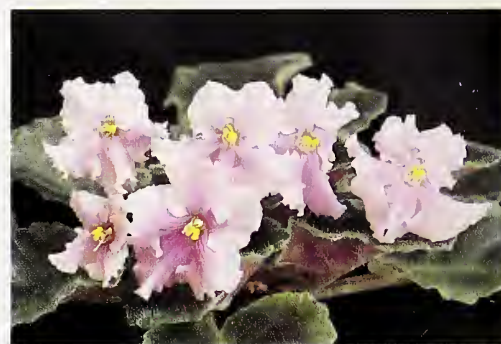
Sundae 4A



Allegro Sundae



Sundae 5A



Sundae 6



Sundae 5B

Thank Goodness for “Sports”

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One of the truly memorable sights to a grower of African violets is to attend a national show where hundreds of plants are lined up in row upon row in a rainbow of colors. Tucked away on one of the tables and often missed by the public are the original *Saintpaulia* species plants. With their single blue flowers, the species plants are simple in both color and form when compared to their more gaudy children, the modern cultivars. Yes, the modern plants with their multitude of flower colors and types, on variegated foliage of various shades, are the direct descendants of the original species plants. How did this transition take place? It wasn't just through selective breeding by the hybridizers, but through their use of unusual African violets called “sports”.

A “sport” is an African violet that has undergone a mutation or change in its genetic code of DNA. These changes are often random and unexpected and are usually inherited in the offspring through leaf cuttings or through seed production during hybridization. African violets are very prone to mutation, and their history is littered with many examples.

No history of the African violet would be complete without a discussion of the “Ten Original Crosses” or the “Original Ten”. These plants were the first truly successful commercial cultivars and were developed by the firm of Armacost & Royston. One story suggests that Walter Armacost first became interested in African violets after seeing the plants in the greenhouse collection of a friend. He obtained three leaves from the plants and experimented on propagating them. Intrigued by the plants' potential, the firm ordered seeds in 1927 from two seed companies, Benary's of Germany and Sutton's of England. At this time in history, African violets were most frequently produced from seed rather than through leaf cuttings. The use of sexual reproduction allowed the genes to mix more freely, producing a higher rate of variation in the offspring. Approximately 1,000 plants were grown to blooming size. After several years of selection, ten outstanding plants were chosen and named. They were introduced to the public in 1936 as: ‘Admiral’, ‘Amethyst’, ‘Blue Boy’, ‘Commodore’, ‘Mermaid’, ‘Neptune’, ‘No. 32’, ‘Norseman’, ‘Sailor Boy’, and ‘Viking’. All of these cultivars had blue to purple flowers and varied slightly in growth form and leaf characteristics. These cultivars are still grown in plant collections today and are often exhibited as “vintage violets”. Of the original ten cultivars, ‘Blue Boy’ and ‘Sailor Boy’ came out of the Benary seeds, while the others came from the Sutton seeds.

‘Blue Boy’ is apparently very unstable genetically and has shown a strong tendency to sport. Table 1 shows at least eleven sports that can be traced back to this single cultivar. Among these are some very important mutations such as pink

flowers, girl foliage, and double petals. Notice that some of the plants in Table 1 are themselves a sport of a sport. Hybridizers seized upon these sports as the basis for new genetic material and for much of their work, producing hybrids that were increasingly more unlike the original parents and more like modern cultivars.

Table 1. Sports of ‘Blue Boy’

- ‘Big Boy’
- ‘Blue Boy Improved’
- ‘Blue Boy Supreme’
- ‘Double Blue Boy’
- ‘Patricia’
- ‘Pink Beauty’, which later sported to produce ‘Dainty Maid’
- ‘Blue Girl’, which later sported to produce:
 - ‘Blue Girl Supreme’
 - ‘Orchid Girl’
 - ‘Pink Girl’

Over time, a number of important sports have occurred that have been utilized by hybridizers for further work. Table 2 lists some of the African violet traits that originated by sports. The date of the sport and other comments are given. Note that many of the sports were reported very early in African violet hybridizing history. Each time a new sport was found and released, hybridizers worked further with the traits to produce new combinations. The mixing of traits into new combinations is still the work of many current hybridizers.

Sports are still occurring in African violets. For example, Janet Stromborg recorded one interesting series of sports. The original plant, ‘Allegro Sundae’ was grown from seed purchased from Park Seed Company in 1984. ‘Allegro Sundae’ is a fantasy with strong pink rays through the center of the flowers. The first sport (Sundae 2) produced blooms with less pink in the center and few fantasy markings, often limited to the edges of the flower or in scattered areas. A second sport (Sundae 3) is a two-toned purple with no fantasy markings. Both of these types of sports are frequently reported with the Fantasy mutation and are generally not considered to be an improvement of the original plant.

The sport labeled as Sundae 4 has white flowers with a thin blue-violet edge. Some judges might consider this sport an improvement over the original plant. This plant later sported again into a chimera (Sundae 4a) with blue stripes on white petals. Suckers have successfully reproduced this plant true to type.

Another sport of ‘Allegro Sundae’ labeled as Sundae 5 is

pink with sparse fantasy markings on the edges of the petals. It is a very unstable sport and has produced at least two chimera sports. The first (Sundae 5a) has white and fantasy stripes and the second (Sundae 5b) has lavender stripes. Sundae 5a is unstable, but suckers have successfully reproduced Sundae 5b.

The last plant, Sundae 6, is yet another sport of 'Allegro Sundae' and has two-toned solid colored pink flowers. This plant appears to have the background colors of the original but without the fantasy markings. It has been stable through five generations.

'Allegro Sundae' has produced at least six different sports. This plant was predisposed to sporting for several reasons. First, the fantasy trait is often unstable and will frequently produce solid flowers or flowers with differing degrees of fantasy markings. Second, the darker pink background, a separate trait from fantasy markings, is also unstable and can vary from offspring to offspring. Third, for whatever reason, 'Allegro Sundae' is prone to producing chimera offspring. The combination of three unstable genetic traits has allowed the rapid production of many sports.

An important consideration when a new sport appears is if the sport can be reproduced by leaf cuttings or through sexual reproduction. In order to be considered "stable", the sport should be reproduced through three generations. The original

sport is generation 1. A leaf cutting of the sport will produce generation 2. A leaf cutting of generation 2 will produce generation 3. When all three generations are placed together, there should be no discernable differences between the plants. If this occurs, then the sport will be considered genetically stable. It is important to test the stability of the sport before releasing the plant to the public. Many sports, such as some of the 'Allegro Sundae' sports are too unstable and should not be released.

To test for genetic inheritance through sexual reproduction, the sport should be crossed with another plant. If the sport is for a dominant trait, about 50% of the offspring will show the sport trait. If no offspring show the sport trait, the sport may be a genetic recessive. The F1 offspring should then be crossed back to the original sport. About 50% of the offspring of the backcross should now show the sport trait. Another alternative method is to self-pollinate the sport. If the trait is a dominant, about 75% of the offspring will show the sport trait. If the trait is a recessive, nearly 100% of the offspring will show the sport trait.

In summary, we owe the current diversity of flower colors and plant types in African violets to two factors: the ability of the plant to sport, and the sharp eyes and hard work of hybridizers who used the sports to create new combinations and types. The rainbow of plants that are now available are the result of nearly 60 years of genetic history. It is very appropriate to say: "Thank Goodness for Sports"!

Table 2. Important Sports or Mutations in African Violets.

Mutation	Date	Comment
Double Flowers	1939	Mutant of 'Blue Boy'.
Pink Flowers	1940	Mutant of 'Blue Boy', introduced under the name 'Pink Beauty'.
Girl Foliage	1941	Mutant of 'Blue Boy', introduced under the name 'Blue Girl'. The foliage has a predominant splotch of white at the base of the blade.
Fantasy Flowers	1949	Mutant with lavender flowers splashed with spots and streaks for dark purple. The first cultivar was 'Fantasy'.
Geneva Edges	1950	Mutant that produces a white edge on the flower. Named after the Geneva Nurseries. The first cultivar was 'Lady Geneva'.
Star-Shaped Flowers	1952	These blossoms consist of five equally-spaced petals, giving the appearance of a star. The first cultivar was 'Purple Star'.
Fringed Flowers	1953	The petals are fringed, giving the blossoms a ruffled appearance.
Bustled Foliage	1957	Mutant of 'Purple Prince' with small leaf blades attached to the side or on the back of the main blade. First cultivar was 'Bustles'.
"Tommie Lou" Variegation	1959	A type of variegated leaves found as a sport of 'White Pride' by Tommie Louise Oden. Variegation is on the leaf edges.
"Lilian Jarrett" or Mosaic Variegation	1961	A type of variegated leaves found in a sport of 'Lilian Jarrett'. Variegation appears in the center areas of the leaf blade.
Coral Pigments	1963	A new color mutation which gave rise to coral and coral red flower colors. The first cultivar was 'Coral Satin'.
Yellow Flowers	1989	The newest color mutation. The first cultivars were 'His Promise' and 'Majesty'.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

January Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Wed. 6:42 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
2 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	New 3:23 pm
3 Fri. 10:56 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
4 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
5 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
6 Mon. 5:57 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
7 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
8 Wed. 4:15 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
9 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
10 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd 8:15 am
11 Sat. 4:48 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
12 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
13 Mon. 5:08 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
14 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
15 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
16 Thu. 2:56 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
17 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
18 Sat. 9:29 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	Full 5:48 am
19 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
20 Mon. 1:52 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
21 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
22 Wed. 4:23 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
23 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
24 Fri. 7:09	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
25 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th 3:53 am
26 Sun. 10:26 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
27 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
28 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
29 Wed. 2:30 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
30 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
31 Fri. 7:44 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th

February Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	New 5:40 am
2 Sun. 2:55 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
3 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
4 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
5 Wed. 12:44 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
6 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
7 Fri. 12:59 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
8 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
9 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd 6:11 am
10 Mon. 1:45 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
11 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
12 Wed. 12:19 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
13 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
14 Fri. 7:04 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
15 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
16 Sun. 10:22 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	Full 6:51 pm
17 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
18 Tue. 11:48 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
19 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
20 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
21 Fri. 1:09 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
22 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
23 Sun. 3:46 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th 11:46 am
24 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
25 Tue. 8:11 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
26 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
27 Thu. 2:24 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
28 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th

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Growing African Violets While Away From Home

by Vic Brinkley • Bluffton, IN

How does one grow African violets when one is away from home six months out of the year? Fortunately, it is every other month we are gone. I have been successfully growing African violets and other plants on this schedule for the past several years. Perhaps others are interested in what I have learned.

My adventure started when a new Wal-Mart opened nearby and I saw and bought a deep, nearly-red African violet on sale. We had recently finished building an addition on the house with many windows and patio doors on three sides and had a fair number of succulents that could easily withstand our being gone every other month. On a whim I bought the plant, labeled 'Rhapsody Mercury'. I put it in a pot with a reservoir and put a plastic bag over it when we left. It was fine when we returned except for a few water spots on the leaves.

Seeing that the violet did so well, I bought nine more. I put them in reservoir pots, covered them on the table where they sat with a clear plastic cover, but this time put them out of any direct sunlight until late in the day. On our return a month later, all were fine and in bloom - with no new sunspots. I had grown a number of African violets in the '50s and '60s as well as other gesneria, but had not for years, for a number of reasons, not the least of which was our month-long absences six times a year. It was the plethora of new, vibrant colors that aroused my interest. I ordered leaves and soon had 87 named varieties growing - mostly under lights in the basement. The glassed-in room becomes hot during the summer months, and we have a pleasant basement that is much more suitable for the violets while we are gone.

I have several times modified my system of keeping plants healthy and continue to make adjustments. Clearly, my observations and techniques won't be suitable for everyone. I have little doubt that my plants would be better off if I were around full time, but if you must be gone for extended periods of time and can't or don't want to trust your babies to someone else's care, here are some ideas that work for me. Most of my plants stay healthy and in bloom most of the time with this method.

Our basement is finished, but tends to be humid in the summer; therefore, we run a dehumidifier, which tends to heat the basement some. It is cooler in the winter, and there is a considerable difference in the way the plants grow at different times of the year.

Virtually all the plants are on wicks. I use a soil-free mix, adding in some extra perlite and vermiculite. Almost all the plants except the smallest miniatures get a three or four-inch pot. An inch of perlite goes on the bottom, then a pinch of vermiculite, a pinch of potting mix, and a sometimes a very few granules of a slowly dissolving fertilizer (about 6-8 granules of 17-17-17). These get stirred slightly. A little of the potting mix

seems to be necessary for the fertilizer to work. The perlite keeps good air circulation in the bottom of the pot, but the plants' roots don't seem to like to grow into the plain perlite, sometimes even occasionally forming water-roots at the junction of the perlite and potting mix; therefore the slight mixing is necessary. The plant is then potted on top of the perlite mix in a very light mix (added perlite and vermiculite). A wick is inserted using a forceps (I use a strip of pre-moistened panty hose) placed up into the pot about two inches or more.

I am gradually switching over into four-inch Styrofoam pots, although many still grow nicely in three and four-inch plastic pots. These are actually containers made for food, and I find them at a food-service company, 50 for 87 cents. They come in two styles. One looks exactly like a 4" tub pot, the other looks the same as a regular 4" pot. I prefer the regular size since the bottom one-inch only serves to supply water and the remainder of the pot is just the right size for a plant. The tub pots seem a bit too short for the larger plants with the one-inch of perlite in the bottom, especially if repotting. I poke multiple holes in the bottom (preferably before putting in the potting mix) and sometimes a few on the sides as well. It is easy to write the name on the side of the pot with a marker or a pen (it is best to do this before putting in the potting mix and plant). I also write the date of the potting and sometimes the date of starting the plant. The date makes it easier to know when repotting is needed. The biggest difficulty with these pots is the static cling that causes fine particles of the potting soil which won't wipe away easily to cling to the outside of the pot. If potting outside, a quick puff of air will remove them. Inside, in a few days they will fall away.

The potted plants are placed on one-half pint or pint-size plastic food containers. I cut two holes in the top with a case knife, one on the edge for watering and one in the middle for the wick. A triangle about an inch on each side seems to be about right. I often add a little fertilizer to the water. I prefer rainwater since my water is very full of minerals. Actually, I love rainwater, although it is an effort to keep enough collected to water all the plants (not just the violets). I also enjoy the mosses and algae that occasionally grace the top of the soil. Algae in the water reservoirs has not been a big problem unless I over-fertilize, since the pot covers much of the reservoir, and the plants are usually very close together.

Once the plant and reservoir are in place, I fill the tub to the top and a little fuller. In a few minutes, a significant amount of water should be drawn up into the pot. If the mix is on the dry side, I may add a little water to the top of the pot to get things working, although this is usually not necessary if the wick is already wet.

I don't really find it a problem to over-pot the plants a little as long as the mix is kept light and not packed down. Sometimes I will stick a small, unrooted sucker in such a pot, and they do just fine. A bigger problem for me is the larger violets, and I really like the large violets. After experimenting with bigger pots, I now pretty much stick with the 4" pots. That means I cannot let the plants get overly large. Sometimes I do allow a few to get quite big, and some do okay anyway. I have the impression that there is considerable variation on how much water is required by a plant. Part of that is its location, I am sure. There is no doubt that the rapidly growing plants, under my conditions, require a lot more water. Therefore, I am careful not to over-fertilize. Some large plants seem quite content in their 4" (or even 3") pots for a considerable period of time.

There are two more things I do to keep the plants healthy while we are gone. The first is considered by many to be a "no-no". I have found it helps to keep the plants crowded a bit to cut down on water loss. I haven't noticed any disease problems this way, although luck may be part of the reason and time may show me to be wrong. I am very careful to avoid mites and mealybugs. I usually start plants from seed or cuttings. No cacti or succulents are allowed around the violets and gesneria.

The second thing I do is to cover the plant stands very securely with plastic sheeting while gone. Although all of my fluorescent fixtures are electronic, rather than the ballast-type, it still warms up some under the plastic from the lights. The plants love it. If gone less than twenty days, I get by without covering the plants, making sure all the reservoirs are full before leaving. Incidentally, florist gloxinias, cyclamen, and other plants will grow this way, although they need larger pots and they may suffer some in warmer weather due to their greater water requirements. *Streptocarpus* will also grow well but may be very droopy in a month.

Of course, it is always with considerable wonderment that one returns home to see what has happened to the plants. It helps not to hold things too dear if you are going to try this method - the worry would be too great. But so far, it has been fun to come home and find the plants still alive and growing - and usually blooming nicely. Temperature plays a great role in how well the plants do while one is away. My temperatures range from 60 degrees or just below in the winter, to just above 80 in the summer. One winter a few plants got mildew on a few leaves under the plastic. It did not seem to harm them and was easily treated. I now try to make sure to keep the temperature above 60 - not always easy to do when gone for a month and a real cold-snap comes along.

At first I always picked off the blooms before leaving, to save water and prevent disease, and to encourage new blooms to greet me on my return, only to find they weren't really in good bloom until I was about to leave again. Now I tend to leave many of the blooms unless they are at the end of their blooming cycle. Any with buds still to open I leave on, unless it looks like the plant will be totally overwhelmed with flowers. Usually they look fine in a month. Often I will return to find a plant in flower for the first time - a real treat. There are always

leaves and spent flowers to remove on returning. It pays to remove any leaves that look the least bit unnecessary or unhealthy, old, or just "too many" before leaving; that seems to encourage blooming and reduces water requirements.

Problems? A few of course. Aren't there always problems? If the plants do get on the dry side a bit too much, they tend to later sucker heavily. Also, a lot of the bottom leaves will be lost, and the plant will get necky, requiring repotting more often. Some of the plants around the edge of the shelves will get lopsided. Sometimes the soil will be dry and pulled away from the pot, and the plant looks pretty bad. I have found it is usually best not to get too hasty in judgment in these cases. When you first arrive, put a little water into the pot from the top. The next day or two, fill the reservoir to just above the top with a very weak fertilizer solution, (significant water should draw up into the pot within minutes) and give the poor plant three days or more to straighten up. They are pretty tough if they have not been over-fertilized. Now, if necessary, you can start getting heavy handed. Pull off the lower leaves, remove the top soil, cut off a good bit of the bottom soil, scrape the neck if you think that helps, and put the plant in a fresh pot with new potting mix on top of the roots to get the neck down where it belongs. It will be a beautiful blooming plant in a few months. These "reworked" plants seem to tolerate the long absences the best. I think this says something about the advantage of repotting. However, if I have a plant that is growing happily, I am very reluctant to mess with it no matter how long since it was repotted. Incidentally, I have not found much difference between the variegated and the non-variegated plants with this method other than the slower growth of the variegated. If you like big plants, the variegated plants seem to tolerate the long absences better, due to their slower growth rate (I suspect).

Finally, what do I do with the seedlings and the leaves that are rooting while gone for a month? That is where I have surprisingly had the best success. I have two old fish tanks, a 55 gallon and a 40 gallon, both four feet long. Two plant trays fit nicely in each. I cut Styrofoam cups down some and poke holes in the bottoms (and sometimes the sides), add a good layer of perlite and then plant in light potting mix or vermiculite. The cups are labeled and placed in the trays and a 1/4 inch of water added. Glass or plastic lids are placed on the top of the tanks (leaving only a tiny space at the ends for air circulation) and a fluorescent-light fixture is placed on top. Come back in a month or two or three, and all will be fine. Many little plants like to be up close to the lights, so I may set the trays on something to get them up a little closer. Make sure there is still water in the trays when you leave. The little plants usually appreciate a little fertilizer. You will get the shiniest, happy leaves on these little plants you have ever seen. I usually take off the covers a week or so before potting them up and putting the new plants on the shelves, although I don't believe that is necessary.

Here is one extra little trick I have developed that makes enjoying my plants a little easier. I like to choose a warm, pleasant day in the late summer (occasionally in the spring as well). Each plant is taken outside, a few at a time. The plant is

knocked out of its pot, the bottom soil trimmed off, any suckers removed, the top layer of soil scraped away, any old blossoms and worn-out or unnecessary leaves removed, and the plant repotted down to its neck, sometimes in a fresh pot. What a joy to see all my plants freshly potted up and in perfect growing condition!

I have just returned from being gone for four weeks. The streps are wilting, but in bloom. One of my violets is wilted and it is the only violet still in a five-inch pot (which probably means it has been in that pot far too long and the soil is waterlogged). The soil is wet so I know it is root-rot. I have cut the

plant off above the soil and made sure there is no root rot on what remains. I removed the outer leaves, leaving some nice blooms and several rows of leaves, and have set it in vermiculite to reroot. It will live a four-inch pot from now on! Six weeks later it is growing and blooming nicely.

It is possible to grow violets (and many other fine plants) even if you are gone from home every other month, and still have very nice blooming plants. Violets really are tough - even surviving in the wild. And that original red violet is still one of my favorites, constantly in bloom.



February 8 & 9 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS
Annual Display/Sale
Pacific Coast Mall
Main Street & Mills Rd
Ventura, CA
Info: Adrienne Stringer
(661) 296-6440
Email: VCAVS1@aol.com

February 8 - ARIZONA

Desert Sun AVS
AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Spectrum Mall
(formerly Christown Mall)
19th Avenue & Bethany Home Rd
Phoenix, AZ
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Tami Rawlings
(480) 802-4760

February 8 & 9 - FLORIDA

First Lakeland AVS Show/Sale
Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL
Feb 8 - 9am - 5pm
Feb 9 - 12:30 - 5pm
Info: MaryJane DiLorenzo
(863) 647-1517

February 8 & 9 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Show/Sale
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center
11375 Cortez Blvd
Spring Hill, FL
Feb 8 - 11am - 5pm
Feb 9 - noon - 3pm
Info: Ann Gramstorff
(352) 666-1207
Email: annherbgra@aol.com

February 21 & 22 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Show/Sale
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
622 Airline Rd
Corpus Christi, TX
Feb 21 - 2pm - 5:30pm
Feb 22 - 9:30pm - 5pm
Info: Marjorie Bullard
(361) 992 - 3009
Email: MarjBcrp@sbcglobal.net

February 22 & 23 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS 46th Annual
Judged Show/Sale
El Con Mall
3601 E. Broadway Blvd
Tucson, AZ
Feb 22 - 9am - 9pm
Feb 23 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Kathy Bell (520) 574 - 1367
Email: kkbell@ag.arizona.edu

February 28 & March 1 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVS 27th Annual
Judged Show/Sale
Farm Bureau
100 South Mulrennan Rd
Valrico, FL
Feb 28 - noon - 7pm
Mar 1 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Mina Menish (813) 681-1910
Lynne Wilson (813) 251 - 1581

March 1 - TEXAS

AVS of Beaumont Plant Sale
Central Mall
Port Arthur, TX
Hours: 10am-5pm
Info: Cecile Mason
(409) 385-3423

March 1 & 2 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK
Mar 1 - 10am - 4pm
Mar 2 - noon - 4pm
Info: Rose Howlett
(918) 627-7395

March 7 & 8 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Beardall Senior Center
800 Delaney Ave
Orlando, FL
Mar 7 - noon - 4pm
Mar 8 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (407) 322-1409
evbriggs@earthlink.net

March 8 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Hours: 11am - 4pm
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut
(310) 325-2993
Email: jeisenhut@hotmail.com

March 20 - 22 - TENNESSEE

Dixie AVS Convention/Show/Sale
Days Hotel and Suites
Memphis Airport
Info: Marian Zoller (901) 372-0283



HOW TO GROW A GOOD PLANT

by Sheila Walton

How do we achieve a healthy, good-looking plant? We have heard about the main requirements for growing African violets - light, heat, food, water, and good potting mix. What else is needed?

General maintenance is important. The more you look at your plants, the more you will get to know them. Remove any faded leaves or flowers. They could cause disease as they die and rot. Turn your plant, especially if growing in natural light, so that it grows evenly and is not leaning.

Give it room to grow; don't crowd it in so that its leaves are touching other plants. Look for sideshoots that will spoil the symmetry of the plant, and if they come, take them off. Some plants are more inclined to sucker than others.

Remove baby leaves. These are the first leaves that appear on the young plant, are generally rounder in shape, and have lighter colored petioles. They will not grow to be big leaves; they have done their work by supporting the plant while it formed a good root system and new leaves. If all these things are done, your plant should be looking good.

Our "ideal" plant is going to have flat growing leaves in an even symmetry, with a good head of flowers. The best way, perhaps, to choose a variety to grow is by seeing the real thing. Descriptions can be helpful, but most of us like to actually see what the plant looks like. When you are fortunate enough to be able to attend an African violet show or see plants at your group meeting, have a look to see if there are any plants that you like. If there are, write down the name of the plant so that you can obtain either a plant or a leaf in the future. Most growers are happy to share with you.

After you have planted the leaf of your chosen variety and the babies are ready for separate pots, make sure that they are healthy and have a good center (crown) because this is where the new growth comes from. Train your baby from birth! Help it to be the best it can be. There are some plants that will never look "perfect" - that's just the way they are! If you really, really love the flowers and you can't see similar

flowers on any other plant, you may feel you want to grow it, even though the leaves are all wavy, spaced out, and generally untidy looking. This, of course, is your choice, but you should be able to find a similar flower with better behaved foliage. This will make your care of the plant more rewarding. So, do not be afraid to discard a variety.

Sometimes it is necessary to grow a plant for several flowerings to be sure that it is worth growing. Remember that hybridizers' conditions vary, just as growers' conditions do. If a hybridizer lives in a hot, humid climate, the plants they produce are more likely to be suited to hotter, more humid conditions. If the hybridizer lives in a drier area, with constant mild temperatures, that is the condition their hybrids will do best in.

So it may be that you will find plants hybridized by a particular grower will do extra well for you (or sometimes not so well).

If your plants are really not the sort that look good, why not try something different (as long as it's an African violet, of course)? Have you taken note of the names of plants that appeal to you? Have you tried to get a plant or leaf of that kind? Learn to see differences in foliage, flowers etc.

Try different plants; some will probably grow better than others in your conditions. We have found some plants that just don't like the treatment they get at our house, so we've stopped growing them. But we do look out for another variety that is similar so that we can try growing it. Train your violet (like a baby) from birth! Remove useless baby leaves, dead flowers and leaves, and train leaves to lie flat and symmetrical. Remove side-shoots and keep it clean. If you're heading for the show, follow the show schedule - if that doesn't work for you, make your own notes so that you will know for next year. Don't think, "I'll remember," because you probably won't.

From the *Newsletter*, publication of the
Early Morn AV Group



What do I do With This New Leaf?



Unwrap the leaf carefully. If it seems limp, set it in a container of water as you would a cut flower. When the leaf is firm, re-cut the end at a 45° angle with the larger area of the cut surface on the front side of the leaf. The new plantlets will grow on the front of the mother leaf, rather than the back where they would be shaded too much by the mother leaf. Using your finger or a pencil, make a small hole in rooting medium. Use vermiculite, perlite, or a very light potting soil. It is not necessary to use a root hormone. Do not root in water since the water roots have a hard time adapting to the soil.

After a few weeks, try tugging gently on your leaf, if you meet with some resistance, you'll know it has rooted. Before you know it, baby plants will start to appear. Let them grow until they are the size of a nickel or until you feel comfortable separating them. Remember, only one plantlet to a 2" pot. Label carefully. Place in good light, and feed and water as you do your mature plants. In six months, you'll have young, blooming plants.

From *The Violet Connection*, publication of the Ohio State AVS

Two-Piece Ceramic “Self-watering” Pots

by Peg Eaton

Two-piece ceramic pots have become quite popular in recent years, partially for their good looks and partially because some folks have had great success using these pots. I say “some folks” because it’s necessary to take a couple of steps to ensure that your African violets will be happy when transplanted into their new home.

First, it’s necessary to understand just how these pots work. They consist of two pieces. One is a round, glazed, decorative ceramic reservoir that works as the “outside” portion of the pot. The second is an “inside” ceramic pot, with no drainage hole and with a lip just slightly wider than the diameter of the outside container so that it will sit, resting tidily in the opening of the outer container. The “outside” container, which is generally decorative, serves as a holder for fertilized water. The African violet is planted within the “inside” container - usually designed in what we think of as a traditional flowerpot shape. The lower 2/3rds of this interior pot is unglazed, and that portion of the ceramic material is porous, allowing moisture from the outside area to seep or wick into the potting soil contained within.

Because our African violets enjoy evenly moist soil conditions and a “constant-feed” situation, this setup really should be ideal. However, as in “Murphy’s Law”, things can often go wrong!

The first problem can occur if your soil mix is not light and porous enough. If it’s too dense, containing a lot of organic material or water-holding vermiculite, it will soak up too much moisture, causing the violet’s roots to be over-watered. This can result in root rot, limp leaves, poor growth, and the possible loss of the plant. That’s why it’s so important to ensure that your soil mix is very light and “fluffy”, similar to one designed for traditional “wicking.” Another good idea is to put approximately an inch of perlite in the bottom of the interior pot. This will act as a sort of barrier where air can circulate between the water and the root system.

Another potential problem is fertilizer burn, which can result because this type of pot is continually drawing fertilized water up into the plant. Symptoms of fertilizer buildup can be a thin crust of rusty-colored “salts” showing on new plant growth, which can actually “burn” the tips of tender young leaves. Therefore, it’s probably a good idea to repot with a fresh, light soil mixture every six months, to ensure maximum

health. Also, make sure the water/fertilizer mixture that you are putting in the reservoir is on the “weak” side. Rather than the common proportion of 1/4th of a teaspoon of fertilizer to each gallon of water, it might be better to reduce that to 1/8th of a teaspoon to a gallon for this type of container. In the interim, be sure to use plain, unfertilized water in the outer reservoir on occasion.

When using these two-piece ceramic pots, be sure to choose the right size plant for your pot. Because soil conditions, even with a “lighter” soil mix, are going to be moist most of the time, be sure you are putting a plant with a fully-developed root system into the inner pot, not a rootless “sucker” or small baby plant. If your plant is too small and/or underdeveloped for the size of the pot, there’s a good chance that this container will over-water the plant.

In certain areas of the country, the water may contain a high level of certain minerals, and the buildup of these minerals over time could eventually clog the unglazed material of the inner pot. If this type of buildup occurs, the fertilized water solution in the outer container may not be able to properly wick into the inner container, and the soil will dry out. If you notice this has happened to you, there are a couple of things that can be done to “revitalize” your ceramic pot. You can give the outside of the “inner” pot a thorough going-over with a nylon “pot scrubbing” sponge to remove any mineral deposits and algae that may have grown on the inner pot, blocking the pores. If this doesn’t seem to do the trick, remove the violet from the container (a great opportunity to repot your violet!) and soak it in a product designed for removing hard water deposits. Rinse thoroughly afterwards to remove any chemical residue.

These two-piece ceramic containers look great and are wonderful for the grower with a smallish collection of African violets. However, as with anything new, don’t rush and repot ALL your precious violets into this type of pot. Experiment with one or two and watch them for a couple of months to make sure they are adjusting to their new “home.” If you find these two-piece, ceramic, self-watering pots work for you, that’s terrific! They are readily available in garden centers, specialty shops, and chain stores, and can really help make life a little bit easier for the busy African violet lover.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



AIR POLLUTION, DRAFTS AND HUMIDITY WILL AFFECT YOUR PLANTS

by Sue Gardner

Why do plants need air?

Air is composed of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other trace gases.

Oxygen is used to convert food into energy so that plants can grow and thrive. Remember that roots as well as leaves and stems need oxygen. Always ensure your potting mix is open with plenty of air spaces.

Carbon dioxide is used by plants in food production. The amount of carbon dioxide in the air varies from 0.03% in outdoor country areas to 1% in poorly ventilated rooms. The more carbon dioxide there is, the more the potential for plants to grow. Other factors will affect this, however.

What about air temperature?

Air temperature virtually controls the temperature of plants. If plants are kept too hot, growth and flowering will be adversely affected. Water will also be lost from the plant and potting mix unless humidity is kept high enough.

If the plant is kept too cold, cell processes will stop and the plant will not thrive.

A temperature range of about 59°F to 75°F is best.

What about humidity?

Relative humidity of 40 to 70% is good for African violets. It is measured as the amount of water which exists as vapor in the air. The actual amount of water which will vaporize into the air increases as the temperature increases.

If humidity is too **low**, leaves will not look fresh and healthy. The plant will droop or look dull.

Buds will not develop or will even dry out and die. Flowers will not attain the correct size. Many growers report that large flowers only develop to their full size when humidity is correct.

If humidity is too **high**, water will not evaporate from the leaves. This means more water containing fertilizer will not move up the plant and the plant will starve. The leaves may be undersized, and rot may develop.

Powdery mildew will thrive when humidity is too high and temperature is low.

To increase humidity, place saucers of water around

plants. If you wick water, humidity should be all right. To counteract high humidity, keep air moving with a fan which does not blow directly on plants, or increase temperature if it is too low.

Do African violets need air to circulate?

African violets enjoy good air circulation under certain conditions. Movement of air across leaves causes an increase in transpiration (evaporation of water from leaves). This causes more water containing nutrients to move into the plant, allowing for more growth. High air circulation, however, will cause humidity to become too low. Air circulating around plants also inhibits development of some diseases as it does not allow the organisms, such as powdery mildew, to "settle down". However, some pests are airborne, so it is best not to grow plants next to an open window, allowing thrips or aphids to fly in.

What about drafts?

Drafts are usually cold, so they will harm African violets. Leaves may curl down or develop streaks or spots because their roots become cold. Flowers may also drop.

Blasts of hot air from heating systems can also damage plants. The humidity around the plant will fall too low and cause bud blast and dull, dry plants. Hot summer wind has the same effect.

Ventilate your plants safely by opening a window or door in a room adjacent to your plant room. This will allow fresh air to filter into the plant room without creating a heavy draft or causing a dramatic temperature change.

Does gas from stoves or gas heaters harm African violets?

If a small amount of gas escapes into the air, it can harm your plants. It will retard growth and affect blooming. It can also cause leaf damage.

Happy growing!

From the *Newsletter*, publication of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia



MICROFILMING PROJECT

Janet Riemer, AVSA Archivist

Since 1966, the African Violet Society of America has been the authority for the registration of *Saintpaulia* cultivars. For many years, the registration records consisted of cards with information on both sides, occasionally typewritten but often written by hand. These number about 7,000. In addition, there are over 2,000 records on single-sided sheets of paper.

About five years ago, Iris Keating, Plant Registration Chairman, and I discussed the fact that the plant registration records existed in original form only. No copy of all of the valuable information contained in the records was extant. Various ways of creating durable, duplicate copies were considered such as photocopying, scanning, and microfilming. Photocopying onto so-called acid-free paper would serve the purpose but would be labor intensive and would duplicate the bulk. As there were about 8,000 records at that time, storage, already a concern, would become a critical problem. Scanning does not create a durable product as obsolescence of both hardware and software are major problems over the long term. With collections of records of this volume, microfilming is still the most economical, yet durable, method of preservation. An investigation of how the microfilming of the records could be carried out was begun.

In April 1999, a preliminary proposal was received from Preservation Resources in Bethlehem, PA. They are an organization involved in preservation microfilming of materials from major academic institutions on the east coast. In addition to the risk and considerable cost of transporting the records from Iris, their custodian, in California to Pennsylvania, there was the problem that Iris refers to the records periodically in the registration of new cultivars and could not be without them for a long period. It appeared that the records needed to be filmed in southern California.

A year later, an archivist friend in the Los Angeles area told me that the Huntington Library had the facilities to do preservation microfilming and was interested in our project. The AVSA Executive Committee approved the project and authorized me to contact the Director of the Botanical Library there.

In the meantime, methods of funding were explored. Bill Lyons, Booster Fund Chairman, volunteered to take on the project through the Booster Fund and began soliciting donations. As the records were in California, he called it the California Microfilming Project, although donations from across the country were more than welcome.

As funds were solicited and gradually accumulated, negotiations between the Huntington Library and AVSA began. Transportation of the records from Iris' home to the photo laboratory of the Huntington was one of the problems that had to be worked out. It was decided to do the filming in batches so that the period of time when specific records were not available to Iris would be minimal, and so that the quantity handled at

any one time was small enough to be feasible. Security of the records was also a concern.

A meeting between Iris and James Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens at the Huntington, was held on May 23, 2001, and details were agreed upon. Iris did an extensive review of the records and made necessary corrections. Since the information on the back of the cards did not include the registration number, many hours were spent adding registration numbers to the reverse of 7,000 cards to facilitate maintaining their order during filming.

After several delays caused by a changed fax number, illness, vacations, and a tight schedule, the first batch of cards were transported to the library in September, and filming was begun. These records were returned, and a second, larger batch, was picked up in October. A partial bill for the first part of the project was received and paid. The second batch of records was returned, and the third batch, the remaining cards, was picked up in late December. A month later, the third batch was returned to Iris, and the remaining records, single-sided sheets, were picked up and taken to the Huntington. Notification was received in February, along with a bill for the remainder of the project from John Sullivan in the Huntington photo laboratory, that filming was finished. Records for all registrations through 2001 were filmed. Subsequent registrations will be filmed when sufficient numbers accumulate.

At the request of the AVSA Executive Committee, John Sullivan sent one of the completed reels of film to a company that scans images from film to a CD, for an estimate of cost. It was felt that a CD would be easier for Janice Bruns, the newly appointed Plant Registration Committee chair, to use in registering new cultivars. Unfortunately, the resulting product was unreadable, probably due to the fact that the early records were often handwritten by different people with different inks. Thus the scans have to be recorded images rather than by character recognition. He then sent the reel to another company for a test. Eventually, in April, 2002, he received a quote from the second company. The cost would have been considerably greater than the cost of the filming itself because each image would have to be manually scanned. Also, only about 80% of the images were good. John estimated that 5% would be unreadable given the technology at the present time. Either the film or the original would have to be consulted for those records.

In the meantime, Iris and Lynn checked the originals again in an effort to correct discrepancies with the *Master List of Species and Cultivars (AVML)*. Lynn worked with Joe Bruns, new chair of the committee responsible for the *AVML*, to make necessary changes.

Joe and Jan Bruns were consulted about the options for using the records, and they felt that getting a microfilm read-

ing machine would be satisfactory and considerably less expensive than scanning. So, the positive reels of film were sent by John Sullivan to Joe and Jan, and we began a search for a machine. Various features of microfilm readers were studied and choices narrowed down. Joe located a site on the Internet that included refurbished readers, and they had one with the features we need. It was ordered and delivered on June 19, 2002. With a sharp image, it will provide access to all the

records filmed and will enable Jan Bruns to register new cultivars as applications are submitted.

The microfilming project is essentially complete. Only the transportation of the originals from Iris' to the Archives in the office in Beaumont, Texas remains to be done. AVSA members are to be congratulated upon the success of the project, for without the financial support of all those who donated to the Booster Fund, it would not have been possible.



First Aid for Leaf Cuttings

by Paul F. Kröll • East Aurora, NY

Trial and error procedures have produced varied results for me with leaf cuttings that were carried many miles, many days, under many conditions, or all of the above. Finally, this year, I have stumbled on a system that works well for me. Try it! You may find it works for you.

Arriving home from the AVSC convention in Calgary, I had a medium-sized suitcase literally filled with leaves, crowns, and stem cuttings of African violets and gesneriads. I had frequented the sales room, and then received many gift cuttings from fellow exhibitors in the show and attending convention. Of course, I reciprocate these favors as often as I can. Many grower-friends have been helpful to me over the years, and I am merely passing it on.

After the length of time and varied conditions of travel that my cuttings endured, I found them in various stages of 'health': some slightly wilted, others turgid. What to do? All of them were in individual baggies, and I decided that I would utilize those temporary containers for one more step in the process. I mixed ten drops of Superthrive in a gallon of water. I took out the leaves and/or cuttings, and looked them over, removing any actual dead portions of growth or any leaves or parts of stems which were too far gone. A small amount of the Superthrive and water was added to the baggie, and a slice was taken off the petiole or stem of each cutting and quickly

placed into the baggie. The baggie was tilted on an angle so that the water was in one corner of it, and then a shoebox was tilted on an angle to compliment and accept the baggie and its cutting(s) intact. In this way, the original labeling and baggie were used again. I allowed the cuttings to rest and drink up overnight.

The next day I made the label(s) for each baggie's cuttings and prepared the pots of propagation mix to receive their cuttings. As each leaf and/or cutting was removed from its baggie, I washed it carefully in warm water and Eels Naptha soap. (Remember the old bar of brown soap our grandmothers used to scrub nearly everything?) I work up a lather with my hands and carefully wash each leaf, being certain to get the lather into the creases and crevices where the petiole joins the leaf. Stem cuttings with several leaves are given a good dunk and swishing around in the soapy water, since actual lathering would be a bit too tedious. I make no special claims for the Eels Naptha soap, but it seems to work well for me. Each leaf is rinsed in clear water and looks good enough to "eat"! A slice is made at the proper place, and the cutting is placed into its pot for rooting.

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada

**JOIN US IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FOR THE 57th ANNUAL
AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW
APRIL 20-27, 2003**



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email: bjabar@earthlink.net

At one time dinosaurs roamed the earth. There were big ones and little ones too. I also believe they came in different colors. Maybe pink, red, blue and maybe even multicolor. You get the idea of where I'm going with this? Of course you do.

Some of the older violets have suffered the same fate as the dinosaurs, never to be seen again. What to do?

What we can do is get off our duffs and get new people interested in our hobby. While that won't bring back the violets that are lost, it will keep what we have at the present. We must support our AVSA Affiliates! AVSA Inc. binds us all

Dinosaurs and Such

together. Without them there would be no Vintage Violets. You don't want to see me unemployed, do you?

My advice. Are you growing a Vintage Violet? Share it with your club members. If you do lose it, you can always replace it with a leaf from your friends. I have shared my Vintage Violet finds with my friends, commercial growers, and any one who is willing to keep them in circulation.

Lets not go the way of the dinosaurs. Save an old timer from distinction!

By the way, does anyone know the whereabouts of Bob Moshelle of Columbus, Georgia?

AVSA Most Wanted Vintage Violets

Abigail Adams	Fringed Charm	Meek's Katy Baby	Optimara Oregon	Singing Surf
Blue Peak	Garnet Elf	Millie Blair	Optimara Pennsylvania	Skagit Toy Asset
Celestial Butterfly	Granger's Candyland	Optimara Louisiana	Peak of Pink	Spring Mist
CoCo (Arndt)	LeHuer Bleu	Optimara Missouri	Rhapsodie GiGi	Vals Sweet Dreams
Fire Dance	Lady of Spain	Optimara Nevada	Rhapsodie Maria	Victorian Pink
Frank White	Lyon's Whisper Blue	Optimara North Dakota	Sailor Girl (Ulery)	

AFFILIATE UPDATE

Congratulations and welcome to new clubs in Texas, California and Russia:

Gulf Coast African Violet Society
President: Glen Kertz
3484 Pheasant Street
Orange, TX 77630-2044

Happy Trails African Violet Society
President: Millie Reavis
19670 Tonkawan Road
Apple Valley, CA 92307-5018

Saintpaulia Society of Russia
President: Natalia Audreeva
18 Shipok Street
Moscow 113093, Russia

New clubs are organizing in Georgia, Washington, New York, and Virginia.

Ruth Slane
431 Glenwood Drive
Thomasville, GA 31792
229-228-0422
ruthslane@juno.com

Kitsap African Violet Enthusiasts
Meets the third Saturday each month
Poulsbo Public Library, 10:30 a.m.

Dixie Mahaffie
Poulsbo, WA
360-394-2337
mahaffie@attbi.com

Vestal African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Fourth Sunday each month
Vestal Center United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall, 2 p.m.

Lee Stradley
1923 Cole Place, Vestal NY 13850
607-754-6236
lstradle@us.ibm.com

Front Royal, Shenandoah Valley
Third Monday each month
September through June, 7:00 p.m.

Members' homes
Richard Follett
111 South Funk Street
Strasburg, VA 22657
(540) 465 - 2976 • richfol@yaho.com

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from August 1, 2002 - September 30, 2002

<p>Jayne Wyckoff, Scottsdale, AZ \$20.00 <i>In memory of Amy Sue Leasure</i></p> <p>Central Florida AVS, Orlando, FL 25.00 <i>In memory of Suzy Johnson</i></p> <p>Georgene L. Albrecht, Oakdale, PA 10.00 <i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i></p> <p>AVS of South Bay, Redwood City, CA 25.00</p> <p>AVS of Hawaii, Kaneohe, HI 25.00</p> <p>Marvin K. Nester, Lakeland, FL 5.00</p> <p>Shelley Valladao, Folsom, CA 10.50</p> <p>Early Bird Violet Club, Birmingham, AL 25.00</p> <p>Margaret Weaver, Valencia, CA 10.00</p> <p>Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY 5.00</p> <p>Nancy Moore, Springfield, MO 10.00</p> <p>Adah R. Sutton, Columbus, OH 20.00</p> <p>LuAnn Christenson, Davenport, IA 10.00</p> <p>Emogene Bennett, Charlotte, NC 5.00</p> <p>Mrs. Max Krakofsky, Chelsea, MA 5.00</p> <p>Tatiana N. Kalgin, Moscow, Russia 20.00</p> <p>Late Bloomers AVS, Monroe, WI 15.00</p> <p>Evelyn E. Stein, Tracy, CA 10.00</p> <p>Millie Dellarco, Leesburg, FL 1.00</p>	<p>Amethyst AVC, St. Louis, MO \$10.00 <i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari</i></p> <p>Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE 10.00 <i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari</i></p> <p>Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX 20.00</p> <p>Long Island AVS, North Bellmore, NY 50.00 <i>In lieu of an honorarium to Paul Susi for a wonderful program</i></p> <p>Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA 25.00 <i>In memory of Oakley Murphy</i></p> <p>Lynda Poyer, Tucson, AZ 20.00</p> <p>Quad Cities AVS, Geneseo, IL 25.00</p> <p>Thelma Heinrich, Scottsdale, AZ 5.00</p> <p>New York State AVS, Albany, NY 5.00</p> <p>Sarah Opie, Callington, England 5.00</p> <p>Juanita Freeman, Altadena, CA 2.00</p> <p>Eloise Thompson, Blackburg, VA 4.00</p> <p>Grace M. Cross, Somerset, Bermuda 5.50</p> <p>AVC of Morris County, Morristown, NJ 10.00</p> <p>Dolores Harrington, Fridley, MN 10.00 <i>In memory of Faith Drewionka</i></p>
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TAKING YOUR PLANTS FOR A RIDE

by Sheila Walton

Have you ever stood a plant on the floor of your car and thought that it would be just fine?

Then, as you turn the first corner or have to suddenly put on the brakes, the plant falls over.

Obviously, we need to move plants in a manner which will keep them from falling over, as this will cause broken or damaged leaves and flowers, as well as making a mess of spilt potting mix. We also need to think about the environment and try to keep the temperature approximately the same as the plants are used to. A car on a hot day is not a good place for an African violet to be while you go on a shopping expedition or extended lunch! Similarly, the violet will not appreciate the hot or cold air from the car air conditioner blowing directly on it. The problems associated with heat and cold in a car are relatively easy to control. If you are able to have your car close to the door of your home, this could save the plants having to be carried through cold wind and rain or summer north wind.

Many of you have already experienced success by bringing your club project plants to a monthly meeting. When you first received them they were in a small pot and quite easy to stabilize, as leaves were not extending beyond the pot edges. They probably traveled in a small carton - perhaps a milk carton, or a margarine container. As your plants grew bigger, it was necessary to take more precautions.

Most plants can be transported quite easily and safely by the use of a cardboard box. The ideal size of the box depends on the size of the plant. A plant in a small pot may fit quite well into a pudding or soup mix box. Simply cut a hole in the center of the carton and place the pot in the hole. As your plant grows, the leaves will need more protection, so you may need to progress to a cereal box size. If your box is slightly bigger than the leaf span, your leaves should be safe, and the stability of the box will stop from tipping over. If you have a lot of plants to move, perhaps for selling at the club show and sale, you may find it easier to support each pot by loosely packing plastic bags or old sheets or towels around them. A collar (such as is used to support the leaves and aid with training of symmetry) is also useful. These can be cut from polystyrene sheeting or plastic covered paper plates. Several pots can be fitted into larger boxes by cutting holes to allow the pot to fit snugly, but allowing room for the leaves not to touch the next plant.

It may be necessary to pack something between boxes to prevent them from sliding about in the trunk of the car. Necessity is the mother of invention; with practice and experience you will find the best way to take your plants for a ride.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

Natural Controls To Manage Saintpaulia Pests

by Joshua McKinney • Goshen, KY

Insects and diseases affect anyone who grows *Saintpaulias*. Some will be fortunate and have few problems, while others will have collections infested with plant-eating pathogens. Large growers will use synthetic pesticides, miticides, and fungicides to control pests and diseases. For most violet enthusiasts, however, industrial-strength chemicals are caustic, impractical, and may inflict more damage on ailing *Saintpaulias* (S. Hodges, *Pest Treatments, AVM* 55:6 p. 59). There are some organic and biological controls that are more gentle to people, plants, and the environment.

Organic pest control

Insecticidal soaps work well for some infestations, but they can be smelly. Pyrethrin (derived from mums) is effective against many pests and is widely available. Another effective organic pesticide is Neem extract. If you're looking for a simpler control, just give your plants a sudsy bath in gentle dishwashing detergent solution (around two teaspoons soap to a gallon of warm water). An alternate recipe is to use 1/2 tsp. detergent to 1/4 tsp. vegetable oil to 1 qt. warm water (S. Hodges, *Pest Treatments, AVM* 55:6 p. 59). It will need repeating more than other sprays, but it usually works. If the insects are not established, a good warm spray from a hose will destroy them. Moreover, some growers use a hot water bath to destroy mites (Owens, *Zelda, How to Get Rid of Mites With Hot Water*, Nov-Dec '02). Since most *Saintpaulia* pests are soft-bodied, the pressurized water blast will remove the adults, leaving some eggs. Repeat this every two to three days until the pests disappear. If the dishwashing soap method seems appropriate for you, a quart-size mister with an adjustable nozzle will help spot spray any stragglers after a bath. Don't forget to rinse, or beneficial flora in the soil may be reduced.

Practice good grooming habits and pest problems will be easier to identify and neutralize. Never reuse dirty pots, labels, or other containers without sterilizing with hot soapy (1:2 ratio, such as one cup vinegar:two parts H₂O) vinegar water mixture. You can use another solution if you like, but please select a cleaning agent that is biodegradable. Space plants far enough apart to deter the spread of pests and diseases and to allow ample air movement. Take out any mushy or brown leaves and wash your hands between shelves if you suspect a fungal disease. Pick any spent bloom stalks and completely disbud if an infestation is severe. Any flowers that might open will be distorted and poorly shapen. The plant needs to be using its energy to fight off the infestation, not making flowers.

If you wick-water or use capillary mats, look for soil mealybugs. They love to hide in the reservoirs and spread to all your plants if they share a mat. If you see any bugs, remove the mat immediately and allow the plants to dry out. This will cause the little parasites to decrease in population. An excellent control for soil mealybug is diatomaceous earth. The potency of diatomaceous earth (DE) will be maximized if the soil is not wet. The soil mealybugs will be cut by the sharp edges of the fossilized diatoms and die from dehydration. Wear a mask and gloves when working with horticultural DE, as the particles can injure your respiratory system.

Controlling Fungal pathogens

If some of your *Saintpaulias* have more limp leaves than usual, put the plants in your isolation area and carefully remove all damaged leaves. Allow the plants to dry out and increase air movement. Spray with a sodium bicarbonate soap solution (1 tsp baking soda per quart with a few drops of dishwashing detergent to make it adhere to the leaves). Allow to dry and rinse clean before you repot the sick plants in a day or so. Powdery mildew (white powder on flowers and leaves that won't come off) can be easily controlled by increasing air movement, decreasing humidity, and applying a baking soda solution. Another fungicide to consider, from Sue Hodges, is 1 tablespoon hydrogen peroxide to a gallon of H₂O. Furthermore, some find sulfur dusting an effective treatment for powdery mildew, though I have never tried it. Sulfur control was discussed by Mary Alice O'Connor in the Nov-Dec 2002 *AVM*. To finish this topic, proper hygiene and good growing conditions will discourage fungi from bothering *Saintpaulias*.

Beneficial insects keep plants healthy

Some gardeners are aware of the huge appetite ladybird beetles (*Hippodamia* sp.) have for aphids. Also, the mantids are well known in gardening discussions. In this section, some lesser-known beneficials will be introduced.

Damsel bugs (*Nabis* sp.) will consume aphids as well as thrips. The mature insects are elongated and narrow with curved, sharp beaks. Damsel bugs are brown or beige and normally measure 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch. Moreover, minute pirate bugs (*Orius* sp.) feed on aphids and thrips. The adults have small heads and are minuscule in size, measuring about 1/8". These bugs have black shells with a curious white triangle design on their backs, and they also like to eat spider mites. Use only one bug on each plant for thrips control.

If whitefly infestations are driving you crazy, then whitefly predatory beetles, *Delphastus* sp., may help. These wonderful glossy black creatures prey on whiteflies at all stages of development. *Delphastus* are usually 1/16" long and take some time to establish themselves. Though their favorite is sweet potato whitefly, they will also eat other species. *Encarsia formosa* wasps are more likely to provide some sanity. They have black thoraxes, yellow abdomens, and black heads. The adult female wasps lay a single egg in a developing whitefly. As the the egg becomes larger, it kills the host. The adult wasp incises a circular hole and arises. Also, the 1/25" long adults eat young whiteflies. *Encarsia* wasps have sixty years experience with greenhouse whitefly control.

Mealybug destroyers, or *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, expeditiously consume ensconced mealybug infestations. These beetles have orange-red heads and black bodies approximately 1/8" long. The larvae imitate foliar mealybugs by using milky, cottony, and waxy camouflage. Such camouflage allows them to sneak into mealybug colonies undetected and efficiently gobble up the analogously smaller mealybugs. Place about four beetles per infected plant. They are not cold hardy and require warmer temperatures to

reproduce successfully.

Yet another control for mealybug, *Hewerobius*, or brown lacewing, mainly feeds on aphids. Additionally, a few eat scale insects (crawler stage) and foliar mealybug. These differ from the green lacewings in that they are much smaller and they eat insects as larvae and as adults. They are generally 3/8"-5/8" in size; furthermore, the larvae carry litter on their backs. A disguise of this kind furnishes an ingenious concealment from prey, plus avian predators.

There are many types of organic disease control for *Saintpaulias*. Employ organic sprays and biological controls in an integrated pest management plan for your violets. Take note that sprays usually need to be repeated to provide sufficient control, and biological controls will keep on working if conditions are right. Try organic sprays or a biological control (on a few plants at a time to discover an IPM program right for you) to manage pathogens on your violets. You will be happy you did!

Source on Beneficial Insects:

Good Bugs for Your Garden, Allison Mia Starcher. 1998. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.



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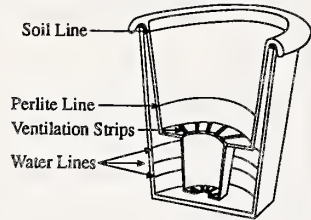
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2002 INDEX OF AUTHORS

- Albrecht, Georgene, A Family Portrait, Jan p 14; Mar p 8; May p 20; Jul p 14; Sep p 22; Nov p 22
- Barbi, Kenneth W., Washington 2002 AVSA Convention Show Entry Procedures, Jan p 9; You Need a TAX Break – AVSA Needs Your Laptops, Jan p 9; Washington, DC, Convention Parking and RV Parks, May p 9
- Bartholomew, Pauline, Propagating Suckers, May p 45; Fungus, May p 47; Grooming for Symmetry, Jul p 11; Air Circulation and Ventilation, Sep p 49
- Beaulieu, John, Don't Pollinate Strels Too Soon, Jul p 53; A New Idea for Name Tags, Sep p 26
- Beaver, Ina, Candied Violets, Jan p 45; Soil, Jan p 48; Streptocarpus, Mar p 52; Heat Could be the Problem, May p 39; Waking up the Tubers, Nov p 51
- Beck, Gary R., Preparing To Show Your African Violets, Mar p 19
- Berger, Shirley, AVSA Booster Fund, Jan p 54; Mar p 27; May p 21; Jul p 54; Sep p 49; Nov p 24
- Brigham, Allison R, Reverse Osmosis, Mar p 39; How Much Does Your Plant Hobby Cost?, May p 4
- Brownlie, Doris, Miniatures and Semi-Miniatures, Jan p 46
- Bruns, Janice, Registration Report, Sep p 38; Nov p 47
- Buck, Marlene, Boyce Edens Research Fund, Jan p 12; May p 13; Jul p 23; Sep p 9; Sep p 50; Nov p 24
- Bullard, Marjorie, Just in Time for the Holidays!, Nov p 54
- Buttram, David, 2002 Vacation Guide, May p 34
- Campbell, Ethel, A Visit to the Rain Forest, Mar p 26
- Carter, Carolee, Maximize Your Membership, Sep p 30
- Carter, Cathy, Moving Soon, Jul p 22
- Carter, Judith M., In Memoriam – J. C. Munk, Jan p 7
- Cash-Allison, Amy, Lessons Learned, May p 57; Recognizing and Correcting Light Problems, Nov p 30
- Cole, Dr., Charles, Thrips!, Mar p 54; Soil Mealybugs, May p 52; Foliar Mealybugs, Sep p 46
- Conlin-Lane, Carolyn, Potting Up Plantlets, Jan p 11; Separating the Plantlets, Mar p 34
- Cook, Barbara, My Method of Growing To Show, Jul p 49
- Cornibe, Al & Cathy, For Beginners, Jan p 6; May p 6; Sep p 6; Neglected African Violets? Sep p 6
- Corondan, Mary, "And The Winners Are...", Jan p 12; Mar p 21; May p 15; Jul p 34; Sep p 54; Nov p 43
- Corton, Sharon, The Vigor of the Young, Nov p 59
- Coulson, Ruth, Seeing the Light, Mar p 48
- Daugereau, Jenny, Office Update, Mar p 5; May p 5; Nov p 5
- Donsworth, Beverly, Care of African Violets in Spring, Mar p 18
- Eberhard, Charlotte C., Culture Tips for Micro-miniatures, Sep p 17
- Elkin, Barbara, Vintage Violets, Jan p 13; Mar p 42; May p 9; Jul p 23; Nov p 35; His and Hers?, Jan p 13; Many Thanks, Mar p 42; Travel Anyone?, May p 8; More Things Masculine, Jul p 23; Goose Eggs, Sep p 21; Soft Sell?, Nov p 35
- Follett, Richard, AV Vendors: Getting the Plants you WANT, Jan p 24; The Twelve Steps of AV Addiction, Mar p 24; My Favorite African Violet or Indiana Jones and the Violet of Doom, Jul p 48
- Ford, Jonathan, Streptocarpus – The Ideal Flowering Houseplant, Nov p 38
- Foster, Bill, Shows and Judges, Jan p 30; May p 51; Sep p 34
- Fredette, Irene, Leaves: Wonder Factories, May p 56
- Gardner, Sue, Foliar Feeding, Jan p 23; Light and Plants, Jan p 34; Crown Cuttings – How and Why?, May p 24; Points to Keep in Mind When Selecting a Miniature African Violet, Jul p 58; What's That Jumping in My Reservoirs?, Sep p 27; Avoiding Transplant Shock in Variegated Plants, Sep p 47; You Can Grow a Show Plant, Sep p 56; Providing "Happy Homes" For Your Plant's Roots, Nov p 23; Why We Should Use Light Potting Mix, Nov p 55
- Gay, John, How I Grow My African Violets, May p 48
- Gibson, Melissa, An Ounce of Prevention, May p 14
- Gimblet, Susan, Growing and Enjoying African Violets, Mar p 30; Growing Better Violets With Less, Nov p 58
- Godeny, Dr., Elmer, Survival of the Fittest!, May p 26; Louisiana Lagniappe, Jul p 39; Speakin' Cajun (Part 1), Jul p 44; (Part 2), Sep p 21; (Part 3), Nov p 27; Carnival Season and Mardi Gras (2003 Convention), Sep p 57
- Gordon, Gary, Container Gardening, Mar p 49
- Green, Bob L., The Qualities of Constructive Comments While Judging, Nov p 54
- Grieco, Ruth, Pot Maintenance, Jan p 49
- Halford, Joan, We Need Judges, Mar p 20; Rejuvenation, Sep p 48
- Hancock, Pat, A New Soil Additive For Your Soil, Jan p 31; Root Rot and/or Crown Rot, Jan p 39; How Can We Help AVSA Grow?, Jul p 27
- Hayes, Nancy, The Good News Is....., Jan p 5; Calling All AVSA Members – A Penny For Your Thoughts, A Prize For Your Deeds!, Jan p 54; Sep p 24; Who Would Be a Good Candidate for Officer or Board of Director for 2002-2003?, Mar p 44
- Hayston, Jean, The Trials of Reducing, Jan p 8
- Hertel, Gerard, The Conservation Status of '*Saintpaulia teitensis*' B. L. Burt (Taita African Violet) in the Forests of the Taita Hills, Kenya, Nov p 41
- Hodges, Sue, What's Blooming?, Jan p 19; Neem Oil, Jul p 20; Growing Violets from a Leaf, Sep p 42; Pest Treatments, Nov p 59
- Hoffman, Sue, Tips for Creating Blue Ribbon Underwater Flower Arrangements, Jul p 38; Sep p 4
- Holtzman, Sharon E., Practical Tips for Hybridizing African Violets, Sep p 18; "Know What You Grow", Nov p 52
- Hsu, Eric, AVSA Scholarship Recipient Essay, Nov p 9
- Huntley, Marge, How to Care For That New Plant, Sep p 24; Watering Methods, Nov p 45; Jiffy Pots, Nov p 51
- Jepsen, David, How Much Does Your Plant Hobby Cost?, May p 4
- Johnson, Sharon, Getting Started, May p 43; Summertime, May p 44; Through the Looking Glass, Sep p 58
- Kalgin, Vladimir, The First African Violet Show Sponsored by the Saintpaulia Society of Russia, Sep p 41
- Keating, Iris, Registration Report, Jan p 49; Mar p 27; May p 46; Jul p 55
- Knight, Kerry, Window Sill Growing, Mar p 26
- Kosowsky, Dorothy, Question Box, Mar p 6; Jul p 42; Nov p 14; Schedule for Success: Sixteen Weeks before the Show, May p 5; Time Table for Show, Jul p 5; Fertilizing the Show Plant, Nov p 52
- Kotliar, Margie, Fall Thoughts about Gesneriads, Sep p 50; Winter Thoughts, Nov p 53
- Landgren, Anna Jean, Tally Time 2001, Mar p 12
- Lawson, Floyd, AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets, Jul p 24; AVSA's Best Variety List for 2002, Nov p 44
- Levis, Pat, Mystery Solved – Welcome Resolution of a Baffling Problem, Jan p 22
- Lind, Keith, Powdery Mildew, Mar p 53; Pests, Mar p 55; Reproduction, Nov p 50
- Lipson, Neil, Specialty Plants – Chimeras and Sinningias, Jan p 52
- Manozzi, Nancy, Could I Have Mites?, Jul p 16
- Mbuthia, Kamau Wakanene, The Conservation Status of '*Saintpaulia teitensis*' B. L. Burt (Taita African Violet) in the Forests of the Taita Hills, Kenya, Nov p 41
- McCain, Dr., Hal, It's All About Sharing, Nov p 34
- McDonald, George, Father Art's Violets, May p 30
- McKinney, Joshua, Searching for Vigorous Violets, May p 19
- Moreno, Tina, The Wonderful World of Wasps, Jul p 41
- Myers, Joyce, Wicking My Little Ones, Jul p 30
- Nabors, John P., Building A Mobile From the Bottom Up, Nov p 48
- Nadeau, Ron, Saintpaulia Self-Pollination, Nov p 39
- Nelson, Lori Schaleen, Leaves of an Addiction, Nov p 20
- Nicholas, Anne, Annual Library Message, Sep p 44
- Nicholas, Richard, The Benefits of Disbudding, May p 43
- Nofziger, Cindy, Bored?, Nov p 21
- O'Connor, Mary Alice, More on Mildew, Nov p 59
- O'Meara, Laurie A. E., Violet Photos and ... Copyrights?, Mar p 46; How I Pack Plants for Shipping, Jul p 17; Growing and Healing, Therapy Through African Violets, Nov p 26
- Owens, Zeldia, How To Get Rid Of Mites With Hot Water, Nov p 31
- Paauwe, Bill, 2001 Annual Index, Jan p 61; Mar p 57
- Pershing, Barb, Information for African Violet Magazine Collectors, Jan p 8; Growing, Showing and Judging Saintpaulia Species, Part I, Mar p 38; Part II, May p 22; Part III, May p 23; What's In a Name?, May p 49; Some Thoughts on Starting Leaves and Separating Plantlets, Jul p 11; Six Months to Showtime! – What Should You Be Doing Now?, Nov p 19
- Promersberger, Bev, AVSA and Affiliates – Growing Together, Jan p 18; May p 18; Jul p 48; Sep p 16; AVSA Affiliates, Jan p 18; May p 18; Jul p 48; Sep p 16; Whose Club Is It?, Jan p 18; Burn Out?, May p 18; Make It Easier, Sep p 16
- Ress, Suzanne, Drying Flowers in the Microwave, Nov p 53
- Richards, Pat, Thinking Small, Jan p 50; Mar p 10; May p 54; Jul p 50; Sep p 14; Nov p 10
- Robinson, Dr., Ralph, Question Box, Jan p 26; May p 10; Sep p 10; Some Notes on African Violet Trailers, Mar p 16; Repotting African Violets, May p 38
- Robinson, Rob and Olive Ma, The Story of 'Bristol's Popsicle', Jan p 44
- Robitaille, Nancy, Fertilizers, Jan p 43
- Rosenzweig, Sharon, Baby, It's Cold Inside – How I Coped with the Power Outage Last Winter, Mar p 35
- Rourke, Edna, It's Our 5th Annual Luncheon Auction, Jan p 17; A Very Successful AVSA Auction, Nov p 8; It's Our 6th Annual Luncheon Auction, Nov p 13
- Rumsey, Ruth, Editor's Notes, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4
- Salatino, Cheryl, Pot Size, Jan p 31; Texas Style Potting, May p 50; Bleaching, Sep p 20
- Savage, Marge, Got E-Mail? Start a Club!, Jul p 57
- Schiff, Dr., Steven J., Selective Breeding, Nov p 18
- Schoen, Michael W., AVSA Scholarship Essay, Nov p 9
- Schreck, Carol, What's Your pH?, Mar p 41
- Seymour, Terri L., My First Time Exhibiting, May p 39
- Shaw, Carolyn, Our Friend Bill, (Memorial Poem), Sep p 13
- Shepherd, Doris, Portable Potting Center, Jul p 15
- Smith, Dr., Jeff, In Search of New Violets, Jan p 10; Mar p 14; May p 12; Jul p 12; Sep p 12; Nov p 12; Temperature Differences Between Shelves on a Light Stand, May p 16; Birthmarking, Jul p 9; Southern-Style Hybridizing of African Violets, Sep p 39
- Stork, Joyce, Expert Advice On Watering, Sep p 20
- Stork, Kent and Joyce, For Beginners, Mar p 22; Jul p 6; Nov p 6; Starting Violets from Leaves, Mar p 22; What Kind of Grower Are You?, Jul p 6; A Violet Grower's Wish List, Nov p 6
- Stride, Brenda, Turgor Pressure, Jan p 45; Through Novice Eyes, May p 41
- Taylor, Margaret, Adventures in Hybridizing, Jan p 20
- Thorogood, Kim, Propagating by Bloomstalk, Mar p 48; Flowers Past Their Prime, Jul p 41
- Townsend, Reg, Keep Them Warm, Sep p 42
- Trenholm, Renee, My Views on Fertilizer, Mar p 52
- Vinciguerra, Pat, The \$100 African Violet, Jan p 21
- Walbrück, Mary, AVSA Building Maintenance Fund, Jan p 13; Mar p 20; May p 17; Jul p 31; Sep p 27; Nov p 11
- Walker, Laura, Mat Watering, Jan p 38
- Walton, Sheila, Growing for Sale, Jan p 42
- Watkins, Libby, Sowing African Violet & Gesneriad Seed, Nov p 46
- Werness, Barbara, Reservoirs, Mar p 44
- White, Jenny and Pete, Hybridizing Our Way, Mar p 45
- White, Jenny, Where Do Your Violets Perform Their Best?, Mar p 53; Growing Successfully for Show, Nov p 49
- Williams, Beverley, Lakeshore AVS Makes Soil, Jul p 26; Going To and Coming Home From the Show, Sep p 52
- Wilson, John E. (Jack), President's Message, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3; Nov p 3
- Womack, Mickey, Who Can Be a Judge's Clerk?, Jul p 52
- Wright, Alma, Thirteen Dos and Don'ts for African Violets, Jul p 13

2002 INDEX OF TITLES AND SUBJECTS

- \$10,000 FOR 10,000, Jul p 51; Sep p 4
Achimenes, Sep p 50
ADDITIONAL 2002 CONVENTION AWARDS, Hoffman, Sue, Mar p 5
ADVENTURES IN HYBRIDIZING, Taylor, Margaret, Jan p 20
Affiliate Insurance, Mar p 4; Mar p 5; Nov p 5
Affiliates, Jan p 18; Mar p 34; May p 18; Jul p 48; Jul p 57; Sep p 16
AFRICAN VIOLET MASTER LIST OF SPECIES AND CULTIVARS, 2002 SUPPLEMENT,
Nov Sup, p A-1
AFRICAN VIOLET, THE \$100, Vinciguerra, Pat, Jan p 21
AIR CIRCULATION AND VENTILATION, Bartholomew, Pauline, Sep p 49
Air Circulation, Jan p 50; Sep p 49
AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION, Gibson, Melissa, May p 14
"AND THE WINNERS ARE...", Corondan, Mary, Jan p 12; Mar p 21; May p 15; Jul p 34;
Sep p 54; Nov p 43
ANNUAL INDEX, 2001, Paauwe, Bill, Jan p 61, Mar p 57
ANNUAL LIBRARY MESSAGE, Nicholas, Anne, Sep p 44
ATTENTION ADVERTISERS, May p 45
ATTENTION AFFILIATE CLUBS, May p 50
ATTENTION AFFILIATES, Mar p 4
ATTENTION ALL AFFILIATES!, May p 19
ATTENTION CLUB PROGRAM CHAIRMEN, (Library Requests), Nov p 5; Nov p 48
ATTENTION: INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS, Jan p 5
Auction, Jan p 17; Jan p 19; Nov p 8; Nov p 13
AV VENDORS 101: GETTING THE PLANTS YOU WANT, Follet, Richard, Jan p 24
AVOIDING TRANSPORT SHOCK IN VARIEGATED PLANTS, Gardner, Sue, Sep p 47
AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES, Carter, Judith M., Mar p 56
AVSA AFFILIATES, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 18; Mar p 34; May p 18; Jul p 48; Sep p 16
AVSA AND AFFILIATES – GROWING TOGETHER, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 18; Mar p 34;
May p 18; Jul p 48; Sep p 16
AVSA AWARDS, 2002, Jul p 46
AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES, 2002, Jan p 16
AVSA BOOSTER FUND, Berger, Shirley, Jan p 54; Mar p 27; May p 21; Jul p 54; Sep p 49;
Nov p 24
AVSA BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND, Walbrick, Mary, Jan p 13; Mar p 20; May p 17;
Jul p 31; Sep p 27; Nov p 11
AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP, Jan p 5
AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE, Mar Sup, p A-1
AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Lawson, Floyd, Jul p 24
AVSA JUDGES, AFFILIATES & COMMERCIAL MEMBERS – 2002, Sep Sup, p A-1; Nov p 5
AVSA Library Slides, Mar p 57
AVSA MOST WANTED (List), Jan p 13; Mar p 42; May p 9; Jul p 23; Sep p 21; Nov p 35
AVSA NATIONAL SHOW WINNERS, 2002, Jul p 10
AVSA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ESSAYS, Hsu, Eric, and Schoen, Michael W., Nov p 9
AVSA VISITS OUR NATION'S CAPITOL (Photos), Jul p 18
AVSA'S BEST VARIETY LIST FOR YEAR 2002, Lawson, Floyd, Nov p 44
AWARDS, 2003 – BEST OF THE BAYOU, Sep p 23
Awards, Jan p 15; Mar p 5; Jul p 44; Sep p 23; Nov p 21
BABY, IT'S COLD INSIDE – HOW I COPE WITH THE POWER OUTAGE LAST WINTER,
Rosenzweig, Sharon, Mar p 35
BENEFITS OF DISBUDDING, THE, Nicholas, Richard, May p 43
BEST AVM ARTICLE AWARDS, 2002, Sep p 7
Best Plant Arrangement, AVSA 2001, (Photo), Mar p 40
BEST VARIETY LIST (Send Your Choices for Year 2002), Jul p 24
BIRTHMARKING, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jul p 9
BLEACHING, Salatino, Cheryl, Sep p 20
Bloom Stalk Propagation, Mar p 48; Nov p 50
BORED?, Nofziger, Cindy, Nov p 21
"Boy" Foliage, Nov p 13
BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND, Buck, Marlene, Jan p 12; May p 13; Jul p 23; Sep p 9;
Sep p 50; Nov p 24
Broad mites, Jul p 16
BUILDING A MOBILE FROM THE BOTTOM UP, Nabors, John P., Nov p 48
BURN OUT?, Promersberger, Bev, May p 18
CALLING ALL AVSA MEMBERS – A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, A PRIZE FOR YOUR
DEEDS!., Hayes, Nancy G., Jan p 54, Sep p 24
CANDIED VIOLETS, Beaver, Ina, Jan p 45
CARE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SPRING, Donsworth, Beverly, Mar p 18
CARNIVAL SEASON AND MARDI GRAS (2003 CONVENTION), Godeny, Elmer, Sep p 57
Ceramic planters, Mar p 6
Charcoal, Nov p 17
Chimeras, Jan p 52
Chirita tamiana, Jan p 14
Chlorophyll, May p 56
Classification, Nov p 52
Cockroaches, Mar p 55
COMING EVENTS FORM, Jan p 4
COMING EVENTS, Jan p 47; Mar p 50; May p 31; Jul p 45; Sep p 51; Nov p 55
CONSERVATION STATUS OF *SAINTPAULIA TEITENSIS* B. L. BURTT (TAITA AFRICAN VIOLET)
IN THE FORESTS OF THE TAITA HILLS, KENYA, THE, Mbutia, Kamau Wakanene, and
Hertel, Gerard, Nov p 41
CONTAINER GARDENING, Mar p 49
CONTINUING SERVICE AWARD – JIM OWENS, Jul p 47
CONTINUING SERVICE AWARD – RUTH WARREN, Jul p 46
CONVENTION AWARDS, 2002, Jan p 15
Convention Awards, 2002, Jan p 15; Mar p 5
Convention Presentations, 2002, Mar Sup, p A-11
Convention Tours, 2002, Mar Sup, p A-5
Convention, 2002, Mar Sup, p A-1, May p 9; Nov p 54
Convention, 2003, Jul p 39; Jul p 44; Sep p 21; Sep p 57; Nov p 27
Copyrights, Mar p 46
COULD I HAVE MITES?, Manozzi, Nancy, Jul p 16
CROWN CUTTINGS – HOW AND WHY?, Gardner, Sue, May p 24
Crown rot, Jan p 39
CULTURE TIPS FOR MICRO-MINIATURES, Eberhard, Charlotte C., Sep p 17
DECAPITATION ISN'T MURDER, Jul p 21
Design, Jul p 38; Nov p 48
Disbudding, May p 43; Jul p 5; Jul p 6; Jul p 49
Dish Gardens, Mar p 49
DO YOU STERILIZE YOUR SOIL?, May p 30
Dolomite lime, Nov p 17
Dominant traits, Sep p 18
DON'T POLLINATE STREPS TOO SOON, Beaulieu, John, Jul p 53
DRYING FLOWERS IN THE MICROWAVE, Ress, Suzanne, Nov p 53
Dues, Sep p 35
EDITOR'S NOTES, Rumsey, Ruth, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4
Elements (fertilizer), May p 54
Episcia fimbriata 'Blue Heaven', Sep p 22
EXPERT ADVICE ON WATERING, Stork, Joyce, Sep p 20
FALL THOUGHTS ABOUT GESNERIADS, Kotliar, Margie, Sep p 50
FAMILY PORTRAIT, A, Albrecht, Georgene, Jan p 14; Mar p 8; May p 20; Jul p 14; Sep p 22;
Nov p 22
Fantasy flowers, Sep p 12
FATHER ART'S VIOLETS, McDonald, George, May p 30
FAVORITE TOOLS, Jul p 45
Fertilizer, Jan p 6; Jan p 43; Mar p 30; Mar p 52; Jul p 6; Jul p 49; Nov p 22; Nov p 23
FERTILIZERS, Robitaille, Nancy, Jan p 43
FERTILIZING THE SHOW PLANT, Kosowsky, Dorothy, Nov p 52
FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW SPONSORED BY THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF RUSSIA,
THE, Kalgin, Vladimir, Sep p 41
FIRST CLASS GETS NEW LOOK, Sep p 5
Fisher's Soil Formula, Jul p 27
FLOWERS PAST THEIR PRIME, Thorogood, Kim, Jul p 41
FOLIAR FEEDING, Gardner, Sue, Jan p 23
Foliar feeding, Jan p 23
FOLIAR MEALYBUGS, Cole, Dr., Charles, Sep p 46
FOR BEGINNERS, Cornibe, Al & Cathy, Jan p 6; May p 6; Sep p 6; Stork, Kent & Joyce,
Mar p 22; Jul p 6; Nov p 6
FUNGUS, Bartholomew, Pauline, May p 47
Gesneriads, Jan p 14; Jan p 44; Jan p 50; Jan p 52; Mar p 8; Mar p 52; May p 20; Jul p 14;
Jul p 53; Sep p 22; Sep p 50; Nov p 38; Nov p 51
GET YOUR VIOLETS READY FOR SUMMER, Jul p 45
GETTING STARTED, Johnson, Sharon, May p 43
"Girl" foliage, Jan p 10; Nov p 13
GOING TO AND COMING HOME FROM THE SHOW, Williams, Beverley, Sep p 52
GOOD NEWS IS.....THE, Hayes, Nancy, Jan p 5
GOOSE EGGS, Elkin, Barbara, Sep p 21
GOT E-MAIL? START A CLUB!, Savage, Marge, Jul p 57
GROOMING FOR SYMMETRY, Bartholomew, Pauline, Jul p 11
Grooming, Jan p 46; Mar p 19; Jul p 5; Jul p 6; Jul p 11; Jul p 49; Sep p 52; Nov p 19
GROWING AND ENJOYING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Gimblet, Susan, Mar p 30
GROWING AND HEALING, THERAPY THROUGH AFRICAN VIOLETS, O'Meara, Laurie A. E.,
Nov p 26
GROWING BETTER VIOLETS WITH LESS, Gimblet, Susan, Nov p 59
GROWING FOR SALE, Walton, Sheila, Jan p 42
GROWING SUCCESSFULLY FOR SHOW, White, Jenny, Nov p 49
GROWING VIOLETS FROM A LEAF, Hodges, Sue, Sep p 42
GROWING, SHOWING AND JUDGING SAINTPAULIA SPECIES, Part I, Pershing, Barb, Mar p 38;
Part II, May p 22; Part III, May p 23
Gypsum, Jan p 31
Haloing, Jan p 31
HEAT COULD BE THE PROBLEM, Beaver, Ina, May p 39
HIS AND HERS?, Elkin, Barbara, Jan p 13
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP – BILL LYONS, Jul p 46
HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP – ANNA JEAN LUNDGREN, Jul p 47
HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP – CAROL ALLEGRETTI, Jul p 47
HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP – LINDA GOLUBSKI, Jul p 47
Hormones, Nov p 23
HOW CAN WE HELP AVSA GROW?, Hancock, Pat, Jul p 27
HOW I GROW MY AFRICAN VIOLETS, Gay, John, May p 48
HOW I PACK PLANTS FOR SHIPPING, O'Meara, Laurie, Jul p 17
HOW MUCH DOES YOUR PLANT HOBBY COST?, Brigham, Allison & Jepsen, David, May p 4
HOW TO CARE FOR THAT NEW PLANT, Huntley, Marge, Sep p 24
HOW TO GET RID OF MITES WITH HOT WATER, Owens, Zeldia, Nov p 31
HUDSON AWARD FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP – PAUL F. KROLL, Jul p 46
Humidity, Jan p 7; Jan p 50; Nov p 7
HYBRIDIZING OUR WAY, White, Jenny and Pete, Mar p 45
Hybridizing, Jan p 10, Jan p 20; Mar p 14; Mar p 45; May p 12; Jul p 12; Sep p 18; Sep p 39;
Nov p 12; Nov p 18
IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES, May p 15
IN MEMORIAM – J. C. MUNK, Carter, Judy, Jan p 7
IN MEMORY – AGNES GRUD, Mar p 45
IN MEMORY – DENZEL ("DEE") PROBERT, Sep p 15
IN MEMORY – GEORGE L. LANDGREN, May p 55
IN MEMORY – IAIN W. PATERSON, SR., Sep p 15
IN MEMORY – JANE HILTZ, May p 55
IN MEMORY – LULU V. CROSSETT, Jan p 53
IN MEMORY – MARY LANKFORD, Nov p 55

IN MEMORY – OLGA MACLEAN, Mar p 45
 IN MEMORY – OPAL L. NUYANES, Jan p 53
 IN MEMORY – RALPH E. BREDED, Jan p 53
 IN MEMORY – RUBY O. ROLOFF, Jan p 53
 IN MEMORY – SUZY JOHNSON, Nov p 55
 IN MEMORY – THOMAS F. CIESLIK, Nov p 55
 IN MEMORY OF FRANK A. TINARI, Sep p 8
 IN SEARCH OF NEW VIOLETS, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jan p 10; Mar p 14; May p 12; Jul p 12; Sep p 12; Nov p 12
 INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES, Sep p 35
 INFORMATION FOR AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE COLLECTORS, Pershing, Barbara, Jan p 8
 Interpretive Plant Arrangement (Photo), May p 40
 Isolation, Jan p 6; May p 14
 IT'S A CELEBRATION! — TIME TO CELEBRATE YOUR FAVORITES!, Jul p 44
 IT'S ALL ABOUT SHARING, McCain, Dr., Hal, Nov p 34
 IT'S OUR 5TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON AUCTION, Rourke, Edna, Jan p 17
 IT'S OUR 6TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON AUCTION, Rourke, Edna, Nov p 13
 JIFFY POTS, Hutley, Marge, Nov p 51
 Judge's Clerks, Jul p 52
 Judges Handbook (change), Jan p 30
 Judging, Jan p 30; Mar p 20; Nov p 54
 JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!, Bullard, Marjorie, Nov p 54
 KEEP THEM WARM, Townsend, Reg, Sep p 42
 "KNOW WHAT YOU GROW", Holtzman, Sharon, Nov p 52
 LABEL, LABEL, LABEL, May p 47
 LAKESHORE AVS MAKES SOIL, Williams, Beverley, Jul p 26
 Lava Rock (Red), Jan p 31
 Leaching, Nov p 45
 Leaf Propagation, Jan p 6; Mar p 18; Mar p 22; May p 48; Sep p 42; Nov p 15; Nov p 59
 LEAVES OF AN ADDICTION, Nelson, Lori Schaleen, Nov p 20
 LEAVES: WONDER FACTORIES, Fredette, Irene, May p 56
 LESSONS LEARNED, Cash-Allison, Amy, May p 57
 LIGHT AND PLANTS, Gardner, Sue, Jan p 34
 LIGHT AND WATER, Mar p 15
 Light problems, Nov p 30
 Light requirements, Jan p 34; Jan p 46; Jan p 50; Mar p 15; Mar p 30; Mar p 48; May p 11; Jul p 6; Jul p 49; Nov p 6; Nov p 22; Nov p 30
 LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE, Godeny, Elmer, Jul p 39
 MAKE IT EASIER, Promersberger, Bev, Sep p 16
 MAKING YOUR OWN POTTING MIX, May p 17
 MANY THANKS, Elkin, Barbara, Mar p 42
 Master List #10 Corrections, Jan p 49
 MAT WATERING, Walker, Laura, Jan p 38
 MAXIMIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP, Carter, Carolee, Sep p 30
 Mealy Bugs, May p 52; Sep p 46
 Members (Photos), Jul p 18
 MEMORIAL DONATIONS – FRANK A. TINARI, SR., Sep p 9
 MINIATURES AND SEMI-MINIATURES, Brownlie, Doris, Jan p 46
 Minis and Semis, Jan p 46; Jan p 50; Mar p 10; Mar p 26; May p 54; Jul p 50; Jul p 58; Sep p 10; Sep p 14; Sep p 17; Sep p 52; Nov p 10
 MINUTES – AVSA ANNUAL MEETING, Sep p 17
 Mites, Jan p 22; Jul p 16; Nov p 31
 MOLD POTTING, May p 49
 Mold potting, May p 49; Sep p 49
 Moon Signs, Jan p 41; Mar p 31; May p 42; Jul p 56; Sep p 43; Nov p 56
 MORE ON MILDEW, O'Connor, Mary Alice, Nov p 59
 MORE THINGS MASCULINE, Jul p 23
 MOVING SOON, Carter, Cathy, Jul p 22
 "MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, THE", (Design Photo), May p 40
 MY FAVORITE AFRICAN VIOLET OR INDIANA JONES AND VIOLET OF DOOM, Follert, Richard, Jul p 48
 MY FIRST TIME EXHIBITING, Seymour, Terri L., May p 39
 MY METHOD OF GROWING TO SHOW, Cook, Barbara, Jul p 49
 MY VIEWS ON FERTILIZER, Trenholm, Renee, Mar p 52
 MYSTERY SOLVED – WELCOME RESOLUTION OF A BAFFLING PROBLEM, Lewis, Pat, Jan p 22
 Natural Garden, Mar p 49
 Natural Light, Mar p 26; Mar p 48; May p 11
 NEEM OIL, Hodges, Sue, Jul p 20
 NEGLECTED AFRICAN VIOLETS?, Cornibe, Al & Cathy, Sep p 6
 Nematodes, Mar p 55
 NEW ADDITIVE FOR YOUR SOIL, A, Hancock, Pat, Jan p 31
 NEW IDEA FOR ... NAME TAGS, A, Beaulieu, John, Sep p 26
 Nitrogen, Jan p 43; May p 54
 N-P-K, May p 54
 OFFICE UPDATE, Daugereau, Jenny, Mar p 5, May p 5; Nov p 5
 Our Friend Bill, (Memorial Poem), Shaw, Carolyn, Sep p 13
 Oyama Planters, May p 50
 Packing (plants), Jul p 17
 Perlite, Nov p 17
 PEST TREATMENTS, Hodges, Sue, Nov p 59
 Pests and Diseases, Mar p 55; May p 14; Nov p 59
 PESTS, Lind, Keith, Mar p 55
 pH PROBLEMS, Nov p 16
 pH, Mar p 30; Mar p 41; Nov p 16
 Phosphorous, Jan p 43; May p 54
 Photosynthesis, Jan p 34; Jan p 45; May p 56
 Phytochrome, Jan p 34
 PLANTING BY MOON SIGNS, Jan p 41; Mar p 31; May p 42; Jul p 56; Sep p 43; Nov p 57
 POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN SELECTING A MINIATURE AFRICAN VIOLET, Gardner, Sue, Jul p 58
 PORTABLE POTTING CENTER, Shepherd, Doris, Jul p 15
 Pot Maintenance, Grieco, Ruth, Jan p 49
 Pot size, Jan p 30; Jan p 46; Nov p 14
 POT SIZE, Salatino, Cheryl, Jan p 31
 Potash, Jan p 43
 Potassium, May p 54
 Pots, May p 41; May p 43; Jul p 6; Nov p 23
 POTTING MIX: WHY WE USE WHAT WE USE, Nov p 17
 Potting mixes, May p 27; Nov p 17; Nov p 23
 POTTING UP PLANTLETS, Conlin-Lane, Carolyn, Jan p 11
 POWDERY MILDEW, Lind, Keith, Mar p 53
 Powdery mildew, Mar p 53; Nov p 59
 PRACTICAL TIPS FOR HYBRIDIZING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Holtzman, Sharon C., Sep p 18
 PREPARING TO SHOW YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS, Beck, Gary R., Mar p 19
 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Wilson, John E. (Jack), Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3; Nov p 3
 PROPAGATING BY BLOOMSTALK, Thorogood, Kim, Mar p 48
 PROPAGATING SUCKERS, Bartholomew, Pauline, May p 45
 Propagation, Jan p 6; Jan p 11; Jan p 46; Mar p 18; Mar p 34; Mar p 48; May p 45; Sep p 19; Nov p 50
 PROVIDING "HAPPY HOMES" FOR YOUR PLANT'S ROOTS, Gardner, Sue, Nov p 22
 QUALITIES OF CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS WHILE JUDGING, THE, Green, Bob L., Nov p 54
 QUESTION BOX, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, Jan p 26; May p 10; Sep p 10; Kosowsky, Dorothy, Mar p 6; Jul p 43; Nov p 14
 Recessive traits, Sep p 18
 RECOGNIZING AND CORRECTING LIGHT PROBLEMS, Cash-Allison, Amy, Nov p 30
 Red-backed leaves, Jul p 9
 REGISTRATION REPORT, Keating, Iris, Jan p 49; Mar p 27; May p 46; Jul p 55; Bruns, Janice, Sep p 38; Nov p 47
 REJUVENATION, Halford, Joan, Sep p 48
 Remedial care, May p 26; Nov p 34
 REMEMBERING BILL LYONS, Sep p 13
 REPOTTING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, May p 38
 Repotting, Jan p 7; Mar p 6; Mar p 18; May p 10; May p 38; Jul p 6; Sep p 48; Sep p 56; Nov p 34
 REPRODUCTION, Lind, Keith, Nov p 50
 RESERVOIRS, Werness, Barbara, Mar p 44
 REVERSE OSMOSIS, Brigham, Allison R., Mar p 39
 ROOT ROT AND/OR CROWN ROT, Hancock, Pat, Jan p 39
 Root rot, Jan p 39
 Roots, Nov p 23
 SAINTPAULIA SELF-POLLINATION, Nadeau, Ron, Nov p 39
 Saintpaulia teitensis, Nov p 41
 Saintpaulia, Mar p 38; May p 22; May p 23; Nov p 41
 SATURDAY LUNCHEON AUCTION, Jan p 19
 SCHEDULE FOR SUCCESS: SIXTEEN WEEKS BEFORE THE SHOW, Kosowsky, Dorothy, May p 5
 SEARCHING FOR VIGOROUS VIOLETS, McKinney, Joshua, May p 19
 Seed pods, May p 12
 Seed propagation, Jul p 12; Sep p 12; Sep p 19; Nov p 12; Nov p 46
 SEEING THE LIGHT, Coulson, Ruth, Mar p 48
 SELECTIVE BREEDING, Schiff, Dr., Steven J., Nov p 18
 SEPARATING THE PLANTLETS, Conlin-Lane, Carolyn, Mar p 34
 SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH THE AVSA WEB SITE!, Mar p 11
 Shipping (plants), Jul p 17
 Show Plant Selection, May p 48; Jul p 49; Sep p 56
 SHOWS AND JUDGES, Foster, Bill, Jan p 30; May p 51; Sep p 34
 Sinningia pusilla, May p 20; Nov p 51
 Sinningias, Jan p 52; Nov p 51
 SIX MONTHS TO SHOWTIME! – WHAT SHOULD YOU BE DOING NOW?, Pershing, Barbara, Nov p 19
 Slide programs, May p 50
 SOFT SELL?, Elkin, Barbara, Nov p 35
 SOIL MEALYBUGS, Cole, Dr., Charles, May p 52
 Soil mix, May p 10; May p 27; Nov p 17; Nov p 55
 Soil Recipe, Jan p 48; Jul p 27
 SOIL, Beaver, Ina, Jan p 48
 SOME NOTES ON AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS, Robinson, Ralph, Mar p 16
 SOME THOUGHTS ON STARTING LEAVES AND SEPARATING PLANTLETS, Pershing, Barbara, Jul p 11
 SOUTHERN-STYLE HYBRIDIZING OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Sep p 39
 SOWING AFRICAN VIOLET & GESNERIAD SEED, Watkins, Libby, Nov p 46
 SPEAKIN' CAJUN (Part 1), Godeny, Elmer, Jul p 44; (Part 2), Sep p 21; (Part 3), Nov p 27
 SPECIALTY PLANTS – CHIMERAS AND SINNINGIAS, Lipson, Neil, Jan p 52
 Species, Mar p 38; May p 22; May p 23; Nov p 41
 Sphagnum Moss, Jul p 14; Nov p 17
 Sport, Jan p 26
 Sports and Mutants, Sep p 13
 SPRING/SUMMER TIPS, May p 14
 Springtails, Mar p 55; Sep p 27
 SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES, Mar p 17
 STARTING VIOLETS FROM LEAVES, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Mar p 22
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS, AVSA, INC. – MODIFIED CASH BASIS – DECEMBER 31, 2001, Sep p 35
 STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION, Nov p 56
 Stem rot, Nov p 15
 Sterilizing Soil Mixes, Jan p 7; May p 14; May p 30

STORY OF 'BRISTOL'S POPSICLE', THE, Robinson, Rob & Olive Ma, Jan p 44
 STREPTOCARPUS – THE IDEAL FLOWERING HOUSEPLANT, Ford, Jonathan, Nov p 38
 Streptocarpus 'Jamboree', Mar p 8
 Streptocarpus formosus, Nov p 22
 STREPTOCARPUS, Beaver, Ina, Mar p 52
 Streptocarpus, Jan p 44; Mar p 8; Mar p 52; Jul p 53; Nov p 22; Nov p 38
 Sucker Plucker, May p 45
 Sucker propagation, May p 45; Nov p 50
 Suckers, May p 45; Nov p 50
 Summer Care, May p 44; Jul p 45
 SUMMERTIME, Johnson, Sharon E., May p 44
 SUPERthrive®, Nov p 15
 SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!, Godeny, Dr., Elmer, May p 26
 Suspended arrangement, Nov p 48
 Symmetry, Jul p 11; Nov p 19
 TALLY TIME 2001, Landgren, Anna Jean, Mar p 12
 TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SHELVES ON A LIGHT STAND,
 Smith, Dr., Jeff, May p 16
 Temperature, Jan p 7; Jan p 46; Jan p 50; Mar p 30; Jul p 6; Sep p 10
 Terrariums, Mar p 49; Sep p 58
 TEXAS POTS, Jan p 39
 Texas potting, Jan p 39; May p 50
 TEXAS STYLE POTTING, Salatino, Cheryl, May p 50
 Therapy, Nov p 26
 THINKING SMALL, Richards, Pat, Jan p 50; Mar p 10; May p 54; Jul p 50; Sep p 14; Nov p 10
 THIRTEEN DOS AND DON'TS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS, Wright, Alma, Jul p 13
 THRIPS!, Cole, Dr., Charles, Mar p 54
 Thrips, Mar p 54; May p 21; Jul p 14
 THROUGH NOVICE EYES, Stride, Brenda, May p 41
 THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS, Johnson, Sharon, Sep p 58
 TIME TABLE FOR SHOW, Kosowsky, Dorothy, Jul p 5
 TIPS FOR CREATING BLUE RIBBON UNDERWATER FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS,
 Hoffiman, Sue, Jul p 38; Sep p 4
 TIPS FROM TEXAS, May p 51
 Tools, Jul p 45; Nov p 6
 TRAILERS, Jan p 53
 Trailing African Violets, Jan p 53; Mar p 16; Sep p 11; Sep p 52; Nov p 13
 Transplant shock, Sep p 47
 Transposons, Sep p 12
 TRAVEL, ANYONE?, Elkin, Barbara, May p 9
 TRIALS OF REDUCING, THE, Hayston, Jean, Jan p 8
 TURGOR PRESSURE, Stride, Brenda, Jan p 45

TWELVE STEPS OF AV ADDICTION, THE, Follett, Richard, Mar p 24
 Underwater Flower Arrangements, Jul p 38
 VACATION GUIDE, 2002, Buttram, David, May p 34
 Variegates, Sep p 47
 Vermiculite, Nov p 17
 VERY SUCCESSFUL AVSA AUCTION, Rourke, Edna, Nov p 8
 Video programs, May p 50
 VIGOR OF THE YOUNG, THE, Corton, Sharon, Nov p 59
 VINTAGE VIOLETS, Elkin, Barbara, Jan p 13; Mar p 42; May p 9; Jul p 23; Sep p 21;
 Nov p 35
 VIOLET GROWER'S WISH LIST, A, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Nov p 6
 VIOLET PHOTOS AND ... COPYRIGHTS?, O'Meara, Laurie A. E., Mar p 46
 VISIT TO THE RAIN FOREST, A, Campbell, Ethel, Mar p 26
 WAKING UP THE TUBERS, Beaver, Ina, Nov p 51
 WASHINGTON 2002 AVSA CONVENTION SHOW ENTRY PROCEDURES,
 Barbi, Kenneth W., Jan p 9
 WASHINGTON, DC, CONVENTION PARKING AND RV PARKS, Barbi, Kenneth W., May p 9
 Wasp flowers, Jul p 41; Nov p 12
 WATERING METHODS, Huntley, Marge, Nov p 45
 Watering methods, Jan p 6; Jan p 38; Jan p 46; Mar p 10; Mar p 30; Mar p 44; Jul p 6;
 Sep p 10; Sep p 20; Nov p 6; Nov p 45
 WE NEED JUDGES, Halford, Joan, Mar p 20
 WHAT IS THAT JUMPING IN MY RESERVOIRS?, Gardner, Sue, Sep p 27
 WHAT KIND OF GROWER ARE YOU?, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Jul p 6
 WHAT'S BLOOMING?, Hodges, Sue, Jan p 19
 WHAT'S IN A NAME?, Pershing, Barb, May p 49
 WHAT'S YOUR pH?, Schreck, Carol, Mar p 41
 WHERE DO YOUR VIOLETS PERFORM THEIR BEST?, White, Jenny, Mar p 53
 White flies, Mar p 55
 WHO CAN BE A JUDGE'S CLERK?, Womack, Mickey, Jul p 52
 WHO WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR OFFICER OR BOARD OF DIRECTOR
 FOR 2002-2003?, Hayes, Nancy G., Mar p 44
 WHOSE CLUB IS IT?, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 18
 WHY WE SHOULD USE LIGHT POTTING MIX, Gardner, Sue, Nov p 55
 Wick Watering, Mar p 44; May p 43; Jul p 30; Nov p 23; Nov p 45
 WICKING MY LITTLE ONES, Myers, Joyce, Jul p 30
 WINDOW SILL GROWING, Knight, Kerry, Mar p 26
 WINTER THOUGHTS, Kotliar, Margie, Nov p 53
 WONDERFUL WORLD OF WASPS, THE, Moreno, Tina, Jul p 41
 YELLOWING LEAVES, Mar p 7
 YOU CAN GROW A SHOW PLANT, Gardner, Sue, Sep p 56
 YOU NEED A TAX BREAK – AVSA NEEDS YOUR LAPTOPS, Barbi, Kenneth W., Jan p 9

2002 INDEX OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

ACA'S CURIOUS GEORGE – (Brownlie), Jul p 37
 ACA'S FLYING FREE – (Brownlie), May p 33
 ACA'S LITTLE CHAMP – (Brownlie), May p 36
 ALLIANCE – (Croteau), Mar p 37
 BLACKBERRY JAM – (S. Sorano), Nov p 28
 BLUE TAIL FLY – (Dates), Jul p 40
 BOGEYMAN – (R. Scott), Jan cover
 BUCKEYE BLITHE SPIRIT – (Hancock), Sep p 33
 BUCKEYE DAMASK ROSE – (Hancock), Mar p 33
 BUCKEYE DELICIOUS – (Hancock), Mar p 28
 BUCKEYE ELECTRIC DREAM – (Hancock), Jan p 32
 BUCKEYE INCOGNITO – (Hancock), Jan p 28
 BUCKEYE IRISH ROSE – (Hancock), May p 29
 BUCKEYE LOVE'S CARESS – (Hancock), Mar p 36
 CARNATION SPRINKLES – (Lyndon Lyon GH), Jan p 36
 COEUR CORAIL – (Croteau), May p 37
 DELIGHTFUL – (Swift), Nov p 37
 EPISCIA TEMISCAMINGUE – Jan p 36
 EVERGREEN'S SADIE LADY – (), Jul p 37
 FADING EMBERS – (Lyndon Lyon GH), Jan p 28
 FAIRY FOUNTAINS – (Tracey), Nov p 32
 FROSTED WHISPER – (R. Scott), Jan p 32; Sep p 28
 FUTURISTE – (Croteau), Jan p 29
 GUELPH'S CHRISTMAS – (Brownlie), Sep p 28
 JONATHAN – (Croteau), May p 32
 LOVELY WASP – (Dates), Jul p 40
 MA'S MIDLAND FANTASY – (Olive Ma Robinson), Sep p 29
 MAC'S SHANGRI-LA SERENDIPITY – (McDonald), Jul p 36
 MARK – (Maas), Jan p 33
 MERRILEE – (Haywood), Mar p 36
 MILKY WAY TRAIL – (J. Stahl), Jan p 37
 MISTER SOCIALITE – (P. Sorano), Sep p 32
 NESS' CANDY PINK – (Ness), May p 37
 NESS' HAPPY FRECKLES – (Ness), May p 28

NESS' MINI SOTA – (Ness), Jan p 29; Mar p 29
 NESS' ORANGE PEKOE – (Ness), Nov p 36
 NESS' SNO FUN – (Ness), Mar p 29
 OPTICAL ILLUSION – (P. Sorano), Nov cover
 OPTIMARA CHAGALL – (Holtkamp), Jul p 28
 OPTIMARA LITTLE AZTEC – (Holtkamp), Mar cover
 PINK PATTI – (Marie Burns), Nov p 29
 PINK SENSATION – (Lyndon Lyon GH), Mar p 32
 PONY RIDE – (S. Sorano), Jul p 32
 RAINBOW'S QUIET RIOT – (Wasmund), Jul cover
 RAMBLIN' LASSIE – (R. Brenton), Jul p 33
 RASPBERRIES 'N' CREAM – (G. Smith), Jul p 32
 REBEL'S CENTENNIAL STAR – (Bann), Jul p 28
 RED MOUNT FUJI – (Horikoshi/Kawakami), May p 28
 RHAPSODIE STEPHANIE – (Holtkamp), May cover
 ROB'S BEE BOOPSIE – (Ralph Robinson), May p 32
 ROB'S DANDY LION – (Ralph Robinson), Jan p 40
 ROB'S DOOHICKEY – (Ralph Robinson), Mar p 33
 ROB'S FIDDLE FADDLE – (Ralph Robinson), Nov p 28
 SAINTPAULIA GRANDIFOLIA #237, Jul p 29
 SAINTPAULIA PENDULA – Jan p 37
 SAINTPAULIA SPECIES MATHER #21, Sep p 32
 SANSOUCY' COCO – (Sansoucy), Sep p 29
 SANSOUCY' JULIE-MARIE – (Sansoucy), Mar p 32
 SEEDLING 9902WMR07 – (Olive Ma Robinson), Mar p 37
 SHADES OF BLUSH – (G. Smith), Sep p 36
 SINNINGIA 'MERRY CHRISTMAS', Nov p 33
 SINNINGIA CARDINALIS 'INNOCENCE', Sep p 33
 STRAWBERRY DAIQUIRI – (P. Sorano), Sep cover
 STRAWBERRY WAVE – (S. Sorano), Mar p 28
 STREPTOCARPUS 'BRISTOL'S PARTY GIRL', Jul p 36
 SUGAR BEAR BLUES – (Ness), Mar p 29
 SUPERMAN – (Champion), Nov p 32
 THE MARTIAN – (), Jul p 40
 TINY MOON GODDESS – (), May p 36
 WISTERIA – (Tinan), Sep p 37





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