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# American Violet

MAGAZINE

January • February 2006

Volume 59

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, 2002:

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 - \$38.75; Life (USA) - \$300.00. International Life \$375.00. 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 Adrienne Rieck, 20331 Harding Ave., Olympia Fields, IL 60461. *E-mail* annie97@aol.com.

**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.

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* avsa@earthlink.net.

**AVSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:** Dr. Elmer Godeny, 7004 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

**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 Susan Hapner, 35 Ridge Point Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017.

**COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

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**CONVENTION AWARDS:** Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Sue Hoffmann, 2809 Forest Hills Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23454-1236. *Email* avsaawards@cox.net

**CONVENTION PROGRAM:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Joyce Stork, Convention Director. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

**FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:** Minneapolis, MN - May 28-June 4, 2006. Denver, CO - May 20-27, 2007.

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**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.

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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.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. *E-mail* avmads@valornet.com.

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

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

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**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. *E-mail* robsviolet@aol.com and Sue Haffner, 3015 Timmy Ave, Clovis, CA 93612-4849. *E-mail* sueh@csufresno.edu

**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.

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

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667. *E-mail* janice@qwip.net

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

**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.

**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Meredith Hall, P. O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. *E-mail* mhall37@earthlink.net. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

**TALLY TIME:** Heather Menzel, 135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. *E-mail* hmenzel@erols.com

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**\$49 - 2 Years    \$73 - 3 Years**

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

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# African Violet

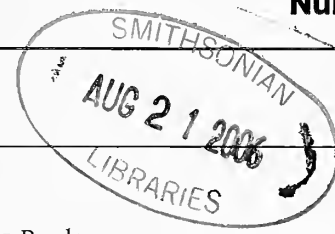
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**Optimara EverGrace**  
 Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman**  
 Hybridized by: **Holtkamp**  
 Standard

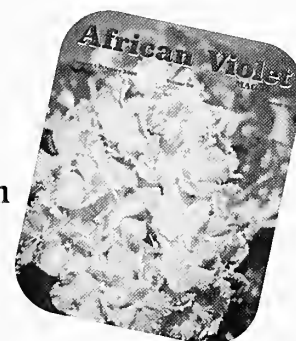


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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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



Dear AVSA Members,

What a difference two months can make! Two months ago in my column I talked about hurricane Katrina and what we could do to help the victims. Little did we know that hurricane Rita was going to hit our office with such a devastating blow (literally). For those who do not have internet access and have not been following the reports on the website, the office roof and some of the siding were damaged in the hurricane, resulting in further water damage on the inside to walls and floors. Before the Beaumont area was reopened, mold began growing in the walls and insulation. The roof has been repaired, but the office has been temporarily relocated until the rest of the repairs can be made. Because of the large amount of damage in the Beaumont area, this could take from several months to a year. There is a shortage of repair people to do all of the required work in the area. The office staff has been truly remarkable in their devotion to helping above and beyond their normal duties. Each of them had personal damage at their own homes, but they were willing to do the extra work at the office to see that our members were taken care of in spite of the damage.



When something like this happens, you find out two things. First, how good your insurance coverage is, and second, how much our members care about AVSA. When we put out the plea to our affiliates to help us meet our deductible on the insurance and to cover any other expenses not covered by the policy, I wasn't really certain of what the response would be. It has been really heartwarming to see the checks coming in. Sometimes when you're doing all of this work for the organization, you can't help but wonder if anyone cares, but I have found out that you do. All of you are very special to me.

The Executive Committee met this fall at the Lone Star Convention in Corpus Christi. We were able to accomplish all of our work while enjoying a beautiful show and fabulous weather. Thanks to all who made the convention so enjoyable for us.

Now that the holidays are over, our thoughts turn to our spring shows. While the weather is cold and snowy, I spend more time in my plant room. I'm working very hard to have both show and sale plants this year, and I hope that all of you are doing the same. It's amazing how just a little consistent care can produce many good, sturdy plants. It's also amazing that, even if neglected for short periods of time, our little plants can be very forgiving and still turn out well. Good luck to everyone in your spring shows. Be sure to save a few good plants to bring to Minneapolis.

Good growing and showing.

Linda Owens  
President, AVSA

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey  
*AVM Editor*  
2375 North Street  
Beaumont, TX 77702  
*Email: rrumsey@earthlink.net*

## Recovering From Hurricane Rita

I apologize for the lateness of the November/December AVM. I appreciate all of your patience and understanding.

The AVSA office has relocated temporarily, but we aren't sure for how many months. With the extensive damage to our building, and the lack of contractors available in the area, we have no way of knowing how long the repairs may take.

Although things are gradually getting back to normal in Beaumont, the lack of contractors, reliable roofing companies, and carpenters is felt throughout the area. It's been over three months since the storm, and the debris piles are getting smaller, but there are still blue tarps on roofs all over the county.

Our new office space is located two blocks away from our building on North Street, in a lovely stucco office with a red tile roof. The main work area, where the office staff addresses your membership needs, is large and airy with plenty of light through deep windows. My office is across the hall, a cozy space in which to work.



*AVSA's Temporary Home*

Remember that all of our phone calls and mail have been forwarded to our new quarters.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of your response to this disaster. When the word was out that our office had been damaged so extensively, the donations began to arrive.

On the next page, see the first listing of donations made by our members to help AVSA recover. If you have made a donation and do not see your name listed, it will

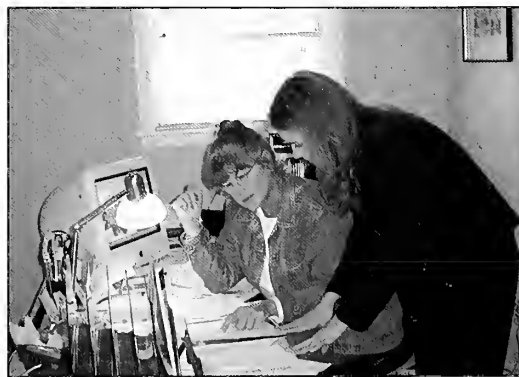
appear in the next issue of the AVM. Susan Hapner, our AVSA Building Maintenance Fund Chairman, has been working non-stop to get this information organized for publication in this issue of the *African Violet Magazine*.



*Secretary Amy Sanders*



*Office Manager, Jenny Daugereau*



*In the Editor's Office*

Susan also asked me to share a letter with you (on page 19). It's another example of the kindness, caring, and concern that the AVSA membership has shown.

# AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

## Hurricane Rita Repair Fund

Susan Hapner, *Chairman*

### Donations Received – 1 October to 30 November 2005

Alpha AV Society . . . . .	\$100.00	Lakeshore AVS of Toronto . . . . .	\$100.00	First AV Society of Wichita Falls . . . . .	\$10.00
New York Council of AV Judges . . . . .	102.00	Stephanie Jeffrey . . . . .	25.00	<i>Memory of Christine Strange and</i>	
Karyn Cichocki . . . . .	130.00	<i>Non Club Member</i>		<i>Patricia Reynolds</i>	
Tidewater AV Society . . . . .	35.00	Hans Inpijn . . . . .	200.00	Desert Sun AV and Gesneriad Society . . . . .	100.00
<i>Sharon Long in Lieu of</i>		<i>Memory of dear wife – Everdina</i>		<i>Memory of Ethel Champion</i>	
<i>Kathryn Hedgepeth Speaker</i>		Ethel Spurlin . . . . .	25.00	Mary and Tom Ryan . . . . .	25.00
Christel Collier . . . . .	20.00	1st AVS of Spartanburg . . . . .	500.00	Omaha AV Society . . . . .	250.00
AV Council of Florida . . . . .	1000.00	Stampede City AV Society – Canada . . . . .	450.00	Out of Africa/Gary Mikita . . . . .	50.00
First Lakeland AVS . . . . .	100.00	Sylvia Taub . . . . .	75.00	Emerald Necklace AVC . . . . .	70.00
Fran Ratte . . . . .	20.00	Amethyst AV Club – St. Louis . . . . .	50.00	Tampa AV Society . . . . .	500.00
<i>Thank You to AVS Denver Chapter</i>		Florrie Kohn . . . . .	20.00	Moonlight AV Society . . . . .	50.00
Columbus AVS . . . . .	100.00	Carolyn Burr . . . . .	20.00	CINTI AV Society . . . . .	50.00
Burbank AVS . . . . .	25.00	North Star AV Council . . . . .	150.00	Late Bloomers AV Club of WI . . . . .	25.00
Martha & Byron Turner . . . . .	25.00	Jill Malarz . . . . .	10.00	Quad City AV Society . . . . .	188.00
<i>Memory – Mary Stallings</i>		Edith Brooks . . . . .	10.00	Linda Zink . . . . .	10.00
1st AVS of Dallas . . . . .	100.00	Metro St. Louis AV Council . . . . .	250.00	L. L. Christenson . . . . .	25.00
Ruth Wheeler . . . . .	25.00	<i>In Lieu of Local Show Awards</i>		Shirley Poole . . . . .	20.00
Charles M. Dow . . . . .	100.00	Virginia Hamilton . . . . .	10.00	Celia Schafer . . . . .	10.00
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Meredith Hall . . . . .	50.00	<i>Treasury from Disbanded Club – Sharon Miles,</i>		Barbara Ellison . . . . .	25.00
Ohio State AVS . . . . .	100.00	<i>Lynn Woodward, Stephanie Duncan</i>		Kathy Norton and D.T. Wyatt . . . . .	50.00
MO Valley AV Council . . . . .	500.00	Lincoln AV Society . . . . .	100.00	Mueller's Greenhouses, Inc. . . . .	100.00
Linda Golubski . . . . .	25.00	Richmond AV Society . . . . .	150.00	Bay State AVS/MA . . . . .	500.00
Joan Baker . . . . .	50.00	Tri-State AV Council . . . . .	200.00	Union County Chapter AVS/New Jersey . . . . .	154.00
AV Club – Burlington County . . . . .	15.00	Tri-State AV Council . . . . .	15.00	Violets by Appointment	
Lieu of Speaker Fee – J. Riemer		<i>In Lieu of Judges Fee</i>		Bill & Kathryn Paauwe . . . . .	50.00
Barbara Conrad . . . . .	10.00	Robert Clark . . . . .	75.00	AV Club of Morris County New Jersey . . . . .	200.00
Jackie & Maurice Jones . . . . .	150.00	Capital District AVS . . . . .	100.00	Dr. Bill Price . . . . .	300.00
Union County AVS – New Jersey		Donna Christianson . . . . .	100.00	Bakersfield AV Society California . . . . .	100.00
<i>Lieu of Speaker Fee – Bob Kurzynski</i>		Triangle AVS . . . . .	200.00	Albuq. AV Club New Mexico . . . . .	100.00
Susan Hall Gimblet . . . . .	50.00	Elizabeth Meadows . . . . .	10.00	AV Swap Buddies . . . . .	200.00
Holly Walker . . . . .	25.00	Claude Norton . . . . .	25.00	<i>Memory Denise Showalter</i>	
Tidewater AVS . . . . .	18.00	Audrey Hawthorn . . . . .	25.00	Sandy & Frans Officer . . . . .	100.00
Carol Van . . . . .	25.00	<i>Honor of Ella Kiesling, Friend and Mentor</i>		Anna Jean Landgren . . . . .	100.00
Carol Brown . . . . .	25.00	First Nighter AVS . . . . .	50.00	Ultra Violet Club/Colorado . . . . .	30.00
Adrienne Topping . . . . .	20.00	<i>Memory of Mary Stallings</i>		Heidi Helbring . . . . .	25.00
Long Island AVS . . . . .	25.00	GS AVS/New Hampshire . . . . .	100.00	Lynn Lombard . . . . .	100.00
Gail Podany . . . . .	100.00	Central Arkansas AV Society . . . . .	50.00	Fantasy Violet Club/Florida . . . . .	100.00
Mid-America AVS . . . . .	50.00	Betty W. Ferguson . . . . .	25.00	Ellen Bloomfield . . . . .	260.00
Carlsbad AVS . . . . .	25.00	Milwaukee AV Society . . . . .	50.00	Galina Puzyreva . . . . .	35.00
June K. Doran . . . . .	25.00	Wisconsin Council of AVSA . . . . .	500.00	Igor Milekhin & Irina Shchedrine . . . . .	100.00
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Carolee Carter . . . . .	10.00	<i>Memory of Paula Foster</i>		Nevskaya Fialka Club . . . . .	35.00
Patricia Ragan . . . . .	25.00	<i>Memory of Dear Friend</i>		Irina Kabanova . . . . .	20.00
Morgan F. Simmons . . . . .	50.00	<i>Mary Stallings</i>		Saintpaulia Society of Russia . . . . .	300.00
Shirley Berger . . . . .	25.00	AVS of Springfield, PA . . . . .	100.00	Joan Van Zele . . . . .	5,000.00
Anonymous . . . . .	250.00	Tustana AV Society . . . . .	200.00		
Linda Budes . . . . .	20.00	Central Jersey AV Society . . . . .	100.00		
Sho-Me AVC . . . . .	40.00	Irene P. Merrel . . . . .	100.00		
Reno – Sparks AVS . . . . .	300.00	Garden State AV Club/NJ . . . . .	100.00		
Sharon Kemp – Heather Eakins . . . . .	40.00	Trudy Brekel . . . . .	100.00		
<i>Contribution from NY State AVS Show</i>		Adrienne Rieck . . . . .	1000.00		
Janet Riemer . . . . .	50.00	AV Society of Minnesota . . . . .	100.00		
Windsor AVS . . . . .	75.00	AV Society of Pensacola . . . . .	100.00		
Sharon Rowe . . . . .	10.00	Mile High Violet Society of Colorado . . . . .	10.00		
Doreen Cesari . . . . .	25.00	Ms. Sam McKenna . . . . .	100.00		
Mary Boland . . . . .	100.00	Judy Shaw . . . . .	10.00		
Nelly Levine . . . . .	20.00	Margery Clive . . . . .	25.00		
Vladimir N. Kalgen . . . . .	1000.00	Marjorie Bullard . . . . .	25.00		
Anna Jean Landgren . . . . .	100.00	OVAl . . . . .	25.00		
Maggie Levy . . . . .	30.00	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Thurman . . . . .	50.00		
Capital City AVS – Sacramento . . . . .	1000.00	Ruth Wheeler . . . . .	100.00		
High Hopes AVS of Atlanta . . . . .	100.00	Freida Gibson . . . . .	30.00		
NYS AV Society, Inc. . . . .	500.00	First AV Society of Wichita Falls . . . . .	25.00		
Irwin Wagman . . . . .	100.00	Sue Ramser . . . . .	50.00		

**TOTAL as of 11/30/2005 . . . . . \$23,984.55**

Dear AVSA Members,

The evidence of your generosity and concern is shown by the very long list of contributions. All of your AVSA representatives realize that the rebuilding of our office is possible because of all of our faithful members. THANK YOU!

If your name does not appear in this listing, be assured that it will appear in the March/April AVM. Acknowledgements are on their way!

**Susan Hapner**

Chairman

AVSA Building Maintenance

# A Family Portrait

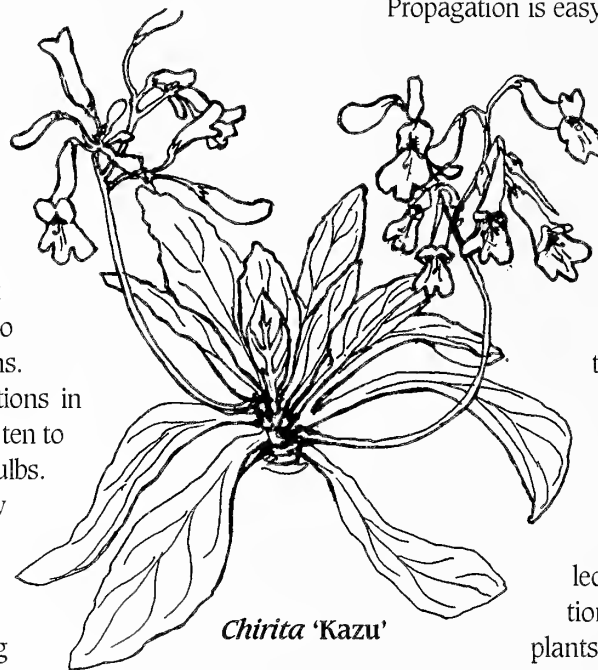


**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071  
Email: georgena@verizon.net

*Chirita* 'Kazu' (chih-REE-tah) is a glorious plant. Sorry to say that I could not find the primary cross or the name of the hybridizer. This is a must-have. There are never less than twelve flowers on each stem. The flower stems in my illustration are somewhat distorted because they were formed to fit inside the clear plastic dome under which it was grown. This is a fabulous plant to grow if you have dry and cool conditions. Most *Chirita* are found at high elevations in Asia. They like about ten hours of light, ten to twelve inches under two fluorescent bulbs. They aren't really fussy, and the first few I grew were "killed with kindness". Do not over-water them and do not over-fertilize them. They also seem to like small pots and very much resent being repotted. They are almost succulent-like.

The *Gloxinian* published a fabulous issue in the second quarter of 1998 that was devoted to them. On page fourteen John Boggan wrote a great description of many species and varieties, and there are lots of color photos of chiritas. By the way, the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society is now The Gesneriad Society, and the publication is *Gesneriad*. This information was from an e-mail group but is close to what I can remember.

The blooms of *Chirita* 'Kazu' are very vibrant dark lavender with yellow stripes in the white throat. On the inside bottom of the two top lobes are deep spots of copper. What a chipper bloom because the copper and purple are complimentary colors on the color wheel. Foliage is a plain green, unlike the fancy leaves that have silver markings. If you want to grow one with these markings, try finding a *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'.



*Chirita* 'Kazu'

Propagation is easy by rooting a leaf. Don't allow water to stand on the cutting; keep it dry and in a very light rooting medium like perlite. Our advertisers Lyndon Lyon, Belisles, Rob's, and others sell them. Be aware that some chiritas are annuals; that means that they just grow and bloom once. Ask about the varieties you purchase or grow from seed. Right now, September, I have six of them in bloom at the same time. They are the plain green foliage, the fancy leaved ones having bloomed earlier.

## FOR STREP LOVERS

These are notes from a remarkable lecture David Thompson gave at convention. He brought fabulous show and sale plants. We are enjoying his new hybrids to the hilt. There are about 130 species of *Streptocarpus* found on Madagascar, Thailand, and eastern Africa. Flowers come from the lower stems of new leaves.

**PROPAGATION** is done by taking the tip of younger leaves and inserting them in a light rooting medium. He does not remove the midrib, and he inserts sideways. Keep moderately moist. Too much moisture will cause rot. Leave some air flow in the enclosed growing container. In three weeks you should have roots, and in six weeks you will have plants. Plants emerge only from the leaf veins.

The largest **GROWING** mistake is over-potting. If they are pot-bound, they bloom well. He starts out with a 2.5 inch pot and moves to a 4 inch squatty pot when blooming.

A squatty pot is also called an azalea pot. These plants like to bloom too early so pinch off the flower stalks until the plant has at least four leaves. More leaves mean more flowers. Cut off long leaves so you get more leaves and then more flowers.



He uses the same medium, any light mix, in all pots. Growing under four tube fixtures will give you massive bloom. Two tubes is okay, but you will get few flowers. So, they need a lot more light than African violets. If leaves are shaded, the bloom recycle will be longer. Keep natural light on them if you can. Lots of light means they will recycle bloom in a shorter time. It takes two weeks for the flowers to open once you see them emerge from the stem. If you have no buds forming at the base, the leaf is not getting enough light. Too much light will bleach. Each leaf will produce about 6 to 7 flower stems. When these have finished blooming, remove the leaf at the base.

When **REPOTTING** remove all but the three youngest leaves. Cut them down to about six inches. Remove all but a few roots and pot them up, watering from the top with rain water, if possible. Keep just barely moist, cover lightly, and in three weeks you will have new roots. When propagating use only the youngest leaves, never old ones.

**WATERING** should be kept to the minimum. Dry is much better than over-watering. Don't wick. Put all plants in the same size pots in trays. Water the tray. Exception is when the plants have been newly potted up, then water from the top only. If you see salts at the top of the soil, repot. **AIR MOVEMENT** is very important. Keep fans night and day.

**FERTILIZE** every watering with one-eighth to one-fourth teaspoon per gallon. He likes Miracle Gro. Babies should always be watered with rain water. If you can, water everything with rain water. No 'Texas potting' should be used. If you have lime green leaves, your light is too low. Change potting soil every four months at the least. If you have many growths on a show plant, use a six inch squatty pot and disbud until one month before the show. Remember, he uses four tubes.

There is no determined number of flower stalks to each leaf. If a leaf stops blooming, it is done and will never send up new leaves. Remove it and trim other leaves. This forces new leaves to emerge. When potting up baby plants, never put more than one growth in a two inch pot.

Streps are very lenient when it comes to **TEMPERATURE**. Do not worry about high or low temperatures for short periods of time. They prefer 80 to 50 degrees. Under or above these temps, they will not grow at all. 50% **HUMIDITY** is great. Water the 2.5 inch pots a lot when it is hot. He does not grow the doubles because they cover the handsome stripes in the throat.



# Annual Luncheon Auction

Edna Rourke  
99 Old Stratford Road  
Shelton, CT 06484-6129  
203-926-9716  
*Email: Apapillon@aol.com*

## A special request to all of our members, hybridizers, and affiliates

Can you believe it – this will be our 8th AVSA Luncheon Auction! We will be holding our luncheon on Friday, April 22nd and as always we need your help. We had a wonderful auction last year and with your continued help and generosity it will be even more exciting this year. Our success is a tribute to the many generous donations of our members, hybridizers and affiliates.

Many of our affiliates have a great deal of talented craftsmen who have donated items to the auction - will you again consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming

auction? Hybridizers - donations of newly introduced plant material and or supplies is one of the highlights everyone looks forward to seeing and would be most appreciated. Donations of anything violet related of a rare, unique or unusual nature would gratefully accepted.

If you plan to make a donation or want to help in some way, please let me know as soon as possible. I'll look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks for you help and continued support – it really makes all the difference. See you in Cincinnati!

## The Violet Barn

Due to the chaos of putting a magazine together while dealing with a hurricane, The Violet Barn's ad did not change before the covers were printed. Please find the new, 2006 ad on page 56. Use this new ad when ordering your plants in 2006.

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary J. Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN - Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: **Lucile Roske**, Rebel's Ambrosia, Rebel's Valiant; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lyon's June Bug, Ness' Firefly, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Standard: Rebel's Rose Bud, **Terry Klemesrud**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Dolores' Chantilly Lace, Antonia, Amy Lynn, **Dolores Harrington**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Rob's Gray Ghost; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Bud's Lonesome George; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Kathy Lahti**. Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Ruth Bann**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Blue Moon', **Janice O'Neill**. Best Design, **Donna Tobin**.

**MILWAUKEE AVS, MN - Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Rebel's Flaming Star, Optimara Chagall, **Bonnie Henell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kev's Freckle Face, Powwow, Rebel's Splatter Kake; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Ness' Satin Rose, Thunder Surprise; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rainbow's Quiet Riot; Best Semiminiature: Thunder Surprise, **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Rob's Bo Peep, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter, **Arlene Garvens**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Mickey Eberle**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Orchid Lace', **Darlene Schillinglaw**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Mengsol**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alice Peterson**.

## Gifts to Family and Friends

by Marie Montague

How many times has a friend or family member asked you for one of your violets, and it's just not a good time? Either standards are too large for a novice to grow, or they lack bloom because they've been disbudded in preparation for show. Small standards can take forever to bloom, and people become discouraged. Minis and semi-miniatures, which are known to sucker, turn really nasty looking if not groomed.

Trailers are the perfect solution because they tend to bloom frequently, they don't have to be continually repotted, and suckers are a "wonderful thing." When selling plants, I often recommend trailers for the very young and old because they are so easy to grow.

Recently, when breaking up a really large trailer, which I had no desire to grow again, I was curious to see exactly how many crowns there were. When I broke the plant apart, there were 36 good-sized crowns (over 27 small crowns were tossed). Rather than potting up each crown for sale, I decided to pot up 6 of the larger crowns in 6 available small pan pots. Each small pan pot was clearly marked "cannot be shown" and will gift without name label to make sure plant cannot be shown.

Viola! Three months later, after a little bloom boosting, there are 6 pots with pretty pink blooms to gift to family and friends.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Commercial Showcase/Horticulture Plus*

*2005 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Gary S. Mikita*

*Out of Africa*

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
*Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu*

The questions in this month's column came from the members of several internet discussion groups on African violets. My supply of questions had run dry, and the membership graciously responded to a request for more questions.

One question, however, caught me by surprise. The question was "What is the hybridizing effort that you've enjoyed the most?" This was almost as bad as asking someone "Which kid is your favorite?" How do you make such a choice?

The hybridizing effort that I finally chose was when I was trying to understand the inheritance pattern of mosaic variegation and determining how to use that pattern to hybridize plants with coral red flowers on mosaic foliage. If my models were correct, it would take two generations to achieve this goal and even then the probability of getting the correct combination was very low. I didn't get many seeds or seedlings out of the cross and was resigned that probability was against getting the desired plants. Much to my delight, two seedlings with mosaic foliage bloomed with coral red flowers. The seedlings were later released as 'Genetic Carmine' and 'Genetic Rose'. The results of two years of work supported the models, making the final outcome very enjoyable indeed.

**Q:** *Do African violets tend to mutate or sport more than other plants, or do we just notice them more when it happens?*

**A:** I think the answer is probably a combination of both a high frequency and careful observations by growers. It's difficult to calculate an actual "rate" for mutations and sports for a plant, but African violets certainly do seem to produce a large number of sports compared to other plants. I think there may be two reasons for this: 1) African violets are a relative new genus of plants (as shown by DNA studies) and are still evolving into species rapidly. 2) New African violet plants

start from single cells in the epidermis or skin tissue of the leaf petiole. Single cells can have their DNA changed easily by random events, and the result would be a sport.

The history of African violets, especially since the late 1940's, has focused on finding something "new". Many important traits such as double flowers, girl foliage, and pink flowers were found among the plantlets on rooting leaves in greenhouses. Sometimes these sports were thought to be attractive, and growers have selected for these traits. The result has been many new traits for hybridizers to work with.

**Q:** *I have seen the phrase "coral blue" in some of your articles and at least one hybridizer uses the term in their descriptions. What exactly is coral blue and what does it look like?*

**A:** The flower pigment work I did a number of years ago showed that the blue color of the species plants was due to a pigment that had 2 methyl groups (-CH<sub>3</sub>) and 2 sugars on the carbon backbone. Fail to add one -CH<sub>3</sub> group and the color becomes "red". Fail to add both -CH<sub>3</sub> groups and the color becomes "pink". The addition of each -CH<sub>3</sub> group is controlled by a separate gene. If the gene works, then the -CH<sub>3</sub> group is added. This is the genetic dominant form of the trait. Failure to work is the genetic recessive.

The coral family of colors has the same pattern in the -CH<sub>3</sub> groups, but differs in that the coral pigments fail to put one of the sugars on the carbon backbone. Coral (coral pink) is the same pigment as "pink" in that it lacks both -CH<sub>3</sub> groups, but coral also lacks the second sugar.

Coral red is the same as regular "red" in that both lack one -CH<sub>3</sub> group, but coral red lacks the second sugar. At the time, I hypothesized that the pattern should continue with "blue" and produce the coral family equivalent which I called "coral blue". After searching through some likely candidates,

I was finally able to document that the blue pigment in the coral family of colors, "coral blue" does exist. As predicted, coral blue has both -CH<sub>3</sub> groups the same as regular blue, but lacks the second sugar.

Lacking the second sugar tends to change the visible color by making the color more "red" especially when placed in natural sunlight. Coral blue and regular blue look very much the same under regular fluorescent lights. However, when you put them under sunlight, incandescent lights, or gro-lux lights, you'll see a red "glow" in the coral blue flowers. The difference is subtle, but if you know what you're looking for it's visible.

The main reason for labeling a plant as "coral blue" is that the failure to add the second sugar is a genetic recessive. A coral blue plant crossed with coral or coral red will produce all coral family offspring. If your hybridization goal is plants with coral family colors, having an identified coral blue plant can be very useful.

**Q:** *In hybridizing, does it make a difference which plant is used as the seed parent and which is the pollen parent?*

**A:** The only time it makes a difference is in working with variegated foliage. To get variegated offspring, you should use the variegated plant as the seed parent. This type of inheritance is called maternal inheritance because the trait is passed on only through the female parent. All other traits, as

far as I know, can be inherited through either seed or pollen parent. However, plants with full double flowers have converted all of the stamens and pollen into the extra petals. You would probably need to use these plants as the seed parent since they rarely produce pollen and are essentially male sterile.

**Q:** *Would two good show plants be likely to pass on this ability to their seedlings?*

**A:** Yes, two plants that have good show characteristics are much more likely to pass their traits on to their offspring compared to plants that lack these traits. Breeding "best with best" is always a good hybridization scheme. This is one of the reasons it's a good idea to watch which plants consistently win in shows; they make good parents for the next generation.

**Q:** *Some plants with fantasy flowers seem to be more consistent in producing fantasy flowered babies than other plants. Would this kind of relative stability in the fantasy trait be passed on to seedlings?*

**A:** The fantasy trait is caused by pieces of DNA called jumping genes moving around on the chromosomes. Some of the places on the chromosome they land in are more stable than others. If a fantasy plant is showing a good stability in producing fantasy offspring, I would think the trait could be passed on to the seedlings as well.



## AVSA College Scholarship



It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce the guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship, available for the fourth year. The award is for \$500 to \$1000 which may be used for tuition, books, or fees.

- Applicants should be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program or in a graduate program of an accredited University or College.
- Applicants should be majoring in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.
- Applicants should have a minimum "B" average and completed at least 24 semester or quarter hour credits by the beginning of the spring, 2005 semester.

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

Applications can be downloaded from the AVSA web site, [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org), or may be ordered from the AVSA Office: AVSA Scholarship Application, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

Application deadline is March 1, 2005. All completed applications should be sent to:

**Dr. Elmer Godeny**  
11473 Denham Rd.  
Gonzalez, LA 70806.

***Hector***  
*Exhibited by:*  
**Anne M. Nicholas**  
*Hybridized by: H. Pittman*  
*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

***Tea For Two***  
*Exhibited by: Dale Martens*  
*Hybridized by: H. Dornbusch*  
*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Newtown Grape Suzette*

*Exhibited by: Mary Martin*

*Hybridized by: S. Holtzman*

*Large*

# 2006 AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES



## ***For Director - Bill Price***

I have grown African violets since I was about twelve years old, when I took over caring for our family's couple of plants. Soon afterwards, a friend's mother gave me some unknown 'double purple', and the love affair began in earnest! Growing up on the harsh Canadian prairies encouraged my love for indoor gardening at an early age.

I have been a member of AVSA for eight years and a life member for seven. Since attending my first AVSA convention in 1999, I was hooked and have been to every one since then.

In addition to being a member of our local club, the Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society (where I have served in various roles, including President), I belong to the Lakeshore African Violet Society, the Toronto African Violet Society, the New York State African Violet Society, the Toronto Gesneriad Society, and the AGGS.

After completing my medical and specialty training, I relocated to Vancouver, British Columbia, where I have lived for twenty-eight years. As a Psychiatrist, I specialize in treating developmental delays including Autism and in treating people who have experienced childhood emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. And in order to keep up my energy for watering my plants, I train in competitive running and triathlon.

Growing these beautiful plants is such a pleasure, as is meeting and talking with all the marvelous people who share this passion. Sharing our experiences as well as our plants makes it all worthwhile!



## ***For Director - Phyllis King***

I was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. My husband Richard and I have five wonderful children. I studied art for many years while my children were in school. My hobbies are many. In my spare time, I love working with dollhouse miniatures and making all kinds of miniature plants using a one inch scale.

My husband retired from AT&T in Shreveport, Louisiana, before moving to Florida in 1990. Shreveport is where I really became interested in growing violets and joined Top Choice African Violet Society. After moving to Florida, I then joined the Upper Pinellas African Violet Society, African Violet Council of Florida, and the Gesneriad Society.

I have been President of Top Choice African Violet Society in Shreveport, Upper Pinellas African Violet Society, and Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society. I served four years as President of the

Florida Council. I have won seventeen Best in Show, twenty-two Second Best in Show, and fourteen Best in Design. I have had a total of twenty-one Best Standard AVSA Collections and fourteen Semiminiature collections. Growing violets has brought a lot of joy into my life and has given me the opportunity to meet many wonderful people who have encouraged me to share this joy with others. Teaching my growing technique to others and watching them develop their skills and become successful growers is my best accomplishment. I love working with new members in both growing and designs.

I am now serving as president of Upper Pinellas AVS again for a second term of office.



## ***For Director - Kathy Bell***

My first interest in African violets came when I was ten years old. On one side of my fifth grade school teacher's classroom were windows, and she had them full of violets. For a class project we each had to take leaf from the plant we liked and put it in a little pot and put our name on it. We kept them in the classroom, and when summer came and school was out, we got to take them home. The babies had come up from the leaves by then. Well, mine didn't make it once I took it home. So I guess not a great start!

Both of my grandmothers lived in Saint Joseph, Missouri, and always had violets in a window, in large clay pots, and the plants had necks. Of course, then I didn't know what a neck was.

When I was eighteen, I moved to Dallas, Texas, to go to college. I had a favorite plant store where I bought plants, and they had violets. That is when the trouble began! Before I knew it, I had twenty or thirty violets and a plant light. Seven years later, I decided to move back to Tucson, Arizona and had to leave all my house plants behind, including my violets.

Once back in Tucson, I bought a few violets at Kmart. Then one weekend I was at the mall and there was a violet show and sale, and that's when the trouble began again! I went to the sales for two or three years before I joined the club, and that's when I got into BIG trouble! When I joined, I thought I would get one of every violet that there was and maybe learn something about them and get out. Well, I didn't have any idea that there were thousands of violets, and I am still learning. I now have hundreds of violets.

I have been in the club since 1991 and joined AVSA shortly after that. My first position in the club was Treasurer, then Vice President, then President. I have been the Show Chair for our shows more times than I can remember as well as for the Convention Chair for the AVSA National Convention in 2004.





**For Director - Marge Savage**

Coming from two families to whom growing things were a source of beauty and fulfillment, I have placed great value on and derive much pleasure from flowers, wild flowers, plants, and trees. Like many of you, I saw my first African violet when my mother brought the first one into the house during the late 1940s.

During most of my adult life, I would buy, try, and the violet would die. Around Mother's Day 1990, I had just "retired" and was swishing past a display of African violets at K-Mart. I picked up 'O. Trinidad' and 'O. Maui'. Determined that these would NOT die, I bought a Sunset Book to get started on the right track. It worked! The book also listed the address of the national organization. So, in 1993 I joined AVSA.

African violet people are great people! The spring of 1995, my mother passed away. After spending five solid weeks working with her estate, my husband Tom knew I needed a break and took me to our first AVSA Convention in St. Louis. I talked to Joyce Stork - from the magazine! I bought my first trailer from Margery Clive. I bought leaves from Richard Nicholas at breakdown. And I listened and listened to everything these people had to say about these beautiful, therapeutic plants.

Since then, our African violet collection has grown to three

light carts in a room that was once the "grandbabies' room." We try to attend and support each AVSA Convention, helping here and there when we can. We felt attendance at the 2002 Washington DC Convention was particularly important. Now, after the hurricanes of 2005, we feel an urgency to continue supporting AVSA in active, positive ways.

And to think - someone thinks we can be of some service to AVSA and its Board. This is icing on the cake! Thank you.



**For Director - Cindi Nofziger**

I have been a member of AVSA for about 20 years and have attended four conventions. I have been a member of three local clubs and have held the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary in the Woodland-Davis Club which is now defunct, President, Vice President, and Secretary in the Capital City African Violet Club, and have become a member of the Delta Gesneriads Club this past year. I have also taken the judge's exam and am now a student judge.

I have worked in the capacity of an Administrative Assistant with the University of California, Davis, for the past twenty-one years, the last eleven years in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology.

**AVSA Auction**

Thank you seems so inadequate a phrase to give to the many generous donors, auction staff, and successful bidders who made our Auction in Cincinnati such a great success. In fact, it was so successful that we had to add a silent auction on Saturday to it. My thanks to each and every one of you. With your support, we made over \$7,000. We couldn't have done it without you.

Special thanks to our auctioneer, Jack Wilson, and his assistant Bill Price. They always make our auction fun, lively, and interesting. To our auction staff - Charlene Boyce, Alice Easter, Libbie Glumbocki, Elmer Godeny, Laurel and Winston Goretzky, Beverly Promersberger, Barbara Pershing, and Roger Wheeler, my gratitude for your help and support; to Ruth Rumsey, our AVSA Editor, and to Jenny Daugereau, our AVSA office manager, who have helped all year long as well as recorded, collected, and kept track of all the bidding, my heartfelt thanks; and last but not least, very special thanks go to Charlene Boyce and my husband Al - for their tireless help behind the scenes all year long.

To our many generous donors: Georgene Albrecht, Shirley Berger, Lillian Blanchik, Sue Ann Blackmon, Charlie Bollar, Audrey Bryant, Marjorie Bullard, Barbara Burde, Nancy Carr, Carol Lee Carter, John and Judy Carter, Jan Davidson, Alice Easter, Barbara Elkin, Elsa Ezell, Foot Hill

AVS, Agatha Garrison, Elmer Godney, Linda Golubski, Libbie Glembocki, Gwen Goodship, Joan Halford, Ovella Hall, Joan Hill, Pat Hancock, Dave Harris, Nancy Hayes, Sue Hoffman, High Hopes African Violet Club, Kazuo Horikoshi, John Houser, Jackie Jones, Sherlene Jones, Vladimir Kalgin, Sharon Kemp, Jo Kirby, Lynn Lombard, Lauretta McElwain, Dale Martens, Gini McCanne, Shirley Mitchell, Bill and Kathryn Paauwe, Barbara Pershing, Hortense Pittman, Bill Price, Fran Ratte, Janet and Donald Riemer, Rob and Olive Robinson, Sylvia Sagert, Margaret and Tom Savage, Celia Schafer, Anatoly Skryabin Paul Sorano, Catherine and David Thompson, Anne Tinari, Felicia Troup, Steve Turner, Pat Vinciguerra, Roger Wheeler, Pat Wilson, a huge thank you for your generous donations - we couldn't have done it without you.

To all of our successful winning bidders, thank you for your support. Without your enthusiasm and generosity, this auction wouldn't have been possible.

**Edna Rourke**

99 Old Stratford Road  
Shelton CT 06484  
203-926-9716  
Apapillon@aol.com



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*Cupid's Kiss, Ness' Cranberry Swirl,  
Ness' Crinkle Blue*

Exhibited by: **Beverly Williams**

# Show Plants From Soup To Nuts

by Beverley Williams • Mississauga, Ontario

Not all plants are show plants! Some you grow simply because you enjoy them.

When you are thinking about which plants to grow for show, consideration must be given to the characteristic of the plants that you are growing. Some varieties do not make good show plants. Sources to look at are the lists of winners in the African Violet Magazine and Chatter. Another to check is the list of 'Best Varieties'. You will notice that the same varieties usually show up on both, but there are always exceptions, and new ones to try. If you are going to enter into AVSA Collection classes the plants you select must be AVSA registered. For AVSC Collection classes in addition to being AVSA registered, they must also be hybridized by a Canadian.

Once you have decided on the plants you want to grow for show, you will want to start leaf cuttings in time. From the leaf cutting to large show plants can take up to two years. If you start leaf cuttings in the fall, they probably will be show worthy the following fall or spring.

When you select the individual plantlet to grow on from your leaf cutting, look for a strong, healthy plantlet that shows even growth. The young plantlet should have leaves that are even in size and form a cross and are showing a nicely developing leaf pattern. Start these young plants in a pot that is about 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Too large a pot will force the young plant to try to fill it with roots and the leaves will not develop well. As the plant grows remove the smaller 'baby leaves' which are no longer needed. These leaves tend to be smaller than the newer permanent leaves and usually have light green stems.

If you are starting a trailer, pinch out the center crown to encourage branching.

## Potting Up

In large standards, generally you need to 'pot-up' to the next size of pot (from a 2 inch pot) when the plantlets have a leaf span that extends 2-3 inches over the rim of the pot. Potting up to the next size takes no time at all if you use the 'mold' method.

Using a pot of the same size as the plant to be 'potted up', centre it into the larger pot. In this example that pot would be a 4 inch pot. Place some soil under the smaller pot to bring the finished soil level even with the rim of the pot and then fill in around the sides, firm slightly and remove the smaller pot. Don't firm up the soil too much because compacted soil does not allow the roots to penetrate. You now have a 'mold' that the plant can be placed into. Place the plant from the smaller pot into the hole created in the 'mold'. Make sure that the area around the root ball is covered and slightly firmed removing large air pockets. Add more soil if needed. Water sparingly for

a few weeks. Repeat this procedure as the plants grows to the desired size.

For miniatures and semiminiatures, you will not need to 'pot-up' so this step is not necessary.

## Watering, Fertilizer & pH

Consistence in watering is extremely important. Put yourself on a schedule and keep it! Mark your calendar with your watering days and don't miss them. Your plants will thank you for it. I water every 4 to 5 days. If it is too hot, you will have to water more frequently, cooler, then less often. Everyone's conditions are different.

Use lukewarm water and fertilizer every time you water to encourage even growth and flower production. Check your pH. If your pH is too high or too low it will affect how your plants will use the nutrients that you give them. Adjust as needed; vinegar will bring down your pH easily. Inexpensive testing kits (used for fish aquariums) are available from your local pet store.

Watch out for water softeners as they contain salt that is extremely harmful to your plants. If in doubt, test it.

Use a fertilizer that is designed to be used for violets. Check the numbers. 12-36-14 will promote bloom. A balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20 is good for African violets and gesneriads and will give even growth and encourage a good root system. Fertilizers with a higher middle number encourage bloom, but be careful if you use 5-50-17 because your plants will show the difference in culture and grow larger leaves over the older ones. Yes, it will give you a great head of bloom, but, it will also give your plants the appearance of tight centers if used too long.

## Lighting, Air Circulation, Temperature, And Humidity

If you are using the common 1.5-inch diameter (T12) cool-white fluorescent lamps or a combination of coolwhite/warm-white fluorescent lamps and transformer-type magnetic ballasts you will need to have your lights on for 10 to 14 hours. Generally, about 12 hours is the norm, but to encourage bloom before show, you can have your lights on for up to 14 hours. More than 14 hours will cause leaves to turn yellow, and the centers of the plants to close up.

I use high-efficiency 1-inch (T8) lamps with electronic ballasts and find that I get the same results with less hours of operation. Generally 10 hours is plenty. During the summer months when I am not getting plants ready for shows, I decrease the number of hours my lights are on. All my lights are controlled by a timer.

During the winter months, having your lights on at night when you go to bed (and turn the temperature down) will keep

your plants warm and cozy. A small heater may be necessary to keep your temperature regulated in the cooler months.

Use small circulating fans to help keep the air moving around your plants and help to prevent mildew. It also contributes to keeping the temperature under control. Some gesneriads prefer cooler temperatures, so they go on the bottom shelves, others warmer, so on the top shelf. Monitor the temperature in individual areas with the lights on and off. One of my small fans runs all the time, the other goes off when the lights go off. Even with the air conditioning on, it gets in the low 80's under the lights. If you don't have air conditioning in the hot months, you might try having your lights on during the cooler evening hours instead.

Here's a secret: The higher the humidity, the cooler the temperatures, the larger the blooms.

Try to keep your humidity around 50% if possible. I don't have any trouble with this one because during the summer the humidity where I grow my plants is never lower than 50%. It even gets as high as 70% and the plants love it, but it is not so great for the furniture and carpets. Use of a dehumidifier keeps it under control in the summer.

During the winter the humidity generally stays consistent around 50%, but drops lower during the colder spells. This is when the mildew hits. Increase the humidity with the use of a humidifier. Water in trays under your plants will also do the same thing. A hygrometer will give you an accurate humidity reading and some will also display temperature. They are worth the investment.

### **Disbudding**

Disbudding is the removal of all blooms and buds on plants which encourages them to produce a flush of bloom for show. This can be done for a period of time or a short time. Generally it is a good idea to allow young plants to bloom to make sure that they are true to the variety. Then if you wish, you can disbud until allowing them to bloom for the show. They will put all their energy into growing leaves instead, but watch out for those suckers! I would not recommend this for miniatures or semiminiatures as you will get huge plants that will have to be 'chopped back'.

Depending upon your conditions, stop 8 to 6 weeks before the show. If your conditions are hot, 6 weeks will be long enough. But, some plants take longer to come into bloom than others, knowing the variety will help determine which ones take longer. There are plants that should never be disbudded as they take forever to bloom.

You can sometimes help them along. If they are coming along too quickly, reduce the amount of time your lights are on each day. Try to get the temperature down to slow the blooming. If they are not blooming fast enough, turn your light up to encourage bloom opening. Raise the pot closer to the lights.

Every year is different, even the outside temperatures come into the mix. Somehow, the plants know when it is warmer outside and will bloom too quickly, other times they

never seem to get going. A couple of warm days can bring them on.

### **Grooming**

On grooming alone, I could write a book. It is so important and can make the difference between Best in Show and a blue ribbon.

Remove all the spent and faded blooms, even tired ones. Make sure to trim the bloom stalks carefully back to the stems with a small, sharp pair of scissors. Arranging bloom stalks around the plant carefully to distribute the bloom gives a more pleasing appearance. Try to do this when your plants are a little bit on the dry side to prevent breaking the bloom stalks. Keep your fingers away from the blooms. They can bruise the blossoms or, even worse, break them off. Use tweezers instead.

Check the symmetry. Small plastic stakes can be used prior to the show to gently move leaves into a better position. They must be removed before the show. Make sure that all 'baby leaves' are removed, unless if doing so will create a gap. In that case leave it there. Better to lose a few points for a 'baby leaf' than more points for a gap. Remove yellow leaves if possible.

### **Ask yourself some questions:**

Is my plant centered in the pot? Try moving your plant in the pot to a more central position.

Does my plant have a neck? If it needs to be removed from the pot, and the root ball cut down, do it. This should be done a couple of weeks before the show if possible to allow your violet to readjust. If it is a small neck, you can push down around the crown and then tidy up with some soil.

Is my plant in proportion to the pot? If the plant is too large for the pot, put it into a larger pot. If the plant is too small for the pot, put it into a smaller pot. The pot should be about 1/3 the size of the plant, except for small miniatures which must touch the sides of the pot.

Are my plants the correct size? Miniatures cannot be any larger than 6 inches in diameter. Semiminiatures cannot be any larger than 8 inches in diameter.

Does my trailer have at least three crowns?

Is my pot clean? Make sure that it is. Also remove the nametag for the show and put your name and the plant name on the bottom of the pot. Remove all plant stakes or leaf supports as well.

Does my plant have an insect infestation? If so leave it at home!!!! Please don't share it with your other violet friends. You may also be asked to remove all your plants from the show.

Is my plant clean? Brush, brush, brush! Use a natural hair brush and start in the centre of the plant. Synthetic hair brushes will cut the leaves and, although not noticeable immediately, the injury will show up later. Carefully work your way around the plant brushing towards the outside. Support the leaves if necessary. A turntable is handy for larger plants.

Use a strong light to check into the crown to make sure

that all nubs have been removed and that there are no suckers growing undetected. Remove any suspicious suckers. A sucker growing in your plant makes it a multi-crowned violet and only single crown violets are allowed in the show unless they are trailers or species.

Make sure that your plant has enough water to last through the show. A solution with 'Sturdy' helps to sustain them well.

The majority of your grooming should be done at home before your plants go into their boxes. This helps with the entries process and keeps it moving smoothly and does not

hold up other exhibitors. Nothing is more frustrating than waiting your turn while someone grooms his or her plants at entries.

When you get to the show, do a last minute grooming. Check for transportation damage such as bruised blossoms or broken leaves. A final brush and sometimes a quick 'blow' and off they go to the show room. Your job is done, now it is up to those judges!

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada

Dear AVSA,

I'm writing you this letter in the hope that you will take heart in light of your recent adversities, and know that adversities only disguise the blessings that follow them.

When we received news about the damage you sustained during Hurricane Rita, many of our club members were galvanized into action. I took several calls about donating money towards the repairs. The few people I talked to seemed to agree that \$100 would be a good amount, but our by-laws state that anything over \$50 needs to be agreed upon by a meeting of the executive board. Since our monthly meeting was the next week I saved time to present the subject to the general membership as well. When the presentation was made during the meeting I had a little apprehension about how the suggested donation would be received by the membership, and I had a little speech planned in support of any

proposal that would have been made. There always seems to be someone who doesn't want to spend any money at all.

However, I shouldn't have worried; a motion for \$100 was quickly made and seconded and after a very brief discussion the motion was quickly amended to donate \$500 instead. After voting on the proposal there wasn't a single dissenting vote. Witnessing this single act of charity on behalf of the Tampa African Violet Society I can assure you has been the highlight of my Presidency. I feel truly honored to present you with this check and to be part of such an active affiliate that loves growing violets, loves their club, and loves AVSA.

With deepest sincerity,

Jay Sespico, President  
Tampa African Violet Society

### Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_ Mem. # \_\_\_\_\_  
The African Violet Society of America, Inc.  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

- Individual Membership USA (\$25.00)
- Associate Member USA (\$10.00-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- International Membership (\$27.50)
- International Associate (\$11.50-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- Commercial USA (\$37.00)
- Commercial International (\$38.75)
- Affiliated Chapter USA (\$27.00)
- Affiliated Chapter International (\$29.50)
- Affiliated State, Regional and Council (\$27.00)
- Life Member (\$600.00)
- Library (\$25.00)
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New Member  Renewal Mem. # \_\_\_\_\_

(Please type or print)

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to AVSA, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: please remit in **US\$** with a draft or check on a USA bank. International Postal money orders accepted. **Dues are not refundable.**

VISA / MC accepted Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

# DIRT IT ISN'T ALL THE SAME

by Jack Wilson • DeBary, Florida

Too many of us take our potting soils for granted. Far too often, that plant we baby still does not perform up to expectations. In many cases, its poor performance is the result of our using a poor quality potting soil. Understanding what a good potting soil is or finding one at our garden centers can be confusing. It doesn't help that the various manufacturer's soil mix formulations are called various names such as "potting mixes", "growing mixes", and "soil less mixes".



Your garden soil or dirt is probably all right for growing your vegetables and bedding plants. But, garden soil does not work well in containers for any plants. It is too fine, holds way too much water, and does not have enough air for potted plants' survival. I have killed a lot of fine and sometimes expensive plants using junk mixes from the discount stores. It may have looked good, even smelled and felt good like good garden soil should, but it was still poor quality. Believe me, the words "potting or growing mixes" mean nothing on the bags.

Even if the bag does not contain field soil or dirt, you may still not have a good soil for a container grown plant such as our African violets. It may contain large quantities of fine sand as a component. Sand does nothing for a mix other than add weight. It also plugs up pore space in potting mixes. Remember, plants need air to grow properly. An easy test for mixes is to lift it. If it seems heavy for the bags size, it probably contains excessive sand and water and is of poor quality.

A high quality mix will have two characteristics. It will be formulated to maintain a proper balance of water and air and will be adjusted for pH.

A simple test will demonstrate a mix's proper formulation. Fill a small pot with the mix and water the soil. If it is well formulated, water will begin to drain out of the pot in several seconds. If the soil becomes soupy and the water drips slowly out of the pot, you have a poor mix.

pH was mentioned earlier. pH is an acronym for potential hydrogen. This is a measure of how acid or alkaline a soil mixture is. African violets tend to do well in soils measuring

5.8 to 6.2. Soil testing kits can be obtained for a nominal cost at garden centers. These are very simple to use. They usually are just paper strips that contain dyes that react to the soils' pH. You compare the paper strip's color to a provided color chart to determine the pH.

Usually all we need to do is add a bit, a tablespoon to the gallon, of dolomitic lime to adjust a mix's pH. This corrects for the peat moss's natural acidic nature. Gesneriads,

including African violets, seem to enjoy the lime. If the mix does not have the proper pH range, then the plants may not be able to utilize the plant nutrients from the fertilizer. The nutrients get "locked-up" in the soil chemistry and become unavailable to plants. Below 5.5, which is strongly acidic, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium become virtually unavailable to plant roots. A soil's pH provides the proper chemical environment for a plant to thrive and survive.

There are commercial pH adjusters in the market. Some are available from our AVSA commercial members. Two, I recall, are called "pH Up" and "pH Down". Tropical fish stores also carry products that can adjust pH.

Any mix, whether it is one we buy or mix ourselves, should do four things: hold water, retain air, provide mechanical support for the plants' roots, and provide a proper chemical environment. If we provide a good soil mix, proper lighting, watering and fertilizer, and keep our plants disease and insect free, then our violets should be at their best.

There are many formulas that African violet growers use for their soil mixes. Most will use some combination of sphagnum peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite.

Sphagnum peat moss, an organic material, is usually the base for most quality soil mixes. Various formulas will have from 33% to 70% peat.

Perlite, a mineral, looks like very small white popcorn and is used to limit water retention. It is very lightweight. As the percentage of perlite increases, water retention is reduced and aeration increases. The proper balance of air and water encourages strong root development for healthy plants. Use #2 or horticultural grade.

Vermiculite, the chemically inert mineral mica, is the

result of mica being heated and expanding into soft particles. It too is very lightweight. It is used to hold water in the mix and has the ability to store and release moisture and nutrients, such as ammonium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Use the larger sized particles since they give better soil aeration.

**I know of no major national commercial brands of soil mixes that are suitable for gesneriads and African violets.** Most of them are lightweight and dry out very quickly or are heavy with sand and tend to compact. Manufacturers are required to list only the bulk of the mix, not all the ingredients or the exact amount of each. Unfortunately, manufacturers can and do mix almost anything together (read cheap ingredients) and label it as potting soil or mix for the unwary.

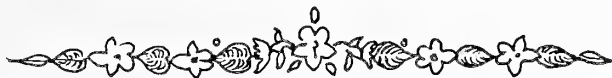
However, many of our *AVSA* commercial members mix and sell excellent mixes for African violets and other gesneriads either by mail order or at shows and conventions.

Mixing your own is also an option. First you need to evaluate your growing conditions and environment. Growing in an arid environment will probably require a mix with a

higher amount of vermiculite. A higher percentage of vermiculite in the mix provides more water retention. You might try a mix of 45% peat, 15% perlite, and 40% vermiculite. Most growers can probably use a balanced mix of 1/3rd each. Here in humid Florida, I use a mix that contains only peat and perlite at a 60/40% ratio. Perlite does not retain water and helps the mix drain or dry more quickly. It also provides the aeration needed to keep the plants' roots healthy.

Remember, when trying anything new with your plants, including soil mixes, try it on 2 to 4 test plants. Then if it works well under your growing conditions, you can switch the rest of your plants. Never change everything at once to the new way.

Remember, the major cause of most African violets dying is because of over-watering. The smaller the pot, be it 2" or 4", the more susceptible a mix is to over-watering. We need to provide a proper mix that will hold just enough water, meaning damp or moist, not soggy, to replace the water plants lose in our dry, warm air home environments. The mix must also provide the necessary environment for the fertilizers to be utilized by the plant. All dirt is not the same.



# FLAGGING YOUR PROBLEMS

by Nancy Robitaille

If you have a rather large collection of African violets, you may find yourself up to your neck in work. One way to help yourself is to FLAG different plant problems.

Two or three plants need to be re-potted? Stick a coffee stirrer with red tape in the soil of each plant. Then put other stirrers with different color tape in soil of plants that need to be watered, or verified with First Class II, or might have a problem.

Develop your own system so that on a day you need to, say, re-pot, you just take those few with the flags and make your job easier.

A trick learned from someone on The Violet Voice, an internet forum for AV fanciers concerns wicking containers. Place a piece of large masking tape on each wick container. Mark the name of the plant with dark permanent ink. You can put the name on more than one side for easier viewing if you like. This helps you to identify that beautiful plant that might have you stumped until you move two or three other plants to look at the name tag on the pot. Placing the name on the container makes it easier to see when it is in back of several other plants.

When containers are cleaned, you can put the same plant back onto its container and possibly avoid contaminating plants.

Manufactured foliage rings are very inexpensive, but you can make your own by using sturdy plastic plates. Just put the plant on top of the plate and draw a circle around the pot

with a pencil. Starting from the center of the plate, cut at an angle to the marked line. Continue cutting until arrow shapes appear. Gently push these to the center. Place the plant inside the styrofoam plate and tape down the arrow shaped angles onto the pot. The plate will support your foliage very well. You can write the name of the plant on the top of the plate.

When plastic trays crack and leak water, put a piece of masking tape on one or more sides with the word 'Crack'. Then use this tray only as a support under another tray, or turn it upside down and put the tray on top to be closer to lights.

When you buy fertilizer in a plastic sack from your club, be sure to take the fertilizer out of the plastic sack and put it into a container which closes well. Fertilizers in plastic sacks often allow humidity to enter and the fertilizer becomes damp – even wet, or clumpy.

When membership goes down in a club, offer each member a free membership to the club when they bring in another member.

Can't find good programs for your meetings? Try a 'dawg' show. Everyone enjoys the opportunity to bring in plants that have not performed well yet may win a prize as the 'mangiest dawg' in the show. You can offer little paper ribbons to each participant. Analyzing mistakes with plants helps the grower as well as the rest of the members. Offer a plastic bone as first prize. Make a fun night out of the meeting.

# Getting a Dish Garden Ready for Show

by Libby Watkins

Early in the spring, a few weeks before a show, is a good time to think about making a dish garden. Begin by thinking about the items, accessories, and plants which might make up your entry. Pick up odds and ends of containers and accessories at garage sales and flea markets. Other items like sand, bark, and moss can be acquired at a garden shop. They also carry small starter plants. Keep in mind that you can purchase the plants (houseplants, violets, or gesneriads) for your arrangements, dish gardens, or terrariums. This is the only part of a show in which you can do this. In order to be entered in a show, all other plants have to be grown by you for at least three months. Always buy and select plants that are harmonious in color to each other. Make a picture in your mind of just what it is that you may want to express about the theme of the show, as this is usually what is selected for the dish gardens. It is easier to work on your dish garden with this in mind. The judges will evaluate your design based on how well you have expressed the idea and theme of this section of the show.

Choose a shallow dish, in the shape you wish to work with, in a subdued color that will not clash with your arrangement or distract from the idea of your theme. Place some charcoal in the bottom of the dish for drainage and to keep the mix sweet. I use Redi-Earth or Jiffy Mix in my dishes because it has no perlite to distract from the landscape of the arrangement. This mix should be soaked with boiling water for at least a day before using. It is much easier to handle and will not need much watering when you place your plants in the mix. Do not over-water. Look for plants that are in proportion to the size of your arrangement. Small cuttings can be placed in water and rooted just for this. They make good filler material for bare spots. Look for small plants that can be pruned to the size you want, but be careful not to leave stubs on them. Always check your plants for pests before placing them in your dish. Live moss works well for ground cover. If none is available, dried florist's moss soaked in water will green up and still look nice. You need not fertilize a dish garden because of the short time it is planted. Mist for nicer looking plants. Do not soak.

You should collect a set of small tools, just for using with dish gardens and terrariums. A long-handled, natural bristle

brush, can reach into a deep place for grooming, without getting your hands in the design. You can also use the end of a thin artist's brush to alter the location of a plant, stones, mulch, moss, etc. Paper towels and glass cleaner are also handy.

Small pieces of bark, small stones, figurines in muted colors and in proportion to the size of your design, sand, moss, and mirrors to simulate water all work well in landscaping a dish garden to make it look realistic. Bright colors, unless stated in the show schedule, distract from the design. Judges will deduct points for this. The focus of the design should always be African violets in a violet show and gesneriads in a gesneriad show. Use colors that complement each other. Most dish gardens are viewed from the front, unless otherwise specified. The entire dish garden should be like a good still life picture, perfectly landscaped and growing naturally.

You can use a transparent bag to keep your dish garden fresh and protected. It can also be used to transport the arrangement to the show if the weather is cool. Check the condition of the plants in your garden every day. Replace any plant that is going out of bloom or that is not culturally perfect. I like to place my plants in the dish about three days before the show, to see if it is exactly the way that I want it to look. Make sure that all plants are free from dust, soil, dead leaves, and pests. Make your last minute changes or alterations to the garden. You can save time by placing pots in holes where plants are to go. You can visualize how the arrangement will work, and when you have decided where each plant is to go, you can place them in the empty holes at home or at the show without digging into your landscape. This saves time, muss, and fuss.

If you have no plants for your dish garden, you may have to purchase them at the show, at the last minute. They will need to be groomed and pruned before placing them in your ready-made holes in the garden. Also, at this time, check them for pests before placing them with your other plants.

Now, if you have made it through all of this, you should be good to go to the show!

From *African Violet Leaves*, publication of the Illinois AVS

## Happy New Year!



## AVSA Booster Fund

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

**Contributions: August 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005**

Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY ..... \$10.00 Linda Garramone, Bay Shore, NY ..... 10.00 Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA ..... 5.00 Betty Grundy, Gainesville, FL ..... 5.00 Marvin K. Nester, Lakeland, FL ..... 5.00 Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS ..... 25.00 Baltimore AVC, Baltimore, MD ..... 3.00 Armand Arate, Leonia, NJ ..... 25.00 <i>In memory of Gerald McGann.</i> AVC of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ ..... 10.00	Joy B. Phillips, Morristown, NJ ..... \$5.00 Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY ..... 10.00 Evelyn D. Stein, Tracy, CA ..... 10.00 Wilma J. Wolveton, Grain Valley, MO ..... 5.00 AVS of Denver, Chapter I ..... 35.00 <i>In memory of Ella Kiesling,</i> <i>a long-standing member</i> Spring Branch AVC, Magnolia, TX ..... 25.00  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: ..... \$188.00</b></p>
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## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

**Donations received from August 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005**

Quad-Cities AVS, Davenport, IA ..... \$25.00 Mrs. Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA ..... 25.00 <i>Dorothy Barton, In loving memory of an early</i> <i>AVSA Lifetime Member, Sadly missed.</i> Lianne Flax, Emporia, KS ..... 5.00 AVC of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ ..... 10.00 Micheline England, Elgin, IL ..... 5.00 Kathryn Tedford, Manlius, NY ..... 5.00 Janet M. Graves, Pevely, MO ..... 5.00 Austin A. Grevious, Seattle, WA ..... 25.00 <i>In memory of Nellie Sleeth</i> Late Bloomers AVS, Juda WI ..... 15.00 Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY ..... 10.00 Audrey Hanthom, Vista, CA ..... 25.00 <i>In memory of Mrs. Everdina Inpijn, a friend and mentor.</i>	Corpus Christi AV, Corpus Christi, TX ..... \$25.00 Carlsbad AVS, Carlsbad, CA ..... 10.00 <i>In memory of Everdina Inpijn,</i> <i>a charter member of our club.</i> George P. Stein, Tracy, CA ..... 10.00 Thelma Heinrich, Scottsdale, AZ ..... 5.00 Louise King, Sun City, AZ ..... 10.00 Sarah Opie, Callington, England ..... 5.00 Ms. Sam McKenna, Redwood City, CA ..... 15.00 Eloise Thompson, Blackburg, VA ..... 4.00 Agatha Garrison, Estancia, NM ..... 5.00 Margaret Jean Madison, Lauderhill, FL ..... 5.00 Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM ..... 25.00 New York State Council of AV Judges, NY ..... 5.00 Lisa Haarlander, Chicago, IL ..... 2.00
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Susan Hapner • 35 Ridge Point Dr. • Chesterfield, MO. 63017

*Email: hapnersb@aol.com*

**Donations Received – 1 August to 30 September 2005 / 1 October to 30 November 2005**

Gary Beck/Yolanda Buckley ..... \$20.00 <i>Memory of Denise Showalter</i> Karyn Cichocki ..... 10.00 Gloria Clyne ..... 10.00 Barbara Elkin ..... 50.00 <i>Memory of dear friend and 20 year convention</i> <i>buddy – Doris Weaver</i> David B. Tooker ..... 10.00 Fu Chen Tung ..... 1.50 Tracie Whitley ..... 5.00 Wilma J. Wolverson ..... 5.00 AV Club of Greater Atlanta Georgia AV Judges Society ..... 100.00 <i>Memory of Margie Kotliar and Memory of Betty Lewis</i> Fox Valley AV Society ..... 100.00 Memory of Charles Newton Spring Branch AV Club ..... 25.00 Lawrence AV Club ..... 50.00 Hoosier AV Society/Indiana ..... 25.00 Memory Helen E. Paterson George R. Stewart ..... 5.00 Tustana AVS/California ..... 25.00 Gail Podany ..... 10.00	Paa Harkes/Netherlands ..... \$2.50 Felicia Throop ..... 25.00 <i>Loving Memory – Nipper</i> AVS of Staten Island/NY ..... 10.00 <i>In Lieu of Karyn Cichocki - Speakers Fee</i> Joan Baker ..... 15.00 Janet Royce ..... 10.00 Howard Royce ..... 5.00 Ronald Patterson ..... 10.00 Sundowners AVC/Wisconsin ..... 10.00 Lisa Haarlander ..... 1.00 Karyn Cichocki ..... 5.00 Margaret Schmierer ..... 25.00 Agatha Garrison ..... 5.00 Sarah Opie ..... 5.00 Ms. Sam McKenna ..... 15.00 Eloise Thompson ..... 3.00 Thelma Heinrich ..... 5.00 Jeri Anderson ..... 10.00  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Totals ..... \$513.00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Some monies may not correspond to the totals, for various reasons.</p>
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# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
3610 Gray Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
*Email: 1bpfooster@sbcglobal.net*

Happy New Year! Hope you and your plants enjoyed a great holiday season. It is now time to start making plans for the trip to Minneapolis. I believe it was 1986 when we last had an AVSA convention in that area. That was the first time most of us were introduced to the Ness's beautiful cultivars and the year I was appointed as Affiliate Chairman. Ah, the memories!

Here are a couple of questions from a recent show.

*Q. Why would design judges award a ribbon to an exhibit in the class for mobiles that does not comply to the description of a mobile?*

A. Judges have choices. Apparently, this panel acted on the qualification of *tact and kindness*. If this is the case, the judges should always write comments to make it clear to the exhibitor that the exhibit does not meet the description of a mobile. In either case, comments should point out the problems to the exhibitor.

*Q. An episcia was exhibited in the ornamental foliage class. It was given a red ribbon because it had a bud showing color. Why?*

A. Again, the judges had options. In this case there were three options. They could have asked that it be moved to the class for blooming gesneriads. The best it could have done there would have been a white ribbon. They could have not judged it at all, or they could have asked the clerk to remove the bud showing color. This should have been detected in classification and a decision made by the exhibitor at that time, as to what they wanted to do about it.

Here a few changes for the Handbook:

Page 67-Change rule 5, under GENERAL RULES FOR DESIGN DIVISION to read; **The American flag, state flags, flags from other nations, plants on the endangered list from any state or nation, artificial plant material, and live creatures shall not be used in any design division exhibit.**

Page 76-at the top of the page, change the beginning of the second line to read; **a specimen plants section and a display tables and showcase section.** Also, change rule 1, under GENERAL RULES COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION to read; **All AVSA commercial members may enter all commercial classes.** Also on page 76 change rule 3, under RULES FOR SPECIMEN PLANTS SECTION to read; **AVSA Collection Awards (class 59 in the sample schedule on page 46) is open to all Commercial Members.** Change RULES FOR DISPLAY TABLES SECTION to read; **DISPLAY TABLES AND SHOWCASES SECTION.** Please make

a note at the bottom of the page to read; **See lower part of page 77 for information on showcases.**

Page 77- Please change the first sentence of rule 5 to: **Uniformly covered tables will be provided for display tables; however, display tables may be covered with any color or pattern at the exhibitor's discretion.**

Add, on the lower part of page 77: **INFORMATION ON SHOWCASES** and add underneath the heading; **Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase Classes will be allotted space sufficient for their display. Table covers will be neutral. Exhibits in these classes shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminature, standard, trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Showcases must be predominantly (75%) African violets or designs using African violets. Showcases-Horticulture, shall be a collection of 6-10 plants (exhibitor may designate one plant as a unit or three plants as a unit) with NO embellishment. Showcases-Artistic, must include a creative aspect, and may include designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating. Both showcases shall be judged on horticulture perfection. Horticulture perfection shall be computed by finding the average points per plant. Awards in Showcases-Horticulture shall be based 100% on horticulture perfection. Awards in showcases-artistic shall be based 80% on horticulture perfection and 20% on distinction and originality. Each entry in the showcases will be judged. Showcases-Horticulture shall use standard plant name and entry tags provided by Entries. Showcases-Artistic, the exhibitor has the option of using standard name tags provided by Entries, or may provide their own tags or diagrams. Each tag or diagram must include the entry book number. For this class no ribbons awards will be given. Instead, showcases with all blue ribbon entries will be awarded a rosette.**

**(Please note: an exhibitor may choose to NOT have their exhibit judged.)**

A more detailed version on showcases will be included when the Handbook is reprinted. In the meantime, exhibitors should rely heavily on the schedule for details.

# Fragile African Violets?

by Ann L. Arnold • Ottawa, KS

Back in May, I purchased some begonias and other plants to go in my window boxes. My husband David was planting them for me. He asked me what I wanted to plant outside in my ceramic basket. It has a large plastic pot inside. I started to say not anything but remembered the African violet leaves with tiny babies that I was going to dump into the trash. Due to health problems, I just didn't have the energy to go take care of them all. He plopped them in the pot and "kind of listened" to my instructions. They were placed on the north side of the house.

As many of you know, the weather here in Kansas usually has lots of wind and rain in the spring. This spring was no exception. My husband watered the violets along with everything else, with cold water from the garden hose. No fertilizer at all. I did absolutely nothing with them. Neither of us even separated them.

In June they received a few more wind storms; then in July we had a quarter inch hail, a devastating storm. It annihilated the roofs of our house and garages, and almost completely ruined crops. The violets did not come out unscathed, as you can see in the picture. There were holes in

the leaves where the ice hit, but not too bad. On they grew.

The picture was taken in August after another bad wind and rain storm. A couple of weeks before, they had gone through upper 90 and 100 degree weather almost every day and kept on blooming. I couldn't even get many of mine in



the house to bloom with air conditioning.

They had survived hot weather; how about cold? We had a forecast of 44 degree temperatures for an evening in the first part of October. It got down to 41. I thought, well, there go my outside violets; but no, their leaves looked a little frosty, but they came right out of it.

When it was to get down to actually frost, David said, "Aren't we bringing in those

violets?" I laughed and agreed. They are now in the laundry room under a window. Two of them were plants 'Redhead,' an oldie from my mother that goes back to the 1950's. And I would have thought that was the reason they were so tough, but I also had 'Apache Silver' and 'Ness's Ruffled Skies' in the pot.

I told my husband that next year I will plant more violets!

**All Library Requests Must Be Made in Writing to the African Violet Society of America Office**

# Registration Report



## Joe Brun

1220 Stratford Lane  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
Email: jbruns@qwip.net

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.

### George McDonald – Monroe Township, NJ

- \***Mac's Black Jack** (9469) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single dark red sticktite pansy. Dark green, pointed, serrated/red back. **Miniature**
- \***Mac's Carnival Clown** (9470) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single-semidouble coral pink pansy/purple fantasy, white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, heart-shaped, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's Coral Cutie** (9471) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single coral red sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, pointed, serrated. **Miniature**
- \***Mac's Cotton Candy** (9472) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single-semidouble pink pansy/red fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and white, ovate/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's Crimson Cavalier** (9473) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Semidouble coral red pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, ovate, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's Galactic Grandeur** (9474) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Semidouble medium blue pansy/dark blue and pink fantasy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's Genuine Grannie's** (9475) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single-semidouble dark blue-purple pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted, hairy. **Miniature**
- \***Mac's Glacial Grape** (9476) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Semidouble-double purple pansy/white edge. Medium green, plain, scalloped. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's Hott'r'n Hades** (9477) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single-semidouble purple pansy/coral red fantasy.

Medium green, plain, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Miniature**

- \***Mac's Just Jeff** (9478) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Semidouble coral red pansy/variable darker fantasy. **Mosaic variegated** medium green, white and variable pink, plain, scalloped. **Miniature**
- \***Mac's Kismet's Knight** (9479) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single-semidouble coral blue pansy. Variegated dark green and white, pointed/red back. **Miniature**
- \***Mac's Nocturne** (9480) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Double purple pansy/lighter band, thin white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's Quaintly Quintessential** (9481) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single coral red sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green, white and pink, plain, quilted. **Miniature**
- \***Mac's Southern Springtime** (9482) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single-semidouble red and white pansy. Medium green, ovate/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's Sun Seeker** (9483) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single hot pink sticktite pansy/variable white edge. Medium green, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Mac's True Love** (9484) 9/29/05 (G. McDonald) Single coral red sticktite pansy/variable purple fantasy. **Variegated** medium green, white, tan and variable pink, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Miniature**

### NAME RESERVATIONS

#### Sharon Holtzman – Olentangy, OH

- \* Newtown Another Purple \* Newtown Beaumont Bluster \* Newtown Chin Up \* Newtown Dreams Count \* Newtown Happenstance \* Newtown Kat Lady \* Newtown Kat Nap \* Newtown Opportune \* Newtown Oscar Didit \* Newtown River Hills \* Newtown Sassy Wins \* Newtown Showboater \* Newtown Soaring Softly \* Newtown Thrips Tease \*



# Preparing to Show Your African Violets

Take 3 x 5 white sheets of paper or file cards, and lay them over a leaf in the outer row of the plant. Keep going around until the symmetry looks really good. Never leave a smaller leaf below a larger one. Take off any immature leaves. When you feel the circle looks the best, then carefully go in and snip off the covered leaves with your fingertips or a sucker plucker in tight spots. By using the paper, if you change your mind, you just remove the paper, not the leaf! If you have a slightly damaged leaf whose removal will ruin the symmetry, leave it on and take the deduction (usually only 1 point).

Take a paint brush with soft hair and brush slowly each leaf, starting at the crown, brushing to the outside. Keep working down and around so all debris ends up on the outermost leaves; then brush off plant.

If you have a white spot from fertilizer or transpiration, take a broken petiole and rub the cut end onto the spot. Reapply after dry, and you should get most of it off.

Look inside for any suckers. Anything showing leaves in there, take it out. Use a tapered sharp instrument (this is where a sucker plucker is used).

Use your brush to go inside and dust off any soil or perlite that is sitting on any petiole, even if hidden from view. Have no soil piled up around the neck. This is not the way to hide a neck - repotting is.

For a standard plant at maturity, you should have 20-25 flowers open, including the ones which will be open the day of judging. A small standard plant 8" to 10" in diameter with 10-15 blossoms could receive the full amount of points under quantity of bloom. Also keep in mind the size of the blossoms. Some plants have very large blooms. The larger the diameter of the plant, the more open, fresh flowers you will need. But do not leave home a pretty plant just because it may be a bit low in flower count. Take your chances. One never knows.

With tiny scissors, take off any flower that is wilting or showing browning, even on the edge. Repeat this on the day you take them in for judging and remove any flagging flowers. Gently move the flower stalks around to make a circle or halo if possible, but do not use force and break one.

For trailers, shift the branches so that you have growth and flowering all around as in a circle. You must have three crowns on a trailer, preferably with blooms on each. If you only have two crowns, you can enter it, but 10 points will be deducted right away so the most you could get is a red ribbon. Go inside and remove any dead or yellow leaves. Clip leaves which are hiding flowers beneath.

For minis and semis, you will need fewer flowers. Eight is plenty on a small plant. Again, try to move the stems so the flowers are evenly dispersed. Follow the same guidelines as to grooming foliage, flower removal, and trimming for better symmetry.

Remove any support rings at the show and any growing stakes beforehand. Each forgotten pick counts toward deductions.

Follow the directions of the schedule as to the color of pots and if you need slip-potting. Have extra pots of the proper color and size.

After show placement check to see if the best side is forward. If not, ask the placement chairman to move the plant so that the best side is in the front. You would be surprised what you can hide.

Pack the plants loosely in large cardboard boxes. Use crumpled newspaper or gift tissue to make rings so that the plant nestles in and will not shift whatsoever during transportation. Carefully cover, if necessary, and make sure that the flowers will not be crushed by another box on top.

From *African Violet Leaves*, publication of the Illinois AVS

## Coming Events Deadlines

January/February AVM - November 1  
March/April AVM - January 1  
May/June AVM - March 1

July/August AVM - May 1  
September/October AVM - July 1  
November/December AVM - September 1

All events notices must be in writing.  
Submit by Email <[rhumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rhumsey@earthlink.net)>.  
Fax: 409.839.4329 or US Postal Service: AVSA Coming Events  
2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702

# WRANGLERS RIDE AGAIN!

by Marge Savage

"Finally, I had a greenhouse full of variegated African violets!"

So said Winston Smith, the seventy-eight-year-old father of multitudes of Wrangler and Maverick series African violets. Winston retired after forty years of teaching shorthand, typing, accounting, and other business courses at high schools in Barber's Hill, San Angelo, Hardin, and other towns in southeast Texas. Considered a friend by his students, Winston also drove the school bus and directed high school plays.

I recently contacted him by phone in hot and humid Liberty, Texas, where he has lived for the past thirty-eight years, hoping to find out how he became interested in African violets.

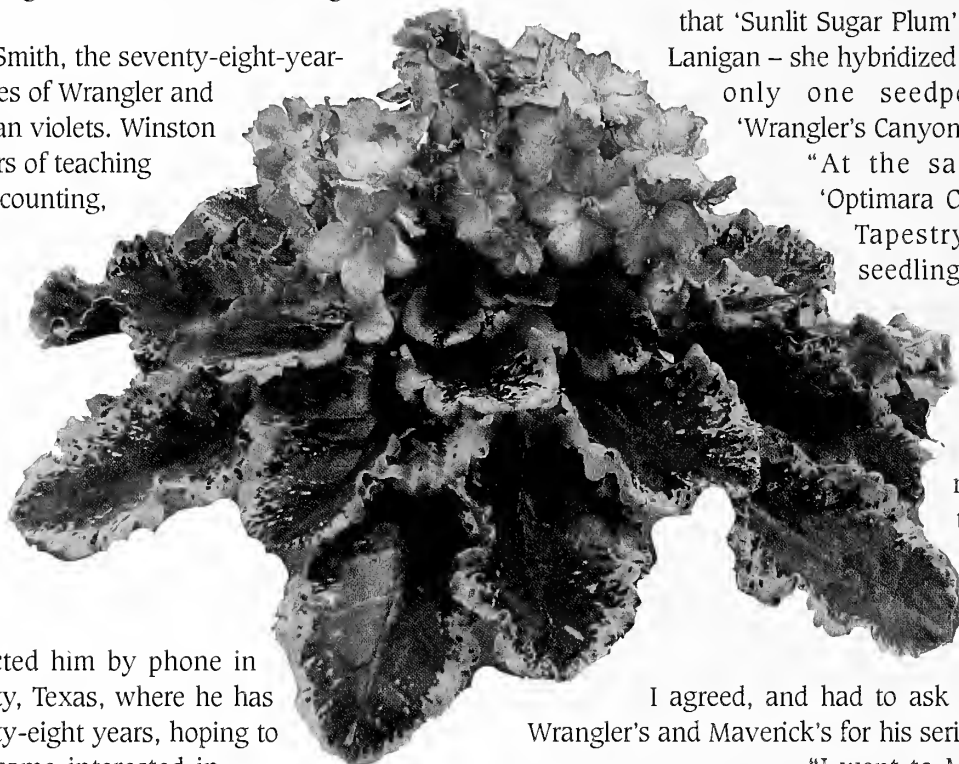
"My mother ordered some African violets from the *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine," he told me. "She was a novice grower. There was a local African violet show in near by Beaumont. We went, and there I met Mrs. George Vallin ('Wrangler's Margaret Vallin'). She invited me over, and we became life-long friends. Mrs. Vallin helped form the national society and taught me everything I know. She also gave me an interest in hybridizing and taught me all about it."

Winston actively hybridized plants from 1979 to 1989, the year of his retirement:

"I love variegation. I wanted variegated African violets. I had a deep, red Rhapsodie, which I loved. But, I lost it and raised 'Optimara Colorado', instead. I crossed 'Optimara



*Wrangler's El Diablo*



*Wrangler's Dixie Celebration*

Colorado' to 'Sunlit Sugar Plum'. I loved that 'Sunlit Sugar Plum'. I got it from Maneeta Lanigan – she hybridized a long time ago. It had only one seedpod. This produced 'Wrangler's Canyon Echoes'."

"At the same time, I crossed 'Optimara Colorado' onto 'Persian Tapestry' and had both seedlings growing out at the same time. The Dixie African Violet Society was to have their convention in Beaumont. And so, I named this seedling for that DAVS event - 'Wrangler's Dixie Celebration' (6-29-81). That's the best one!"

I agreed, and had to ask how he came up with Wrangler's and Maverick's for his series names.

"I went to Mrs. Vallin to seek her advice on what to name all these hybrids.

She felt that they were worthy hybrids and needed a series name. On TV, in the 80's, there was a commercial featuring a young girl wearing blue jeans. She turned around, and across her back pocket, it said, 'Wrangler.' That was it!

"The Maverick's were just that - Mavericks! They were too contrary to variegate."

I mentioned that I have noticed an increase in commercial growers offering more and more of his hybrids: Libbie Glembocki in South Carolina, where it is hot and humid; Travis' Violets in Georgia, where it is hot and humid, and Alannah's Greenhouses, Washington/Canada. Winston seemed elated as I named the eight hybrids exhibited at the 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson, Arizona: two 'Wrangler's Dixie Celebration', 'Pink Patches', 'Snowfields',



*Mavericks Faded Jeans*



*Wrangler's Spanish Cavalier*

'Jealous Jewels', 'Savage Beauty'; and two 'Maverick's Faded Jeans'.

Winston did venture briefly into commercial advertising. "One fall, I did put one ad in the *African Violet Magazine*. I got into business because of two women from Texas A&M. These two women and Ray Scott were at my home one night. They dropped in after seeing 'Wrangler's Jealous Heart' at the Beaumont show. I had fully-grown plants. I was depending on A&M to clone what I needed for sales from that ad. They didn't come through, and I didn't have any plants to sell. But, out of 100 orders, only one person wanted their money back. Can you imagine that? I didn't have to advertise. They came to see me!"

"Once, Molly Ritchie ('Wrangler's Mollie Ritchie') and Susan Myers ('Wrangler's Susan Myers') had been judging a show in Beaumont and stopped for a visit. While looking around the greenhouse, Susan Myers said, 'Oh, my God, a YELLOW African violet! Come over here and look at this!' The yellow blossom was on one of Mrs. Vallin's plants,



*Wrangler's Pink Patches*

'Silver Honey', a pink-blossomed violet. This plant had mutated into sort of a 'viney' plant that I named 'Wrangler's White Silver Sands'. And, it put up this yellow blossom. We lifted up the leaves, and it was hanging down over the pot – a yellow blossom with a little streak of pink. I never took a



*Wrangler's Bryan's Song*

picture of it, or had it photographed. Can you imagine that? I put leaves down, and put leaves down. It was a hard winter that year. I had heaters going full blast. But, the temperature dropped down to 9 degrees, and all the leaves froze."

"Another year, Kent Stork called and asked if he could show one of my hybrids on his commercial table at the AVSA Convention and Show. It was 'Wrangler's Jealous Heart'. I was glad to do this, because I don't care to get into it that much. I received a call from the convention and learned that my hybrid has just won Best New Introduction!"

Winston did attend the 1999 AVSA Convention and Show in Houston. "The national show'll be back in Houston some day," he said, "and, when it does, I'll try to go."



*Wrangler's Ghost Rider*

By the time you read this, Winston may have moved into a new two-story home he and his family have built in nearby Kenefick, TX. "I have a new greenhouse built in my new location, too," he told me. "There are also four acres, a catfish pond, and folks who say, 'I love you, Pop.'"

Winston also offered a tip for African violet growers. To avoid thrips, he recommends placing little plastic cups of Cedar-Cide (Wal-Mart) among the plants.

Thanks, Winston, for your contributions to the African violet world!

# 2006 AVSA Convention Awards

## Minneapolis, Minnesota

### 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 AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Standard AVSA Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette  
Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette

### Society Awards - Design Division

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 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 Commercial Display Table - \$125 & Blue rosette  
2nd Best Commercial Display Table - \$100 & Red rosette  
Best African Violet on a Display Table - \$50 & rosette  
Best Other Gesneriad - \$25 & rosette  
Best Standard AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Standard AVSA Collection - \$25 & Purple rosette  
Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$50 & Gold rosette  
2nd Best Mini/Semimini AVSA 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

### Specified Awards - Commercial Division

Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
Best New Cultivar - \$100 - in memory of Frank Tinari - Mary & Art Boland (VA)  
Best Rebel's Minnesota Haze - \$25 - Ruth Bann (MN)

### Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300, rosette & Coin - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses (TN)  
Best Robinson Collection - \$150, rosette & hand-made beaded violet - The Violet Barn (NY)

2nd Best Robinson Collection - \$50 - The Violet Barn (NY)  
Best Buckeye Collection - \$150 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)  
2nd Best Buckeye Collection - \$50 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)  
Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection - \$300 - Vladimir Kalgin (Russia)  
2nd Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection - \$200 - Vladimir Kalgin (Russia)  
3rd Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection - \$100 - Vladimir Kalgin (Russia)  
Best African Violet in Show - Silver Memorial for Fannie & Elmer Hall - Ovella Hall (AR)  
Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - \$15 - Susan Hapner (MO)  
Best Semiminiature - \$25 - Mid America AVS (MO)  
Best Species - \$50 - Cape Cod Violetry (MA)  
Best Species - \$25 - Milwaukee AVS (WI)  
Best Species - \$10 - Carolee Carter (FL)  
Best Vintage Violet - \$25 - Lake Shore AVS (IL)  
Best Vintage Violet - matted violet lithograph - Judi Du Pont (IL) & Adrienne Topping (VA)  
Best White Miniature - \$25 - Lake Shore AVS (IL)  
Best Semiminiature Fantasy - \$10 - AVS of SW Florida (FL)  
Best Standard Chimera - \$50 and rosette - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)  
Best Girl Foliage - \$30 - Tampa AVS (FL)  
Best Miniature Girl Foliage - \$30 - Tampa AVS (FL)  
Best Chirita - \$10 - Mrs. Strep Streps/Kathy Spissman (GA)  
Best Tuberous Gesneriad - \$10 - Linda Neumann (OH)  
Best Sinningia - \$25 - Ovella Hall (AR)  
Best 'Ozark' Sinningia in the Sinningia class - \$35 - Dave's Violets/Dave Harris (MO)  
Best Streptocarpus - \$25 - Ovella Hall (AR)  
Best in Class 10 - \$25 in honor of Lucille Woolever - Viking Violets (MN)  
Best in Class 18 - \$25 in honor of Nancy Braun - Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs (WI)  
Best in Class 21 - \$25 in honor of Kevin Degner - Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs (WI)  
Best in Class 22 - \$20 - Rocky Mountain AV Council (CO)

### Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Horticulture

Best The Alps - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)  
Best Buckeye Love's Caress - \$50 - Pat's Patch/Pat Hancock (OH)  
Best Chanticleer - \$25 in memory of Paula Foster - Sue Hoffmann (VA)  
Best Concord - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)  
Best Dean's Bunny Blue - \$25 - Shirley Sanders (TX)  
Best Dolores' Chantilly Lace - \$25 - Dolores Harrington (MN)  
Best Duluth - \$25 - Dolores Harrington (MN)  
Best Emilie Savage - \$25 - Jim & Linda Owens (OH)  
Best Everdina - \$25 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)  
Best Frozen in Time - \$25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)  
Best Irish Flirt - \$50 and rosette - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)  
Best 'The King' (Maas) - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)  
Best Lilian Jarrett Variegated (#2902) - \$100 - in memory of Frank Tinari - Anne Tinari (PA)  
Best Louisiana Lagniappe - \$100 - The Baton Rouge Convention Group/Elmer Godeny  
Best Maas' Mark - \$25 - in memory of Max Maas - Hattie Baggett (AZ)  
Best Mickey Mouse - \$25 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)



Best Nancy Hayes (trailer) - \$25 - Nancy Hayes (CT)  
 Best Ness' Crinkle Blue - \$25 - in memory of Don Ness - Lakes Area  
 Violet Growers (MN)  
 Best Ness' Crinkle Blue - rosette - Triangle AVS (NC)  
 Best Ness' Satin Rose - \$25 - in memory of Don Ness - Lakes Area  
 Violet Growers (MN)  
 Best Precious Pink - \$50 - Hortense and Ray Pittman (TX)  
 Best Queen Anne - \$100 - Catherine Thompson (IA)  
 Best Rebel's Meg - \$25 - Ruth Bann (MN)  
 Best Rebel's Minnesota Haze - \$25 - Ruth Bann (MN)  
 Best Rebel's Splatter Kake - \$15 - AVS of Minnesota (MN)  
 Best Rebel's Splatter Kake - \$25 - Ruth Bann (MN)  
 Best Rosie Ruffles - \$15 - AVS of Minnesota (MN)  
 Best Shirl's Senior Moment - \$25 - Shirley Sanders (TX)  
 Best Sora Kalissa - \$25 - Barbara & Charles Werness (MN)  
 Best Sora Patty Ann - \$25 - Barbara & Charles Werness (MN)  
 Best Streptocarpus 'Night Beacon' - \$25 - Cedar Valley Violet Club (IA)  
 Best Tiger - \$100 - Nancy Price (IA)  
 Best Vintage Wine - \$25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano  
 (NY)

#### **Specified Awards - Design Division**

2nd Best MN Aquatennial (Class 76) in honor of Shirley Hultin - \$15  
 - New Century/Northern Lights AV Club (MN)  
 3rd Best MN Aquatennial (Class 76) in honor of Shirley Hultin - \$15 -  
 Terry Klemesrud (MN)  
 Best Natural Container - \$20 - Kitty Hedgepeth (VA)  
 Best Terrarium - \$25 - AVS of Greater Tulsa (OK)  
 Best Underwater Arrangement - \$30 - Lynne Wilson (FL)

#### **Other Awards -**

##### **Amateur Horticulture or Undesignated**

##### **\$100 donated by:**

Aurora Borealis AVS (AK)  
 Winston & Laurel Goretsky (Alberta, Canada)  
 High Country Violets - Trina Smith (WY)  
 Lone Star AV Council (TX)  
 William Sugg (TX)

##### **\$50 donated by:**

Columbus AVS (OH)  
 Bill Foster (TX)  
 Ovella Hall (AR)  
 Lake Shore AVS (IL)  
 Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society (FL)  
 Tucson AVS (AZ)

##### **\$30 donated by:**

Nancy Amelung (MO)

##### **\$25 donated by:**

Alpha AVS (TX)  
 AV Council of Southern California (CA)  
 AVS of Greater Tulsa (OK)  
 AVS of Pensacola (FL)  
 AVS of Rochester (NY)  
 Bluebird Greenhouse (NC)  
 Carol Brown (VA)  
 Doris & John Brownlie (ON, Canada)  
 Cedar Valley Violet Club (IA)  
 First AVS of Dallas (TX)  
 First Lakeland AVS (FL)  
 First Nighter AVS of Dallas (TX)  
 Jan's Workshop - Jan Davidson (TX)  
 Lakeshore AVS of Toronto (ON, Canada)  
 Magic Knight AVS (TX)  
 Gertrude Morabito (OH)

New York State AVS (NY)  
 North California Judges Council (CA)  
 North Texas AV Judges Council (TX)  
 Jim & Linda Owens (OH)  
 Quad Cities AVS (IA)  
 Leonard & Elaine Re (CA)  
 Warren & Vicki Ringer (CA)  
 South Coast AVS (CA)  
 Unpredictable AVC of Blue Springs (MO)  
**\$20 donated by:** Jim & Linda Golubski (MO)  
 Long Island AVS (NY)  
 Metro. St. Louis AV Council (MO)  
 Tidewater AVS (VA)

##### **\$15 donated by:**

Richmond AVS (VA)

##### **\$10 donated by:**

Amethyst AVC of St. Louis (MO)  
 AVC of Greater Kansas City (MO)  
 First AVS of Wichita Falls (TX)  
 Meredith Hall (TX)  
 Laurene Jones (VA)  
 Mile High Violet Society (CO)  
 Fran Ratté (OH)  
 Sue Ramser (TX)  
 San Mateo County AVS (CA)

#### **Undesignated Memorials and Honorariums:**

Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers of Colorado - \$15 to honor past/present  
 members of their club (CO)  
 Nelly Levine - \$20 in memory of Ella Kiesling (CO)  
 Ruth & Will Loomis - \$25 in memory of Paula Foster (AZ)  
 Bill Price - \$25 in honor of Paul Kroll (BC, Canada)  
 Bill Price - \$25 in memory of Paula Foster (BC, Canada)  
 Becky Shoun - \$15 in memory of Ella Kiesling (CO)

#### **Other donations:**

\$10 gift certificate - Violet Venture - Fay Wagman (NY)  
 Tabletop light with stand - Indoor Garden Supply/Tina Dickhart

#### **Other Awards - Design Division**

##### **\$50 donated by:**

Kathy Lahti (MN)

##### **\$25 donated by:**

Albuquerque AVC (NM)

##### **\$20 donated by:**

Metro. St. Louis AV Council (MO)

##### **\$10 donated by:**

Amethyst AVC of St. Louis (MO)

Thanks to the many individuals, clubs, and councils who have offered their generous award support for the 2006 show in Minneapolis! You all make the difference.

If your name is not on this list, there is still time to be included. Send your check or money order payable in U.S. Funds and made out to 'AVSA Awards' to:

**Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman**  
 2809 Forest Hills Court • Virginia Beach VA 23454

We look forward to hearing from you! Final deadline to be listed in the Minneapolis Show Souvenir book is February 15, 2006.

View a current Awards listing on the AVSA web site at <http://www.AVSA.org> under National Convention. Although every attempt has been made to list awards correctly, we reserve the right to modify or change these listings.

# FAVORITE GARDENS: An Evolving Involvement With the African Violet

by Pauline Kerkstra

In the past, when I looked at those cheerful, uplifted African violets on display at the store, I was filled with wonder at their beauty and the promise of enchanting days ahead. I spent time trying to decide which one I wanted to take home for another try at growing one successfully. But each time, I eventually killed it, completely unintentionally, with my lack of knowledge.

So I have finally put together enough historical information and universal tips to ensure my understanding and enjoyment of successfully growing African violets in my home.

## The Beginnings

In 1892, Baron Walter von Saint Paul-Illaire, a German officer with an interest in botany, was touring his African coastal territory of the East Usambara Mountains near Tanga. He found an isolated patch of short, hairy, fleshy-leaved plants with small, bright blue, single, five-petaled rows of blossoms. He gathered live plants and seed samples. Farther on his tour, at an elevation of 3,000 feet, he spotted another patch of a similar plant and collected specimens from the second site as well.

The collected material was sent to the baron's father in Germany, who planted the seeds and shared the plants with Herman Wendland, the director of the botanic garden in Herrinhausen, near Hanover.

The plants were described and named by Wendland, who realized they were a newly identified genus. He named them in honor of the two barons, Saintpaulia, and the species was named for the Greek word for violet-like flowers: *S. ionantha*.

Today, it is known that two different species were collected. Wendland had only considered samples from the Tanga site. The higher elevation plant had been grown in botanic gardens as a variant of *S. ionantha*, known as *S. Kewensis*. The second specimen was named a separate species – *S. confusa* – in 1956 by B.L. Burtt.

The mislabeling of the second plant was a turn of good fortune, as the cross-breeding of the two original specimens led to the first hybrid African violets.

## Mutations

In the mid-1930s, 10 plants ranging from blue to violet to purple were selected for sale from the first hybrid seedlings that were bred from the original seeds. Eight varieties were grown from Suttons of England seeds: Admiral, Amethyst, Commodore, Mermaid, Neptune, Norseman, Number 32, and Viking. And two varieties were grown from Benary of Germany seeds: Blue Boy and Sailor Boy.

At the time, the success of the violet as a houseplant was due mainly to the plant's beauty and its adaptability from its cooler, higher elevation habitat to homes with central heating.

In 1939, Michigan grower Ed Wangbichler discovered the first significant single plant mutation – also known as a sport – in a batch of Blue Boy plants. The mutation was two five-petaled rows instead of the original single row. It also had the characteristic of non-dropping flowers, which on an African violet are flowers that shrivel up at the end of a blooming cycle.

In 1940, a second Blue Boy sport was discovered by Holton and Hunkel growers in Milwaukee – a single, clear pink flower.

A third surprise made itself known in 1941, when another Blue Boy produced rounded, thicker and slightly wavy leaves with a patch of yellow or white at the leaf base of the stalk connection. This sport was named Blue Girl, and since then, "girl-type" is used to describe this type of leaf.

In 1956, the Isselburg, Germany, nursery of Herman Holtkamp introduced the strain of Rhapsodie Saintpaulia, a non-dropping single flower.

In the years that followed, collectors found a total of 20 different species of African violets, all from East Africa where there still may be other species to be found.

## Hybrids

The African violet has become one of the most popular flowering houseplants in the world. This is due mainly to the plant's ease of propagation and the strides made in hybridization.

After the series of sports found in Blue Boys, growers stopped relying on accidental sports and began hybridizing for a wide range of colors, leaf variations, plant size, and plant growth.

In 1984, Holtkamp Greenhouses, in Nashville, Tenn., placed 25,000 Optimara seeds in NASA's space violet program. The seeds orbited the Earth for six years, exposed to radiation and a lack of gravity. A number of mutations occurred, and some of them were cross-bred with the Optimara varieties. One new characteristic to emerge was flower abundance, resulting in a violet with at least 20 open blooms, rather than the previous standard of five to seven open blooms. Some other traits to emerge were faster growth and more environmental stress resistance.

## Growing Violets

The usual complaint of gardeners is that African violets just die. The plants usually die from lack of correct care; with



# AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE

## VIOLETS VACATION IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

### MAY 28-JUNE 4, 2006



## 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 miniatures, or three semiminature trailers).
3. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.
4. Robinson Collection of three registered Rob's or Ma's plants, all of the same type (three single-crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single-crown semiminatures or three semiminature trailers) or three standards.
5. Buckeye Collection of three registered standard Hancock (Buckeye series) plants.
6. Russian Collection of three registered standard Russian hybridized plants.

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

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

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

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

### SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

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

### SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

32. Purple and all shades of blue, green foliage
33. Pink and coral, green foliage
34. Red, wine, and fuchsia, green foliage
35. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, green foliage
36. All edged, green foliage
37. Multicolor and chimera, green foliage
38. Fantasy, green foliage
39. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
40. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
41. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
42. Multicolor and chimera, variegated foliage
43. All edged, variegated foliage
44. Fantasy, variegated foliage

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

45. Standard trailers
46. Miniature trailers
47. Semiminature trailers
48. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids
49. Vintage violets (must be at least 25 years old)

### SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

50. Seedlings
51. Sports or mutants

### SECTION VIII- AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT IN UNUSUAL CONTAINER

52. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature, or semiminature in a container
53. One African violet trailer in container

### SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

54. Miniatures in bloom (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted; no single plant more than 5" in diameter)
55. Tuberous-rooted in bloom (Sinningia, Nautilocalyx, Chrysothemis, etc.)
56. Scaly-rhizomed in bloom
57. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Streptocarpus/Streptocarpella)
58. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Long-stemmed such as Aeschynanthus, Columnea, Nematanthus, etc.)
59. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (All other blooming fibrous-rooted such as Chirita, Episcia, Petrocosmea, Alsobia, etc.)
60. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (All Episcia)
61. 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 or dead creatures, and the American or national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by individual classes.

Class 62. **Duluth:** One of the largest inland ports in the world, Duluth is a place with a nautical flair. Using a blue or blue and white violet, suggest something to do with sailing, boating, or enjoying a day on the water. To be staged in a white niche 22"H x 18"W x 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 65. **Stillwater:** Set on the banks of the St Croix River 12 miles northeast of St. Paul, the old lumber town is considered the birthplace of Minnesota and is the destination of tourists year round. Quaint shops, small cafes, antique shops, and picturesque scenery await visitors. Fall colors make the hillsides come alive in yellows, oranges, and reds. Suggest a beautiful fall day using one or more blooming African violet plants and something natural from the forest. To be staged in a white niche 22"H x 18"W x 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 64. **Minneapolis Institute of Arts:** Free to the public, Minneapolis features a world-class museum for the fine arts. From famous masters to stunning Oriental collections to featured artists, the Institute of Arts dazzles visitors with truly inspiring art. Make a plant arrangement using a reproduction of some portion of a famous piece of art. To be staged in a white niche 22"H x 18"W x 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 65. **Valley Fair:** A family-oriented amusement park featuring thrilling roller coaster rides. It's a bright, vibrant place with colorful lights, plantings lining the walkways, and bright, happy children. In your plant arrangement, suggest a colorful scene for a family outing. To be staged in a white niche 28"H x 21.5"W x 15"D. Limit 6 entries

Class 66. **Mall of America:** One of the largest shopping and entertainment complexes in the world! Acres of stores, a completely indoor amusement park, theaters, dining, and an underwater aquarium experience await visitors. Create a free-standing design limited only by your imagination. To be staged on a tabletop, not to exceed 30" in width and 30" in depth. Height unlimited. Limit 3 entries.

## SECTION XI - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each exhibit 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 or dead creatures, and the American flag or national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted unless otherwise restricted by individual classes.

Class 67. **A Night at the Symphony:** Minnesota is gifted with talented local musical groups, community orchestras, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra. Make an arrangement suggesting an evening of sophistication and elegance. To be staged in a white niche 15"H x 11"W x 8"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 68. **St. Paul Winter Carnival:** An event celebrating the wonderful season of winter! Activities centering on a snowy theme culminate in the periodic construction of an Ice Palace. Soaring spires and grand castle walls sparkle with color, all built out of blocks of ice cut from area lakes. **Using white violet blossoms,**

suggest a wintry theme to celebrate the frosty and sparkling season of winter. To be staged in a white niche 15"H x 11"W x 8"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 69. **Science Museum of Minnesota:** Come explore your world at the Science Museum in St. Paul. The world's largest movable-screen, Omni Theater, is over five stories tall and surrounds you with sight and sound. The interactive museum displays feature everything from the human body's systems, physical science, space, and dinosaurs to the natural history of humans, plants, and animals. **Using all dried materials, including dried African violet blossoms,** make a flower arrangement with a botanical theme or flair mounted on the backing of an 8" x 10" standing picture frame without the glass. You may use the easel that is attached to the backing or a free-standing easel. **Exhibitor furnishes picture frame and easel.** Limit 6 entries.

Class 70. **Farming Fun:** Minnesota is part of the "bread basket" of the nation. Some of the nation's richest land produces the grain, meat, and dairy products we enjoy each day. Make an arrangement with a rural flair. To be staged in a white niche 22"H x 18"W x 12"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 71. **Hawk Ridge:** Bird watchers come from all over the world to see the annual migration of raptors that fly along the corridor on the west side of Lake Superior and continue south following the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers between Minnesota and Wisconsin. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of hawks and eagles can be seen in one day. Make a hanging flower arrangement, featuring violet blossoms, that suggests flight and may or may not have movement. To be suspended in air from a dowel rod that will go across the wings of a white niche 22"H x 18"W x 12"D. **Exhibitor furnishes all mechanics.** Limit 6 entries.

Class 72. **10,000 Lakes:** Actually, there are more like 15,000 of these fantastic bodies of water awaiting visitors and residents alike. Boating, skiing, fishing, swimming, and all sorts of other water fun are just moments away when you're in Minnesota. Create an underwater arrangement that suggests a natural underwater landscape. To be staged at eye level for viewing from the front only. Containers must not exceed 12" in width. **No underlay or backdrop permitted.** Limit 8 entries.

## SMALL INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Class 73. **The Governor's Mansion:** Classic architecture and turn of the century charm await tourists in this beautiful English Tudor-style residence. Imagine an afternoon with tea and cakes in the parlor of this historic gem. Create a design using a teacup and violet blossoms that suggests a summer afternoon sipping tea with the town's ladies and gentlemen. To be staged on white columns 6" in diameter at varying heights. Columns provided. Underlay on column top optional. **No backdrop permitted.** Limit 5 entries.

Class 74. **Laura Ingalls Wilder:** Step back in time and remember the days on the prairie where Laura and her sisters played under the watchful eyes of Ma and Pa Ingalls in Walnut Grove. Using something old, make an arrangement to give the impression of times gone by. To be staged in a white niche 8"H x 8"W x 8"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 75. **Sixty Years of Flowers:** Help celebrate AVSA's anniversary by making an arrangement suggesting the rich history of the national society. Use an article, a photo, or a bit of convention memorabilia and African violet blossoms to honor our organization. To be staged in a white shadow box provided, with an inside measurement of 10.5"H x 9.5"W x 6"D with an oval opening of 8.5"H x 6.5"W. Lower edge of oval is ?" above floor of shadow box. Limit 8 entries.

Class 76. **Minneapolis Aquatennial:** It's the Minneapolis way to celebrate summer! Boating, sailing, milk carton boat races, princesses, and the torchlight parade highlight this midsummer extravaganza. Make a small cut-blossom arrangement suggesting parade pageantry. To be staged on "balconies," 8"W x 4"D, attached at varying heights to a free-standing open-book-like screen. The "balconies" and the free-standing open-book-like screen will be covered with cream-colored material. Your arrangement should be no taller than 8 inches. **No backdrop allowed, but an underlay is permitted.** Each exhibitor will be assigned one balcony. Limit 7 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 cut plant materials, artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, 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.

Class 77. **Lake Superior:** Starting at Duluth and continuing past the Canadian border, this great lake is the sight of spectacular vistas, rocky shores, birch and evergreen forests, rushing streams, abundant wildlife, and agates. Make a dish garden suggesting the rocky wilderness or shore. Not to exceed 12" in any direction.

Class 78. **Minnesota Arboretum:** Acres of formal and informal plantings that delight the eye and renew the spirit. Along the winding three-mile drive, various collections are displayed. You can see examples of different varieties of a particular species and choose just the right one for your site. In a dish garden **using more than one blooming African violet**, this is your chance to display a collection of minis and/or semis. Suggest a pleasant day at the arboretum. Not to exceed 24" in any direction.

Class 79. **Lake Harriet Band Shell:** Minneapolis, the City of Lakes, features an old-fashioned way to spend a grand summer evening. The Lake Harriet Band Shell is the sight of great performances that are free to the public. Whether strolling by the lake or picnicking by the band shell, visitors may enjoy a summer evening filled with music. Design a terrarium suggesting a warm summer evening by the lake. Not to exceed 18" in any direction.

Class 80. **Como Park Conservatory:** Old-time elegance in this St. Paul landmark. Greenhouses, featuring a dome-top center conservatory, display exotic collections year round. Reflecting pools filled with brilliant Oriental goldfish and plantings highlighting each season greet visitors. Make a terrarium that suggests a stroll through a beautiful garden. Not to exceed 24" in any direction.

Class 81. **Boundary Waters Canoe Area:** Wilderness at its best! Endless waterways, majestic scenery, and ancient forests await you here. It's the place to really get away from city life. A natural garden made of rock, wood, or other natural materials suggesting Minnesota's great outdoors. Not to exceed 24".

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

### SECTION XIII-EDUCATION EXHIBIT

Class 82. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

## COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### SECTION XIV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

#### A. COLLECTIONS

Class 83. AVSA Collections-Standard Plants  
Class 84. AVSA Collections-Miniatures and Semiminiatures  
Class 85. Holtkamp Collections

#### B. NEW CULTIVARS (from seed or mutation)

Class 86. Standard African Violets  
Class 87. Miniature African Violets  
Class 88. Semiminature African Violets  
Class 89. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminature)

#### C. SPECIMEN AFRICAN VIOLETS

Class 90. Standards, plain green foliage, solid color, and two-tone blossoms  
Class 91. Standards, plain green foliage, all other blossoms  
Class 92. Standards, variegated foliage  
Class 93. Miniatures, plain foliage  
Class 94. Miniatures, variegated foliage  
Class 95. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, solid color, and two-tone blossoms  
Class 96. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, all other blossoms  
Class 97. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage  
Class 98. Trailers, (standard, miniature, semiminature)  
Class 99. Saintpaulia species

#### D. GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

Class 100. Fibrous-rooted gesneriads in bloom  
Class 101. All other gesneriads in bloom class  
Class 102. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

#### E. SECTION XV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

Class 103. Display Table  
Class 104. Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only  
Class 105. Commercial Showcase- Artistic-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, May 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 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. Members **ON TOUR ON WEDNESDAY ONLY MUST** turn in a list of their entries at the convention registration desk on **TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY** and **MUST** receive a late pass to enter on **WEDNESDAY**, May 31, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
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.
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 7 through 49.
7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 49, 50, 52, and 53 as those in classes 7 through 49.
8. All plants in classes 1 through 53 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 48.
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, the Buckeye Collections, Class 5, and the Russian Collections, Class 6, must be AVSA-registered.
16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collections, Classes 1 and 2, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, Robinson Collection, Class 4, Buckeye Collection, Class 5, and Russian Collection, Class 6.
17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
18. Exhibits must be checked out on Saturday night, June 3, 2006. Instructions on checkout will be given at the convention.

## DESIGN DIVISION

### Rules and Regulations

1. **EXHIBITORS** – Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.
2. **ENTRY TIME** – On Wednesday, May 31, 2006, entries will be accepted from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to

6:00 p.m. Entrants **on tour Wednesday only** may enter from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Design entry books will close at 9:00 p.m. Those desiring to enter designs after 6:00 p.m. must notify the Design Entries Reservation Chairman in writing by the morning of Wednesday, May 31, 2006 (messages may be left at the convention registration desk).

3. **ENTRIES** – Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class and is limited to a total of eight entries in classes 62-76 (interpretive flower and plant arrangements) and one in each of the container garden classes 77-81.
4. **DESIGN WORK** – Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs **until 9:00 p.m.** on Wednesday, May 31. On Thursday, June 1, designers may place blossoms and touch up designs from **6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.** All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the show room by 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 1.
5. **INDEX CARD** – All exhibits must have a 3" x 5" index card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known). A written subtitle may also be included on the card.
6. **DESIGN RESERVATIONS** – Advance written reservations are required for all design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a completed reservation (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, **postmarked no earlier than March 22, 2006, nor later than May 3, 2006**, to: Jinean Schofield, 4665 Morris Lane, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons wishing to cancel confirmed reservations or ask questions concerning the schedule or staging of designs may write the above address or call 952-888-0044.
7. No part of any design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space limitations.

## 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. All commercial exhibitors are eligible to enter the Design Division.
2. All commercial members are allowed to enter all commercial classes without being excluded from any other commercial classes.
3. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.
4. 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 and some species.
5. 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 83 and 84, and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 85, 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.
6. Any African violet plant in Specimen Plants, (Section B-New cultivar classes) Display Table, or Commercial Showcase sections may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards. Entries may be seedlings, sports, or mutants

originated by the exhibitor, or 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. An exhibitor entering a display table may also enter other commercial classes. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semi-miniatures, or miniature or semiminiature 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. AVSA will provide white table covers for display tables; however, display tables may be covered with any color or pattern at the exhibitor's discretion.
8. Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase Classes will be allotted table space sufficient for their display. Table covers will be neutral. Exhibits in these classes shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminiature, standard, or trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Showcases must be predominantly (75%) African violets or designs using African violets. Class 104, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only shall be a collection of 6-10 plants, (exhibitor may designate one plant as a unit or three plants as a unit) with NO embellishment. Class 105, Commercial Showcase-Artistic, must include a creative aspect, and may include designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating African violets. Showcases-Horticulture and Showcases-Artistic shall both be judged on horticulture perfection. Horticulture perfection shall be computed by finding the average points per plant in the Showcase. No merchandise will be allowed in these classes. Awards in Showcase-Horticulture class 104 shall be based 100% on horticultural perfection. Awards for Showcase-Artistic class 105 shall be based on 80% horticultural perfection and 20% on distinction and originality. Awards will be given for best, second-best, and third-best for Display Table, Class 103, Showcase-Horticulture, Class 104, and Showcase-Artistic, class 105.
9. In Commercial Showcases each entry in the exhibit will be judged. Class 104 shall use standard plant name and entry tags supplied by Entries. In Class 105, 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 105, no ribbon awards will be given. Instead, each showcase with all blue ribbon exhibits will receive a rosette. A point

score sheet shall be given to each exhibitor showing how awards were determined. **(Please note: an exhibitor may choose to NOT have their Showcase judged).**

10. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Class 103. Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitor may provide their own covering. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.
11. 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 Class do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.
12. Signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables or commercial showcases prior to judging
13. 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.
14. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.
15. Exhibits in the Display Table class and the Commercial Showcase classes will not count toward Commercial Sweepstakes or Design Sweepstakes Awards.
16. Rosettes will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors receiving first, second, and third highest number of points in each Display Table and Commercial Showcase class. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.
17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
18. To reserve a display table, space for a commercial showcase, or for further information, contact Kathy Bell, 9611 E. Blanding Lane, Tucson, AZ 85747, e-mail bellkk@peoplepc.com. Reservations must be made no later than April 15, 2006.



## African Violet Society of America, Inc. 2006 Tours – Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Tour #1 Monday, May 29, 2006

### The Spam Museum and Cabela's 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

A museum dedicated to a canned meat? Really? Yes, indeed! Austin, Minnesota is home to the world-famous **Spam® Museum**. This 16,500 square-foot facility features sophisticated exhibits, state-of-the-art video displays, a puppet show, and even the interactive Spam® Game Show in which members of the group can play against each

other. Learn the entire history of this small but incredible "miracle meat". Anything and everything Spam® can be found in the Spam® Shop, and

lunch of you-know-what is included at the Spam® Café.

After lunch we head to **Cabela's**, where the outdoors comes alive. Known as the world's foremost outfitter of hunting, fishing, and outdoor gear, Cabela's has more than 100,000 square feet of space, including massive displays of stuffed animals and large and entertaining aquariums. Check out the vast array of goods available, and don't miss the bargain cave.

For more information, go online to [www.spam.com](http://www.spam.com) and/or [www.cabelas.com/cabelas/en/templates/home.jhtm](http://www.cabelas.com/cabelas/en/templates/home.jhtm).



**Tour #2**  
**Monday, May 29, 2006**

**Como Park Conservatory and Fort Snelling**  
**9:30 am – 4:30 pm**



The **Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park and Zoo** draws over 400,000 visitors annually. Opened in 1915, it is the largest glass-domed garden in the region and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Enjoy walking through the gardens and viewing the displays of palms, orchids, ferns, and bonsai, as well as the lovely sunken and Japanese gardens. Lunch will be on your own

at the new grill which serves a variety of foods.

Historic **Fort Snelling**, a military outpost established in the 1820's, was once a small settlement in the vast American wilderness, although the stone fortress is now surrounded by urban growth. Through time it played a major role in obtaining treaties with Indian tribes and was a training site for soldiers in the Civil War and World War II. In 1960, the fort was designated as Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark. Witness vivid living history programs and appreciate this great opportunity to experience frontier life

For more information, go to [www.mnhs.org/places/sites/hfs/](http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/hfs/) and/or [www.comozooconservatory.org/conservatory](http://www.comozooconservatory.org/conservatory).

**Tour #3**  
**Tuesday, May 30, 2006**



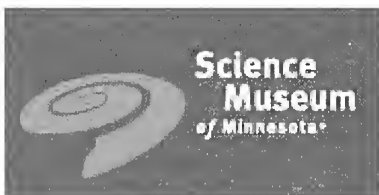
**Stillwater**  
**9:00 am – 5:00pm**

Take a journey back in time and experience turn-of-the-century charm amid the multicolored Victorian homes in **Stillwater, Minnesota**. Nestled into the bluffs overlooking the beautiful and scenic St. Croix River, the city itself has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Noted for its many antique stores, Stillwater offers the pleasures of main street

shopping. Lunch will be on your own at one of the many local restaurants. A logging town into the late 1880's, the city hosted the state's 1848 territorial convention and was the site of the first territorial prison. Shops, taverns, offices, and restaurants are situated in buildings that once served as a rooming house, brewery, railroad building, or theater. Great pride is taken in preserving the past. A trolley tour provides a look at old churches and homes and the first courthouse in the state of Minnesota, with a stop at Pioneer Park for a panoramic view of the city.

For more information, go to [www.ci.stillwater.mn.us/](http://www.ci.stillwater.mn.us/).

**Tour #4**  
**Tuesday, May 30, 2006**



**Science Museum**  
**9:30 am – 4:30 pm**

The **Science Museum of Minnesota** fascinates visitors with more than eight acres of exhibits, so wear comfortable shoes and prepare for a day of wonder and science. Exhibits range from the "Dinosaur and Fossil Gallery" to the "Mississippi River Gallery"

to the amazingly varied "Collections Gallery". Just when you think you've seen it all, there is the "Questionable Medical Device Collection" featuring gizmos reputed to reverse, correct, or stimulate whatever ailed you! Relax and enjoy the IMAX theater and the 3-D Cinema. With over 1.75 million artifacts, the Science Museum truly has something for everyone. Don't worry about a place to eat; the museum has three yummy choices for its visitors. The Explore Store offers a wide variety of science-related items, books, and gifts as mementos of your visit.

For more info, go to [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org).

**Tour #5**  
**Wednesday, May 31, 2006**

**Bachman's/Minnesota Arboretum**  
**8:30 am – 4:30pm**

This is a tour for flower lovers.

**Bachman's** is a floral, gift, and garden center established in 1885. Their flagship store is on the site of the original Bachman family farm. Widely known for their quality, service, and value, they have proudly adopted purple as their signature color – even using purple delivery trucks! With 200,000 square feet of retail space, they offer exquisite fresh flowers, indoor and outdoor gardening supplies, gifts and home accessories. Tour

members will be given ten per cent off on all purchases. Beyond the shopping opportunities, there will be a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities of this massive floral operation. Lunch will be on your own in their new cafe/bakery.

Board the tram at the **Minnesota Arboretum** for a three-mile drive through the forest and meadows used as testing grounds by the University of Minnesota. Included in its 32 gardens are rose gardens, a rock garden, a Japanese garden, and shade gardens, as well as a restaurant, gift shop, and an extensive library.

For more information, go to [www.bachmans.com](http://www.bachmans.com) and [www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu).

**Tour #6 Minneapolis Institute of Arts**  
**Wednesday, May 31, 2006**

**9:30 am – 4:30pm**



Ranked among the top ten comprehensive art museums in the United States, the internationally renowned **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** has dedicated itself to "bringing art to life for everyone". Filled with priceless treasures, the institute has an extensive Asian collection, galleries of furniture and architecture, three-dimensional exhibits, and a vast collection of paintings. At convention time, a temporary exhibit of paintings by noted French neoclassical artist Francois Gerard (1770-1837) is scheduled to be on display. Entire period rooms, including ones from France and China, and three floors of exhibits (elevators are available) await your exploration. Within the institute, you will find a great restaurant, a coffee shop, and a fine gift shop. Since audio information is available for exhibits, everyone on the tour will be supplied with a listening device.

For more information, go to [www.artsmia.org](http://www.artsmia.org).

**Tour #7**  
**Thursday, June 1, 2006**

**Bachman's**  
**8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Since it is so impressive, a second tour is offered to **Bachman's**. This is a repeat of the first half of Tour #5 on Wednesday and will include the behind-the-scenes tour.

**Tour #8**  
**Thursday, June 1, 2006**

**Albertville/Ellingson Car Museum**  
**9:30 am – 4:30 pm**



The **Ellingson Car Museum** in Rogers, Minnesota, provides a nostalgic trip through the automotive past with over 100 cars, trucks and motorcycles from the 1920's through the muscle cars of the 60's and 70's. And ladies, do not despair! There is also a small doll museum. An extensive gift shop has every automotive collectible you could ever want as well as street signs and automotive books, manuals, and magazines.

Join in a great shopping adventure at the **Albertville Premium Outlet Mall** where an impressive collection of over 100 stores awaits you. It ranks as one of the top 20 outlet centers in the nation. Shoes alone can be purchased at nineteen different stores! And there is no state sales tax on clothing purchased in Minnesota. Trolley transportation is available, and restrooms and casual-eating establishments are spread throughout the mall.

For more information, go to [www.ellinsoncarmuseum.com](http://www.ellinsoncarmuseum.com) and [www.ci.albertville.mn.us/](http://www.ci.albertville.mn.us/).



**Tour #9**  
**Friday, June 2, 2006**

**Tour #9**

**Chanhassen Dinner Theatre**  
**Friday, June 2, 2006 5:30 pm – 11:30 pm**

The **Chanhassen Dinner Theatre** is the nation's largest professional dinner theater and has been hailed by critics from across the United States. As well as being renowned for its theatrical productions, it is also the largest restaurant in the state of Minnesota. For this always-popular evening out on the town, be sure to get your registration sent in early since the number of tickets reserved is limited.

For more information, including the scheduled production, go to [www.chanhassentheatres.com](http://www.chanhassentheatres.com).



## MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or **before April 16, 2006** 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.

## Just A Reminder

**On Friday and Saturday**, there is a \$5.00 admission fee to the Show and Sales Rooms for those not registered for the convention. Non-registered AVSA members receive a \$1 discount with proof of membership (card on front of *African Violet Magazine* mailing cover). All Convention Registrants must be wearing name badge to avoid the fee.

**Early Booking Discount** – Those who reserve a room in the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, and register by **April 16, 2006**, are eligible for a \$10 early booking discount. Simply list the reservation guarantee number on your registration form. Each person staying in the room may list this number. Book early and save! (Note: local individuals, staying at their principle residence, may also claim the discount if registered by April 16 by entering the word “local” in the space.)

**One Day Registration** – If you cannot join us for the entire convention, you may choose to take advantage of the one-day registration option which will allow you to enter the Show and Sales Rooms and to attend presentations and meal functions on that day.

## Don't Forget the Luncheon Auction!

Would you like to donate an item to be auctioned off at the 2006 Minneapolis convention luncheon or silent auction? Contact Edna Rourke, 99 Old Stratford Rd., Shelton, CT 06484, 203-926-9716 or email [apapillon@aol.com](mailto:apapillon@aol.com). **Do not ship items to her!** Items may be shipped to Mary Endrizzi, 7244 11th Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423. Please identify package as an AVSA auction item. **Thank you for your support of AVSA!**

## “Meet the Board of Directors” Luncheon

The Wednesday luncheon is open to all AVSA members. Meet your officers and board members in an informal setting. **Come one, come all!**

# 60th Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday May 28, 2006 to Sunday June 4, 2006

## *“Violets Vacation in Minnesota”*

### Sunday, May 28, 2006

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

### Monday, May 29, 2006

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration  
**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** **Tour #1 – The Spam Museum and Cabela’s**  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Information  
**9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** **Tour #2 – Como Park and Fort Snelling**  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration  
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Information

### Tuesday, May 30, 2006

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration  
8:00 a.m. to Completion Executive Board Meeting  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Information  
**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** **Tour #3 – Stillwater, Minnesota**  
**9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** **Tour #4 – Science Museum of Minnesota**  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Information  
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Convention Committee Meeting  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classification and Entries for Convention Workers Only  
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, May 31, 2006

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 – Bachman’s and Minnesota Arboretum**  
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Classification and Entries  
9:00 a.m. to Completion Board of Director’s Meeting  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon Information  
**9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** **Tour #6 – Minnesota Institute of Arts**  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ways & Means Table, Denver Promotional Table  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. “Meet the Board of Directors” Luncheon  
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Classification and Entries  
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  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. President’s Reception for Board of Directors  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classification and Entries – FOR THOSE ON TOURS ONLY  
7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Convention Opening – Cincinnati Convention and New Introduction Slides  
7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Social Break  
8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. **“Let Me Tell You About My Violets” – A Grower’s Forum**  
10:00 p.m. Design Work and Commercial Display Setup will close for the night

### Thursday, June 1, 2006

6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Design Exhibitors will be permitted to “touch up” designs and replace blossoms only  
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Information

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
**8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
**9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
9:00 a.m. to Completion  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Judges and Clerks Instructions  
**Tour #7 – Bachman's**  
**Tour #8 – Albertville Outlets and Ellingson Car Museum**  
Judging of Show  
Hospitality Room Open  
AVSA Information and Sales  
**Session One Presentations**  
**A. "Who Let the Dogs Out"**  
**B. "Basic Skills of Growing African Violets"**  
Ways & Means Table, Denver Promotional Table  
Commercial Sales Open **to Convention Registrants Only**  
AVSA Information and Sales  
Publications Committee Meeting  
Hospitality Room Open  
Information  
Registration  
Photography – Library and AVM  
Membership and Promotions Committee Meeting  
Nominating Committee Meeting  
Future Conventions Committee Meeting  
Opening Reception (cash bar)  
Awards Banquet – Show awards will be announced  
Show opens to **AVSA Convention Registrants Only**

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

#### Friday, June 2, 2006

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Showroom open to photographers only  
Teacher's Breakfast  
Information  
Registration  
Affiliates Breakfast and Meeting  
Hospitality Room Open  
Show Room open  
Commercial Sales Open  
**Session Two Presentations**  
**A. "Sinningia Speciosa a.k.a. Florist Gloxinia"**  
**B. "Hands-on Underwater Design"**  
Ways & Means Table, Denver Promotional Table  
Luncheon and Auction  
Information  
Registration  
AVSA Information and Sales  
Hospitality Room Open  
**Session Three Presentations**  
**A. "Gesneriad Panel Discussion"**  
**B. "Hands-on Underwater Design"** (repeat of Session Two)  
**Tour #9 – Chanhassen Dinner Theatre**  
Commercial Dinner Meeting

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.**  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, June 3, 2006

7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Judges' Breakfast and Meeting  
Registration  
Information  
Hospitality Room Open  
AVSA Information and Sales  
Show Room Open  
Commercial Sales Open  
**Session Four Presentations**  
**A. "The Legacy of Holtkamp Greenhouses"**  
**B. "Advanced Judging Skills: Design"**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Agricultural 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, Denver Promotional Table

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Violets "On Line" Meeting

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Session Five Presentations**

**A. "Canadians Share Their Award-winning Secrets"**

**B. "Messenger- An Innovative New Chemical for Plants"**

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room Open

2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (cash bar)

6:00 p.m. to Completion

Installation Banquet

8:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

Commercial Display Tables Checkout

8:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n

Commercial Sales Breakdown

9:15 p.m.

Entry Checkout Begins

12:00 m/n

Showroom Closes

**Sunday, June 4, 2006**

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Commercial Sales Breakdown

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Local Storage Cleanup

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Commercial Storage Cleanup

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Showroom Cleanup

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Board of Directors meeting

## General Driving Directions

### From East

From the airport, take I-494 West and exit at Highway 100 North. Exit at Industrial Boulevard and the hotel will be located directly off of the exit.

### From North

Take Interstate 35W South to Highway 62 West. Take Highway 100 South to Industrial Blvd. and the hotel is located on the right.

### From West

Take I-494 South to Highway 100 North. Exit at Industrial Blvd. and the hotel will be located directly off of the exit.

### From South

Take 35W North to Interstate 494 West and then to Highway 100 North. Exit at Industrial Blvd. and the hotel will be located directly off of the exit.

### Airport Directions

The Bloomington Sheraton Hotel has a complimentary shuttle service from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. If you arrive at the Lindbergh terminal (the main terminal), pick up your baggage and look for the sign, "To All Ground Transportation" and go down the escalator. Continue to follow the signs for "Ground Transportation" which will take you back up an escalator (you are crossing under the street for private car pickup). You will see a sign and counter for "Hotel Shuttle and Scheduled Vans". Use the "Shuttle Call Center" kiosk which has a touch screen system. Touch the button for "Bloomington" and then touch the ad for Bloomington Sheraton, and you will be connected with the hotel to request the shuttle. The shuttles are scheduled to run every hour on the hour, but they request that you call for service.

If you arrive at the Humphrey Terminal (for Sun County or Midwest), pick up your baggage and walk across the street to "Ground Transportation". Use the Shuttle Call Center to call the hotel.



# Minneapolis, Minnesota AVSA Convention Presentations

## Session 1 Thursday, June 1, 2006 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

### A. Who Let the Dogs Out?

By Tom Glembocki, Apex, NC

Tom Glembocki, husband of Libbie and part of Bluebird Greenhouse, is the creator of the CD ROMs which document our past four AVSA conventions. He is a hilarious guy, a fine photographer, and the current chairman of the AVSA Library Committee. Tom will discuss using digital cameras to help you take good close-up pictures of violets. This highly entertaining program will probably help you take better photos, but it is even more likely to be a happy way to pass ninety minutes waiting for the Sales Room to open later in the day.

### B. Basic Skills of Growing African Violets

By Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN

Back by popular demand, this is a beginner's course on successful methods for growing African violets. Barb Werness, a local Minnesotan who has been growing violets for 40 years, teaches it this year. She has also hybridized violets and has developed the "Sora" series. Barb will discuss fertilizers, potting mixes, lights, and pot sizes to help you grow award-winning violets. The audience will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions and to see techniques demonstrated in a relaxed but informative setting.

## Session 2 Friday, June 2, 2006 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

### A. Sinningia Speciosa a.k.a. Florist Gloxinia

By Steve Hall, Logan Nursery, Wayne, NE

Steve Hall grows and breeds florist gloxinia exclusively in his rural northeastern Nebraska greenhouse. He has a passion for them that is highly contagious. Steve will share his methods for growing and have examples of the breeding he has done to obtain magnificent size, deep color, and double flowers in this often overlooked gesneriad. Tie yourself down, because Steve's plants are going to blow you away!

### B. Hands-on Underwater Design

By Linda Golubski, Blue Springs, MO \$20 fee (paid at convention)

Everyone loves underwater African violet designs. Now you can learn how to do them too. Linda Golubski, AVSA Third Vice President, and a fine designer, will lead you through the process of making a design that is beautiful and dependable. Fee includes clear glass container and tools, as well as plants and accessories. Students are asked to provide their own scissors and hot glue gun (pack them in checked luggage, if flying). Limit of 30 students per session.

## Session 3 Friday, June 2, 2006 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

### A. Gesneriad Panel Discussion

Moderator: Bill Price, Vancouver, British Columbia

Panelists: Marcia Belisle, Radisson, Wisconsin; Clay Anderson, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota; Charles Houston, St. Paul, Minnesota

An exciting panel, moderated by Bill Price, will enable you to learn about the ever-interesting and sometimes weird-looking gesneriads. A discussion about hybridizing, growing, and grooming will be beneficial whether you are an experienced grower or buying one for the first time. Temperature and light is always a mystery because each seems to require different things. They will discuss what they grow, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions to these learned people.

### B. Hands-on Underwater Design

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Repeat of Session 2 - B

## Session 4 Saturday, June 3, 2006 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

### A. The Legacy of Holtkamp Greenhouses

By Lorraine Marbury, Nashville, TN

Holtkamp Greenhouses, home of the Optimara violets, has been an industry leader for many years. Lorraine Marbury, resident propagator, will tell their story and especially document the work of Reinhold Holtkamp Sr. She also will share the details and shocking photos of the fire that gutted a major greenhouse there on May 8, 2005, as well as finish that story with how the recovery process is going. You will learn about the past, present and future of Holtkamp and their plants.

### B. Advanced Judging Skills: Design

By Jackie Jones, Durant, IA

There seems to be no task more daunting to many African violet judges than to judge the designs. The always delightful Jackie Jones, an AVSA Teacher, a Master Judge, and a top designer will present photos of designs with flaws and give tips on how to recognize the flaw and how to deduct the correct number of points. Self-described as a "little old lady", Jackie is sure to make this entertaining as well as educational for those who are certified AVSA judges and for those non-judges who simply wish to learn more about design.

## Session 5 Saturday, June 3, 2006 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

### A. Canadians Share their Award-winning Secrets

Moderator: Winston Goretsky, Calgary, Alberta

Panelists: Beverley Williams and Doris Brownlie, both of Mississauga, Ontario, who will be joined by other notable Canadian growers in person or photo-story. When looking back at past AVSA conventions, it is hard not to notice how often the Canadian growers win major prizes. They are coming together to tell you their story, their techniques, and their secrets for producing show winners. We can't even tell you who all will be present, but we can assure you that this will be a wonderful presentation with beautiful photos and plenty of proof that the Canadians deserve their blue-ribbon reputation.

### B. Messenger - An Innovative New Chemical for Plants

By Robin Ross, Monroe, NC

Messenger is a natural protein that is secreted by the bacteria that causes fire blight in fruit trees. This protein is harmless, but it acts as a signaling molecule that there is a pathogen present and that the plant should mount a defense, sort of like a vaccination. Early on, it was discovered that Messenger suppresses disease in plants; it is now known that Messenger also enhances plant growth and flowering. AVSA commissioned African violet growers to test this product. You will not only learn about the potential of this product, but also will hear actual results from fellow violet growers. This promises new ideas for those who like to be on the cutting edge of technology.

**African Violet Society of America, Inc.**  
**60th Annual Convention and Show**  
May 28 – June 4, 2006 • Sheraton Bloomington Hotel – Minneapolis MN

**Call for 2006 Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, June 3, 2006, at 2:45 p.m. at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis, MN, for the purpose of electing Directors and transacting business that may properly come before the Assembly.

**Call for 2006 Board of Directors Meeting**

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, May 31, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis, MN, and Sunday, June 4, 2006, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

**Call for 2006 Open Forum Meeting**

The 21st annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, June 3, 2006, at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis, MN. 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 Students and Certificate Renewals**

An AVSA Judging School will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006, 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 a.m. – 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 p.m. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email 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 checks payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars) to: Jack Wilson, 114 Pine Valley Ct., DeBary, FL 32713-2300. Registration for the judging school must be received by May 6, 2006.

**Attention Judges**

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows and Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite TX 75150-2121. **DO NOT SEND TO AVSA OFFICE. These must be postmarked no later than April 22, 2006.** 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 April 22, 2006 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Classes entered \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Judge:    \_\_\_ Advanced    \_\_\_ Senior    \_\_\_ Master    \_\_\_ AGGS    \_\_\_ Nat'l Council  
Experience:    \_\_\_ Mini/Semis    \_\_\_ Trailer    \_\_\_ Species    \_\_\_ Standards    \_\_\_ 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 and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows and Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **DO NOT SEND TO AVSA OFFICE. These applications must be postmarked no later than April 22, 2006.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Student Judge    \_\_\_ Advanced Judge    \_\_\_ AVSA Member

**Design Division Reservations**

(Please type or print)  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 Garden Classes: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries will be accepted ONLY if postmarked no earlier than March 22, 2006, nor later than May 3, 2006, by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted.** Reservations will be on a first-come basis. Send reservations to: Jinean Schofield, 4665 Morris Lane, Bloomington, MN 55437.

# AVSA's 60th Annual Convention & Show "Violets Vacation in Minnesota"

**May 28 - June 4, 2006 - Sheraton Bloomington Hotel • Minneapolis, Minnesota**

## AVSA Convention Registration Form

**NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form, photocopies 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 AVSA. Mail to: The AVSA Office - 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by April 16, 2006. There will be a \$5.00 paperwork fee charged for cancellations. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information, and any 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

Email address (confirmations will be emailed if possible) \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest, or child attending. Photocopies may be used.)**

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- |                          |                       |                            |                        |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member    | (E) Judge             | (I) Judging School Teacher | (M) Non-Member (guest) |
| (B) Life Member          | (F) Senior Judge      | (J) Bronze Medal Winner    | (N) 1st Convention     |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge      | (K) Board Member           | (O) Columnist          |
| (D) Associate Member     | (H) Commercial Member | (L) Affiliate President    |                        |

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 also.)*

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 #
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TRAVEL BY:

Personal Car \_\_\_\_\_ Plane \_\_\_\_\_ Rental Car \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_  
 If by plane, arrival day/date and time \_\_\_\_\_ If by plane, departure day/date and time \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION:**

<b>Package Deal (includes registration, and meal functions 2, 5, and 8)</b>	<b>\$170.00</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<i>Package not available after April 16, 2006</i>		

After April 16, 2006, each registration will be \$75.00 or \$78.00 respectively.

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount) . . . . .	\$60.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after April 16, 2006) . . . . .	\$75.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount) . . . . .	\$63.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after April 16, 2006) . . . . .	\$78.00	\$ _____
International Member (Early Bird Discount) . . . . .	\$60.00	\$ _____
International Member (after April 16, 2006) . . . . .	\$75.00	\$ _____

One day registration (allows registrant to participate for one day of convention):

Please indicate: Thurs \_\_\_\_\_ Fri. \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. \_\_\_\_\_ Total days marked \_\_\_\_\_ x . . . . . \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW: Early Booking Discount for those who book reservations at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel by April 16, 2006.**

List hotel reservation number \_\_\_\_\_ **Subtract . . . . . \$10.00 \$- \_\_\_\_\_**

*Local individuals staying at their principle residences, may also claim the discount if registered by April 16, 2006*

**Meals:**

**TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

_____ 1. Wed. "Meet the Board of Director's" Luncheon - Chicken Caesar Salad . . . . .	\$25.00	\$ _____
_____ 2. Thurs. Awards Banquet - Traditional Minnesota Dinner - Choose Broiled Walleye or Stuffed Chicken (Circle one) . . . . .	\$58.00	\$ _____
_____ 3. Fri. Teachers Breakfast - Cinnamon French Toast . . . . .	\$19.00	\$ _____
_____ 4. Fri. Affiliates Breakfast - Continental . . . . .	\$16.00	\$ _____
_____ 5. Fri. Luncheon/Auction - Tortellina Primavera . . . . .	\$34.00	\$ _____
_____ 6. Fri. Commercial Dinner - Citrus Nut Chicken . . . . .	\$36.00	\$ _____
_____ 7. Sat. Judges Breakfast - Ham & Cheese Omelet . . . . .	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____ 8. Sat. Installation Banquet - Roast Turkey Dinner . . . . .	\$48.00	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL MEALS</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) MUST MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, BEFORE April 16, 2006. 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 (meal is included in Tour 9)**

_____ 1.	Mon. May 29 Spam Museum & Cabela's . . . . .	\$58.00	\$ _____
_____ 2.	Mon. May 29 Como Park & Fort Snelling . . . . .	\$35.00	\$ _____
_____ 3.	Tues. May 30 Stillwater . . . . .	\$40.00	\$ _____
_____ 4.	Tues. May 30 Science Museum of Minnesota . . . . .	\$36.00	\$ _____
_____ 5.	Wed. May 31 Bachman's & Arboretum . . . . .	\$39.00	\$ _____
_____ 6.	Wed. May 31 Minneapolis Institute of Arts . . . . .	\$27.00	\$ _____
_____ 7.	Thurs. June 1 Bachman's . . . . .	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____ 8.	Thurs. June 1 Albertville & Ellingson Car Museum. . . . .	\$28.00	\$ _____
_____ 9.	Fri. June 2 Chanhassen Dinner Theater - LIMITED SEATING . . . . .	\$67.00	\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL TOURS</b>		\$ _____

**CONVENTION OPENING: (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)**

Wednesday, May 21, 2006

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Social Hour, Slides of 59th Cincinnati 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, Paul Sorano, and Ruth Bann

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

Thursday June 1, 2006 Session One (Choose only one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Who Let the Dogs Out" by Tom Glembocki
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Basic Skills of Growing African Violets" by Barbara Werness

Friday June 2, 2006 Session Two (Choose only one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Sinningia Speciosa" by Steve Hall
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Hands-on Underwater Design" by Linda Golubski

Friday June 2, 2006 Session Three (Choose only one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Gesneriad Panel Discussion" Moderated by Bill Price
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Hands-on Underwater Design" (Repeat) by Linda Golubski

Saturday June 4, 2006 Session Four (Choose only one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Holtkamp Greenhouses" by Lorraine Marbury
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Advanced Judging Skills, Design" by Jackie Jones

Saturday June 4, 2006 Session Five (Choose only one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Canadians Share Their Secrets" Moderated by Winston Goretsky
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Messenger" by Robin Ross

**PAYMENT:**

Total Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Tours \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL  
 PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please double check to ensure all numbers are listed correctly**  
 Check one:

Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order Enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature (if using card)

**NOTE: Cancellations must be received by April 16, 2006 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**  
**NEW: Wherever possible, confirmations will be emailed.**

**AVSA 2006 Minneapolis Convention Grower's Forum**

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" . . . Grower's Forum  
 Wednesday, May 31, 2006 . . . . . 8:15 p.m.  
 Moderator . . . . . Jack Wilson  
 Panelists . . . . . Dr. Ralph Robinson, Paul Sorano,  
 and Ruth Bann

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. The Grower's Forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.



**Hotel Reservation**  
**2006 AVSA Convention, Show and Annual Membership Meeting**  
**The African Violet Society of America, Inc.**

Register by mail, by phone, or online by going to [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org) and clicking first on National Convention, then on "Convention Hotel Reservation".

**BE SURE TO NOTE THE RESERVATION GUARANTEE NUMBER TO QUALIFY FOR THE EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT (DEADLINE IS APRIL 16, 2006)!**

Please mail to:  
 Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis South  
 7800 Normandale Blvd  
 Minneapolis, MN 55439  
 Phone: 952-835-7800

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for confirmation): \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing Room with \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check or money order payable to Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. Do not send currency. DO NOT SEND TO AVSA OFFICE!**  
 To confirm your reservation, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

- One Night's Deposit Enclosed      MasterCard      Discover  
 American Express      Visa

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel at 952-835-7800.

Room Rate: \$95.00 (up to 4 persons per room) + 6.5% state and 7% city tax.

Accommodations requested: \_\_\_\_\_ number of persons in room

Single     Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Check in 3:00 p.m.)

Double (two persons)  
 Triple (three persons)

Quad (four persons)  
 Smoking      Non-Smoking

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Check out 12:00 noon)

Bed types available: (double-double)  
 Reservations **must** be received by: **April 29, 2006** The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle (limited) to/from the Hotel and Airport. Transportation information for those arriving by air:

Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_

## Invitation to Go Fishing at Opening Banquet!

Here in Minnesota there is nothing that we like better than to get out the boat, pack up the tackle, and get to the nearest lake for some good fishing. You can "get hooked" on the Land of 10,000 Lakes by joining us in a friendly little fishing contest. While the evening won't be out on the boat, everyone is invited to dinner on Thursday evening to open the festivities and show off their **best fishing costume**. "Troll" for compliments, look "fly," "cast" off your hat, and "wade" into some fun. The winner will certainly

earn the rights to tell a couple of tall, "fish tales". Casual vacation attire is welcomed too.

Join us in sampling some area favorites. We'll be serving a delicious Minnesota Walleye dinner or the choice of tender, stuffed chicken breast. The meal will begin with a regional specialty, wild rice soup. And for those with just a bit of room to spare, there will be another local favorite, Minnesota-grown apple pie for dessert.

## Hosts – Hostesses Minneapolis and AVSA Need You!

More individuals than ever before are needed to host the Minneapolis showroom! The Show will be open to the public for two full days and the public will be paying an admission fee. Hosts are needed to greet our guests as they enter the room, to verify that they have paid admission, to encourage them to ask questions, and to invite them to join AVSA (the cost of admission will be applied to their AVSA membership dues). This is an important job!

If you would be willing to serve for a one-hour shift, please complete the coupon below by April 16, 2006, and send it to: Kim Chisholm, 26818 Friesland Ave, Wyoming, MN 55092, email: [kchisho1@fairview.org](mailto:kchisho1@fairview.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Time: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ or Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

### IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$95.00 Two Double Beds plus 6.5% state and 7% city 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 April 3, 2006** so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations, which is April 16 (to receive Early Booking discount). 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 (or CD ROM or good quality prints which will be made into slides) of our 59th Cincinnati, OH Convention. They will be shown at the Wednesday night Opening Event. Include any information about the photo (names, state, etc.) Submitted slides will be donated to the AVSA Library, unless you request them to be returned. Please send your slides by April 30, 2006 to:

**Nancy G. Hayes**  
9 Cobblestone Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003

## Attention: Hybridizers Wanted:

Photo slides or a CD Rom of digital images (do not email!) of New Introductions are needed for the Wednesday night Opening Event. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new hybrids. Please send two shots of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your photos a written description of each image, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your slides or CD Rom before April 30, 2006 to:

**Nancy Hayes**  
9 Cobblestone Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003

proper care, an African violet can live as long as 30 years.

- **Light:** Don't put African violets in direct sunlight or keep them in the dark. In order to bloom, violets need 12 to 16 hours of light and eight hours of dark.

Medium to bright indirect indoor light is best. Turn the plants a quarter turn occasionally to keep them symmetrical.

Too much sunlight will burn the leaves and flowers, and it may cause the leaves to curl down and turn variegated leaves to totally green. Moving the plant to a lower light area will return the leaves to their natural state.

Too little sunlight will cause leaves to develop elongated stems and leaves, and the plant will stop blooming. Moving the plant to better lighting will correct the growth pattern.

- **Water:** Watering from the bottom works best. Never use softened water as the salts change the PH of the soil. They will inhibit the violet's ability to absorb water. Tap water that has been standing for a few days works well.

If another source is needed, store-bought nursery water works. Water the plants in the morning and drain off the excess after about 20 minutes. Mist lightly with warm water, which cools by the time it hits the violet, after watering. Watering in the morning allows the violet to dry before sunlight hits the plant.

Water every four to five days, testing the soil with a finger to check if it is dry.

- **Soil:** Use African violet potting soil and repot every 12 to 18 months. If there is significant growth – when an immature violet is about three times its container size – repot earlier. Repotting is also done so that the soil does not become compacted.

Do not repot in too large a container, as violets like to be root bound to bloom. Four-inch plastic pots are ideal for mature violets that are about 12 inches wide. The pots can be easily washed, sterilized, and recycled for further use.

Some African violet hobbyists mix their own soil recipes, often combining regular potting soil, coarse vermiculate, perlite, and charcoal. It is also possible to use a soil-less mix.

- **Fertilizer:** African violets must be fertilized on a regular basis, especially if using a soil-less material. A liquid, water-soluble, all-purpose African violet fertilizer is available at plant stores. Use at half strength, and at every other watering.

- **Temperature and Air Quality:** Keep violets out of cold drafts. The plants do well in the same kind of environment in which most people feel comfortable, around 70 degrees, and between 60 and 80 degrees is beneficial.

Good air circulation helps prevent disease, and any type of fumes can be fatal.

### Lifelong Hobby

If you like, you can start out growing one or two African violets. Reading up on them may inspire you to learn more about growing African violets as a lifelong, rewarding hobby.

The African Violet Society of America, an international organization, offers a bi-monthly magazine, an annual list of new hybrids and previously registered varieties, and information on violets and local chapters and shows. Check the society's Web site at [www.avsa.org/membership](http://www.avsa.org/membership), or call toll-free 1 (800) 770-2872.

– courtesy GRIT Magazine, [www.Grit.com](http://www.Grit.com)

# Happy 2006



## Culture Nuggets

by Barbara Burde

**Grooming your plants:** Every couple weeks your grooming should include placing the plant on a table or the floor where you can look down on it. This is the best way to see how its symmetry is – you can never accurately judge this while looking at the plant from the side! If the plant is tilted, you need to be turning it more often. If you have some leaves out of place, you can start training them into their proper places. This involves nudging them over. If it needs to be moved quite a bit then do it in stages – move the leaf about 1/4 inch, hold it in its new position for a week or so, then repeat this until you have the leaf where needed. There are

several methods for holding the leaf in the new position. Most of them involve putting some sort of stake into the soil near the edge of the pot, so that the leaf stem (petiole) rests against it and is held there. You can use large cocktail picks (plastic or wood), wooden skewers, or popsicle sticks. Another method is to use a spring type clothes pin to grasp the edge of the pot. This is only good if the clothes pin doesn't interfere with any other leaves.

From the *California Council News*

# 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 Sun. 7:14 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
2 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
3 Tue. 7:43 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
4 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
5 Thu. 9:44 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
6 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd 1:56 pm
7 Sat. 2:09 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
8 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
9 Mon. 8:58 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
10 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
11 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
12 Thu. 5:50 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
13 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
14 Sat. 4:51 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	Full 4:48 am
15 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
16 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
17 Tue. 4:49 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
18 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
19 Thu. 5:49 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
20 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
21 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
22 Sun. 5:28 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th 10:14 am
23 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
24 Tue. 1:38 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
25 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
26 Thu. 5:51 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
27 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
28 Sat. 6:09 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
29 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	New 9:15 am
30 Mon. 5:52 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
31 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st

### February Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Wed. 5:46 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
2 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
3 Fri. 8:51 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
4 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
5 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd 1:29 am
6 Mon. 2:32 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
7 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
8 Wed. 11:55 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
9 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
10 Fri. 10:44 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
11 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
12 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	Full 11:44 pm
13 Mon. 11:13 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
14 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
15 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
16 Thu. 12:09 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
17 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
18 Sat. 12:11 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
19 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
20 Mon. 9:58 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
21 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th 2:17 am
22 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
23 Thu. 5:16 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
24 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
25 Sat. 5:14 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
26 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
27 Mon. 4:56 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	New 7:51 pm
28 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st

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# Soil Mealybugs

by Jim Toms • Etobicoke, ON, Canada

**Species:** *Rhizococcus pritchardii* (the Pritchard mealybug) is the common species of soil mealybug found in African violets, but there are many others which are similar.

**Location:** It is found in the rootball of the plant and may be found sticking to the inside of the pot. Soil mealybugs drop through the drainage holes of the pot and are then also found in the saucer. More rarely, they will be seen on top of the soil and may even be in the lower leaf axils. The latter habitat is a more likely location for their cousins - foliar mealybugs.

**Description:** Soil mealybugs are bright white in color. Their shape is oval, like a grain of white rice, only they are smaller, 1 - 4 mm. Once you have seen a soil mealybug, you will not forget. The resemblance to a grain of rice is remarkable; they are simply smaller, about 1/4 the size of the grain of rice. Unlike a grain of rice, they have six legs on which to move. The legs are not evident except under magnification. The bugs move incredibly slow, but they definitely move, and careful observation will reveal this. Some species are reported to produce males which have wings. In identifying soil mealybugs, also look for the white, waxy deposits they leave behind. They secrete a white, waxy powder which covers their bodies. They also leave deposits of it behind them, especially on the inside of a pot which holds an infested plant.

**Life Cycle:** Eggs are laid in groups of 10-20 in a small white ball that looks like a miniature cotton ball. Eggs hatch in 1 to 2 days, and the young begin to feed by sucking plant juices through the root hairs. A life cycle is completed in 2 to 4 months, depending on the species and conditions. Some species or some populations within species are reported to give birth to live young.

**Symptoms of Infestation:** Insects may be seen in the saucer first of all. You may also find them in the root ball or in the interior of the pot before the plant itself shows signs. Plants will become limp due to damaged roots which do not take up moisture fast enough to compensate for loss through leaves. Infested plants are generally duller and weaker-looking than other plants. Ultimately, outer leaves will yellow and die. Roots will die or weaken and turn from healthy white or beige to darker brown (dead) tones. The weakened roots may also have become infected with root rot by this time. Infested plants generally have smaller and fewer blossoms. As the infestation worsens, the plant may die. Very vigorous varieties may show few symptoms.

**Source and Spread of Infestation:** Soil mealybugs are acquired from other growers in just a few or even one plant, but can still spread rapidly through a clean collection. It is not easy to pinpoint the source if you are not watching your own plants constantly. A principal source is the professional greenhouse where they can be rampant, not just in African violets, but in many species. The species which attack our hobby plants are from regions more temperate than ours (in Canada) so transfer

from the outdoors is not too likely. Soil mealybugs are slow-moving, but they still spread rapidly. One infested plant is all it takes to ruin your collection. They can climb out of saucers and across the shelves. They can also move downwards in your collection from one shelf to the next. They do not appear to be able to climb upwards. They can move laterally from one plant to the next on the foliage if the plants are touching.

**Prevention and Control:** Isolating new plants for three months is a standard recommendation. (Because some growers are using powerful controls which all but eradicate the problem for longer periods now, I recommend six months. I have had them appear in isolated commercially grown plants at about six months.) Observe all standard methods of sanitation. Avoid community reservoirs or mat watering if you can. Obviously, any infested plant is going to contaminate the others rapidly. Chemical controls are rarely effective. Drenches are commonly used in greenhouses. Don't waste time or money on chemicals that will provide feeble control and will not eradicate the problem. Similarly, don't waste time or money on expensive and more dangerous drenches such as Marathon now used in the United States. They give longlasting control and corresponding reduction in the number of pests, but ultimately they lose their toxicity, and the population may resurge from any survivors.

If you get an infestation, the simplest and safest method to handle it is to throw out the plants and, preferably, their neighbors. If you save any neighbors, keep them isolated and under observation for several months. Obtain new, clean plants or leaves from a reliable grower.

The alternative method is to grow new plants from leaves of the infested plant or by cutting out and re-rooting the crown of the infested plant. It may sound very daring and unconventional to grow new plants from leaves of an infested plant. It does work if the following treatment is used. I have done this with 99% success, and, believe me, the other 1% were tossed at the first suggestion of failure. I enjoyed a truly bug-free collection for years afterwards.

Treat leaves or crowns with a powerful chemical insecticide on all surfaces. Root as you normally do. For your insecticide, try acephate or malathion. I use acephate (PT1 300) because it is strong and does no damage. Malathion may cause leaf damage. This is not a job for "wannabe insecticides" such as soap, or any of the "naturals". They do not kill eggs and seldom kill adults.

If you are squeamish about using a strong chemical insecticide, think of it this way. You only have to use it once on a very small surface, one leaf rather than a whole plant. That leaf is going to die away and be thrown away very soon. Then you can enjoy the unsprayed pest-free plant once the insecticide has done its job.

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada

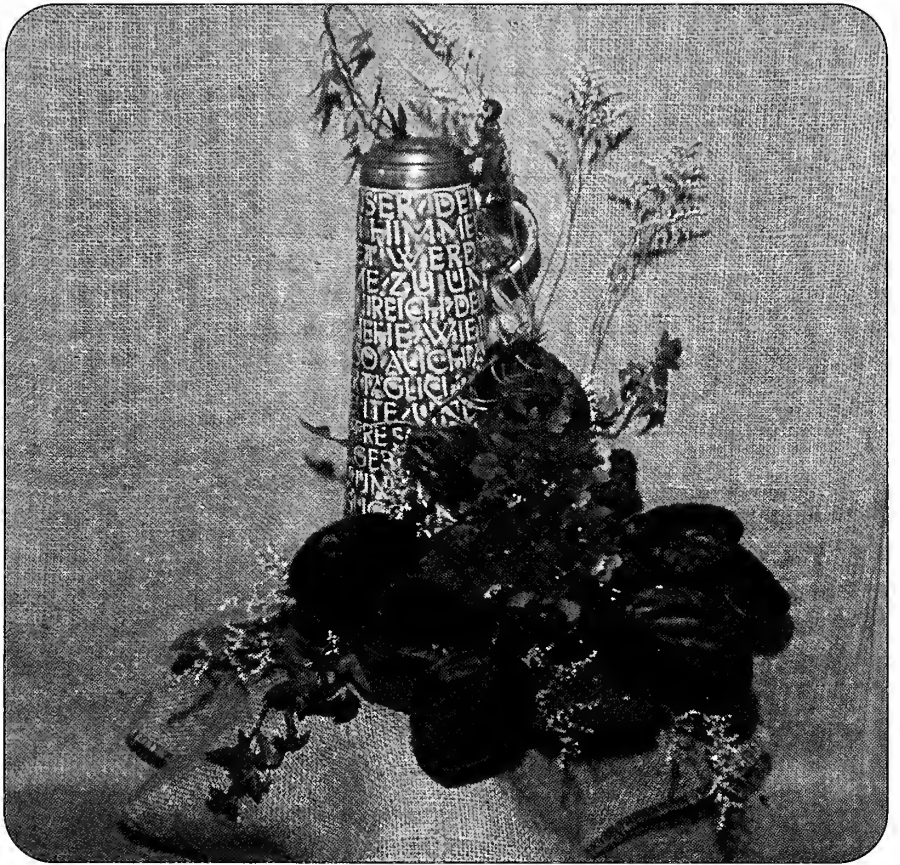
# Design



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *“Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden”*

*Exhibited by: Jane Rexilius*



*“A German Taste”*

*Exhibited by: Paul Kroll*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*“Riverboats”*

*Exhibited by: Arlene Garvens*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# Small Talk



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In light of the events of this past fall, my thoughts continue to be with those who suffered loss. With such tough times, growing African violets might be the last thing on some people's minds. It could actually



be the best time to start a friend, who needs a pick me up, with a miniature or semiminiature violet. Also, we can create many beautiful gifts to give for special occasions, such as Mother's day, using mini and semimini violets and a few other easily obtained items.

A required section of any AVSA approved show is Design. The Design division is the showcase in which an exhibitor can illustrate the artistically creative use of African violet plants and blossoms (page 67 of the AV Handbook). The exhibitor is required to follow the theme of the show and the categories as outlined by the show schedule. When we create a gift using violets, we don't need to worry about a theme; however, there are some basic principles of design that I would like to highlight. You can make simple and memorable creations with your minis and semiminis that will brighten your home or someone else's.

The principles of design are: space, balance, proportion and scale, rhythm, contrast, dominance, and color (page 69 of the AV handbook). I am not going to define or focus on all

the principles but I want to mention a few that will help you in your artistic creations.

Balance in design refers to the visual weight. The design can be either symmetrical or asymmetrical. When you look at

an arrangement that uses cut violet blossoms, do the blossoms seem secure in the design? Your design should have balanced focal points (your eye is not drawn to one feature more than another) and have stable construction.

Proportion and scale in design refer to the amount of materials used and the size of one object as compared to another. A small growing miniature such as 'Rob's Twinkle Pink' would get visually lost if placed in a large container with a lot of other materials around it. You want to strive for well-balanced areas of space, texture, etc.

Color can serve a variety of purposes when you are creating a design (arrangement). It can be used to create an emotional response (page 69 of the AV handbook) or it could be used to convey a theme for a holiday or occasion. When you are thinking about giving a gift of an African violet or an arrangement using violet blossoms, you might consider the recipient's favorite color and then use violets in that tone. Maybe you need a gift for someone for Valentine's Day. One idea is to get a basket and fill it with plant growing items such



as, potting soil, some pots and fertilizer and then put in a violet with red blossoms like Rob's Love Bite or Mac's Virtually Velvet. The possibilities are many. You could do white blossomed minis or semiminis for Christmas in a basket with some growing supplies and so on.

I love to share violets with friends and family but I also love to display my favorite plants in interesting ways in my home.

A great idea was gained from the 2005 AVSC convention in Edmonton, Alberta. In the design division, one of the categories was entitled

"Company's Coming". The Design was to be a "decorative display of 3 or more African violets on a tray, mat or doily..." You could pick a tray or plate that depicts a theme (such as Christmas, Easter, etc.) or whatever you wish, and then place your favorite miniatures and semiminatures on it (above - violets used are 'Rob's Gray Ghost', 'Rob's Boondoggle', and 'Rob's Green Jeans'). Try placing violets at different heights to create visual interest. Make sure that whatever materials you use you keep in mind balance, proportion, and color.

When it is time to disbud my violets, I have a struggle throwing away the beautiful blossoms. I have gathered many items in my travels to use for design like tiny jam jars and

film containers. One of my favorite finds was some miniature vases. I also love a gift I received which is a pin to wear with a water reservoir for blossoms (I believe I have seen them being sold at the conventions also). I have worn this pin with violet blossoms in it at our local show and sale and it makes a great conversation piece!

Using a suitable small container with water and violet blossoms, is a nice way to add color to other parts of your home. We grow our violets in

one area in our basement and with our winter temperatures, I appreciate the varied colors I see when I spend time in the plant room.

Oftentimes, instead of discarding the blossoms, I make a "mini" blossom arrangement and place it on the fireplace mantel in the family room (previous page - blossoms used are from 'Rob's Smarty Pants', 'Plumberry Glow', and 'Candy Crystals').

As I sit at the kitchen table and look at the snow outside, my spirits are lifted by the smiling violet blossom faces that I see across from me.

I hope that I have inspired you to be creative and find fun ways to share your miniatures and semiminatures with friends and family and yourself.

Until next time, stay safe, happy and healthy, and keep on growing!



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# My Wicked World of Violets

by Mary Hoskins

Perhaps you might enjoy entering the world of a maverick beginner...



This is a composite view of my wicked world. You can see the grids on which almost all of my violets reside with the two-shelf planter in the mirror's reflection. There is a third one-shelf planter that arrived on the scene after this picture was taken. All of these planters are a result of having to have one or more violets when the new catalogs arrive or when I am browsing the wonderful websites for violets on the internet. I was quietly content with 3 or 4 plants until I joined AVSA and found all the references and ads for growers, hybridizers, and vendors. Now I spend most of my day sitting in an overstuffed recliner that is located in front of and to the right of the red butterfly. The rest of the day, I am sitting at my computer/camera/printer area recording what I saw or what I planted. It was after I had purchased the third of my shelves that I read the warnings about not being able to control the acquiring of too many plants from more experienced growers. I saw, I read, I believed, but it has not cured me. I am presently awaiting two more plants. At least I ordered small miniatures. I am sure I will find room for these. Now I have large standards, standards, semi-miniature, miniature, and small or micro miniatures. I have all styles of regular violets: fantasy, wasps, variegated and plain foliage and two streptocarpus (streptocarp?) I do not have any chimeras, I am afraid I do not care for them.

## Serendipitous Ideas

I have been a collector of everything from garter snakes to rocks, kaleidoscopes, and now violets all of my 85 years. I decided to use some of my old collections in and around my violets. In the opening picture, you can see animals, a butterfly and below the butterfly, a geode from my rock collection. It was some time later that I read in the AVM that

it would be wise not to crowd plants too close to each other. By using my collections I was able to avoid this problem even before I was aware of it.

Here is another sample from a time before wicking.



I enjoy rearranging my plants according to my plan for the week, sometimes by color, sometimes by size and sometimes, because I felt that the plant was not up to par. If it was otherwise healthy I moved it to the far side or to the back where it would not disturb my esthetic (for the moment) eye. Just recently, I read that moving plants to different locations under the lights would improve their growth. Again, I did right by accident when I found that many I had sent to sit in the corner did improve.

I am very lucky that all of my present hobbies blend together so well. I have a love of taking pictures, playing with the computer, scanning objects, writing stories, printing them, and having, first and foremost, a collection of violets that can be used with all. The violets in themselves are quite able to keep me busy, but planning and taking pictures of them allow me many more pastimes. I use the pictures in my stories, I make note cards, greeting cards, and with the use of transfer paper in my printer, I make coasters, mouse pads, T-shirts, and tote bags for my friends and family. I do not market them so there is no pressure on me, and I can work at my own speed. A set of four individual violet coasters make a nice "Thank You" token for the cookies a friend brings me. I live in an independent living senior complex, and from time to time I write a story about one of my violets for our newsletter. Sometimes I just write a comment about them – like the "orange" in the name of 'Ness' Orange Pekoe' violet means the color orange but not in Orange Pekoe Tea. There it means the size of the leaf. I offer many examples of my depth of knowledge without harming anyone.

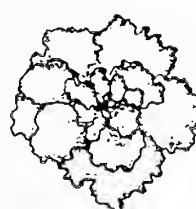
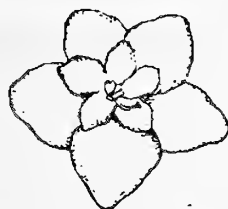
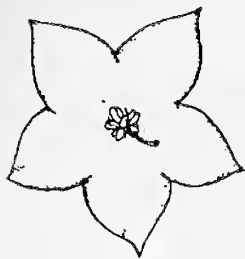
## My present concerns

Space is a real concern for me. I have no room to expand, and that is not a problem because I have all the room I need even if it is not all I want. Our apartments here are small but quite adequate. Unless I want to get rid of my walker, wheelchair, and electric cart, the space in my living room cannot be altered. My one bedroom window is home to my leaf cuttings. The one virtue I do not have is patience so I put my leaf cuttings where I cannot see them often, or I will try to pot them up too soon. I have not succeeded in getting more than 15 or 20% good results, but I keep trying.

For my one and only frustration I am going to respectfully criticize packing for shipping. I have received plants from about 10 different suppliers, and the deliveries are prompt, the price is excellent, the plants are healthy, but I have a terrible time in getting them out of their overcoats and galoshes with the exception of one supplier. I will not name the vendors, just the particular problem. The first one is stapling. One vendor uses a lot of big and small staples on the outside of the box, even stapling the invoice and replacement order blank to the inside of

the lid. I manage to destroy these forms in trying to get the box open. All use staples and masking tape to hold the plants in their wrappings. It is very hard to disengage these fastenings without breaking leaves or jarring the plant loose. Most put plastic bags or sheet even an elastic band around the plant, twisting the plastic close to the stems of the plant for support and protection which it certainly does until you try to cut it loose. The use of the plastic fill like that found in Easter baskets or a folded facial tissue over the soil does keep the soil from spilling out better than the twisted bag. The supplier with whom I have almost perfect success uses a fiberglass fill which protects the dirt from spilling as well as support, the plant and also uses a self cling plastic wrap like Saran Wrap with almost no masking tape. This wrapping is very easy to remove.

I do not have a total loss when I break off leaves in unpacking or during pruning. I keep a box of plastic sandwich bags nearby and a permanent marker. I check the leaves carefully and each one of those that is a candidate for leaf cutting I put into a bag, write on the name, and put them on a table in our lobby for anyone who wants to become addicted.



## Coming Events



### February 11 & 12 - FLORIDA

Upper Pinellas AVS SHOW/SALE  
Sunken Gardens  
1825 4th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33704  
Feb 11 - 10am-4pm  
Feb 12 - noon -3pm  
Info: Phyllis King (727)398-7450  
Email: [Phyllis.King\\_rlphyllis@verizon.net](mailto:Phyllis.King_rlphyllis@verizon.net)

### February 25 & 26 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale  
Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, OK  
Feb 25 - 9am - 4pm  
Feb 26 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

### March 11 & 12 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center  
11375 Cortez Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL  
Mar 11 - 11am - 5pm  
Mar 12 - Noon - 3pm  
Info: Thad Scaggs (352) 398 - 1679

### March 3 & 4 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale  
Orlando, FL  
Mar 3 - Noon - 4pm  
Mar 4 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: (407) 858 - 4634  
Email: [Cas407@earthlink.net](mailto:Cas407@earthlink.net)

### April 22 & 23 - MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

Societe des Saintpaulia de Montreal  
Judged Show/Sale  
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve  
4601 Sherbrooke St. East  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Both Days: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Monique Beauceage  
(514) 990 - 5701  
Email: [saintpauliamontreal@hotmail.com](mailto:saintpauliamontreal@hotmail.com)



# For Beginners



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## THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE RIGHT JOB

Regardless of what job you are doing, it is always easier if you have the right tools. The same is true for growing African violets.

The right tools will make repotting, grooming, and growing your plants much easier and a lot more enjoyable. Pictured are the basic tools that I use for my African violets. It should be remembered that every grower has his or her own

variation of the listed tools, and many growers have additional tools that are not shown here. This list is not meant to be a definitive, complete list of tools needed for growing and caring for African violets; however, it will be useful in getting a hobbyist started in the right direction.

Following is a description of the various tools and their usefulness. Many of the tools can be found around the house and may not need to be specially ordered.

**A. Scissors, masking tape, and a marker** are used to label the plant. I place the label on the pot; however, some growers like to label the bottom of the pot. My labels include the variety name of the African violet and the date of repotting. Other growers may include the size and description of the plant on their labels. Instead of using masking tape for labels, some growers use self-stick, pre-cut labels, and others write directly on the pot. I do not recommend writing direct-

ly on the pot, as it is sometimes difficult to remove the writing when reusing your pots. Plastic labels inside the pot are

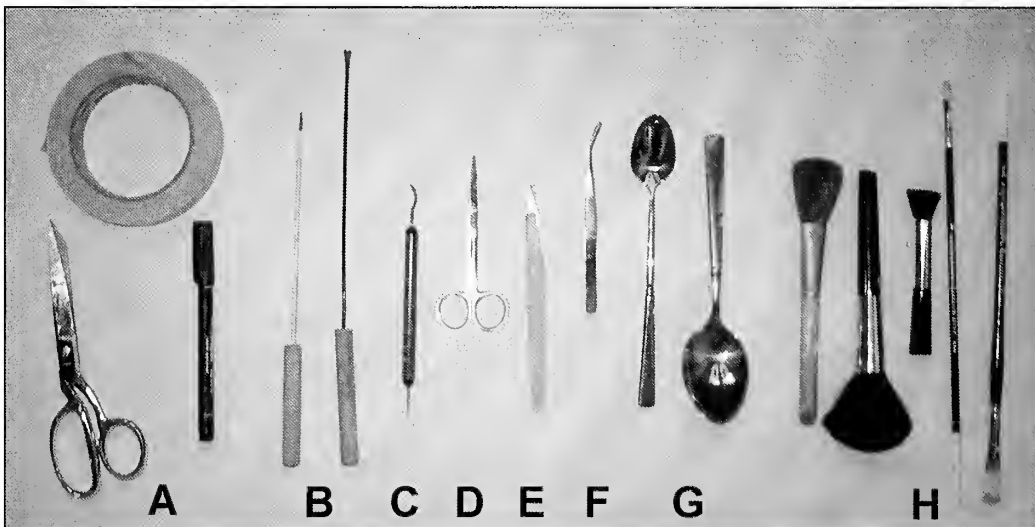
not recommended as they can interfere with plant growth and ruin the symmetry of the foliage.

**B. Pokers** are used to reinsert wicking material into a potted African violet. They can also be inserted into the holes at the bottom of a pot and slid

around the inside of the pot to loosen the plant from the pot when repotting. The late husband of a friend of mine made the two pokers shown in the picture. The smaller one is used for miniature and semi-miniature plants and the large one is used for standard plants. Almost any long stick-like tool can function as a poker. Many growers use knitting needles and/or small crochet hooks.

**C. A Sucker Plucker** is useful in removing suckers from African violets. It can also be used to remove unwanted peduncle stubs from the plant. The curved tip can be used to remove the sucker using a scooping motion. Sucker pluckers can be purchased from African violet suppliers or from ceramic stores (ceramic cleaning tools).

**D. Small scissors** or manicure scissors are used to remove unwanted plant material (peduncle stubs, unwanted blossoms, etc) from African violets. Small scissors are useful



because they can get in the tight, small spaces between the bloom stalks and leaves. Smaller scissors are also great for removing dead blossoms from bloom stalks without damaging the remaining blossoms.

**E. A Knife** is useful in cutting the root ball of the plant, cutting plant necks, and cutting leaf stems when propagating leaves. I use disposable scalpels, which have sharp points and are easier to direct and use on the plant. Any sharp knife can be used for these tasks.

**F. Tweezers** are useful to pick out plant materials from the tight spaces in the plant where your fingers cannot get into without damaging the plant. I only use small tweezers but many growers utilize both small and longer, larger tweezers for grooming and plant material removal.

**G. Spoons** are used to place potting mix in the pot and around the plant. Iced tea spoons are wonderful for smaller plants and pots whereas a tablespoon is useful for larger pots

and plants. Growers all over the country use many different tools for this job including funnels and scoops.

**H. Lastly, Brushes** are used to clean the plants and pots so they will look better and perform photosynthesis more efficiently. Soft cosmetic brushes are used to remove soil and debris from the blossoms and leaves of the plant whereas harder bristled brushes can be used to remove debris from the plant stem and pots. The harder bristled brushes can damage the tender tissues of the blossoms and leaves. Further, the harder bristled brushes are useful in removing pet hair from the plant leaves; pet hair can get caught in the tiny hairs on the African violet foliage, and the soft brushes cannot remove it. The length of the brush is not important as long as it can get to the part of the plant that needs cleaning.

Having the right tools for your plants will make growing, repotting and grooming your African violets easier and therefore much more enjoyable and rewarding.

**To read the AVSA Convention "Chatter", go to AVSA.org, click on the National Convention tab, then on "Report on the 2005 AVSA Convention"**

## Disbudding

by Denny Van Dorn

This is a technique where the plant's flower buds are removed to allow the plant to fully develop. The philosophy behind disbudding is that the pent up energy in blooming is stored until released by allowing the plant to bloom.

Continually removing the flower buds, or disbudding, should be started at least nine months to a year ahead of time for the show. Although you can take off the buds four months before the show, it's best to do it for nine to twelve months. For our show on April 22nd, four months is right around Christmas.

When do you stop disbudding and start promoting blooms? As a general rule, six weeks before the show for single blossomed flowers and eight weeks for doubles. Nine weeks for heavily variegated varieties and doubles.

A few things to watch out for:

Disbudded plants will have a tendency to sucker more than usual; particularly minis and semiminis. You can identify a sucker in the axils of the plant where the adult leaf is located. If you see three baby leaves emerging from the axils (one is usually larger than the other two), it will probably be a sucker. (If you see two leaves the same size and a dot the size of a pin head emerging between them, you have a flower bud developing.) Wait until the sucker is about the width of

your fingernail, 1/4" to 1/2" long, and cut or snap it off the peduncle with a small scissors or tweezers, leaving a stub 1/8" to 1/4" long. By not flicking it out with a pencil tip or prying with a nut pick type sucker plucker, you're assured of not tearing out a nearby potential flower bud.

Another thing to think about disbudding, the temperature of your growing area will influence your disbudding schedule. Warmer temperatures will bring about blooming ahead of schedule. If we have unseasonably warm weather in late March to early April, the plants may want to bolt into bloom earlier than we want them to. Cutting back on the amount of light on the plant will help. Please don't put them in the refrigerator!

A big help in disbudding is knowing your varieties and their habits. A plant that you have had for a couple of years, if watched over a six month period of disbudding, may surprise you with a copious amount of bloom.

*For this discussion on disbudding, I used as resource material; Pauline Bartholomew's book "Growing to Show"; and an AVSA Magazine article from 1979, Diz-Dizbudding by Sandra M. Lee.*

From *Blossoms*, publication of the  
Seattle African Violet Society

# SHOW AND TELL

by Barbara Conrad • Carlsbad African Violet Society (CA)

All right, you guessed it! I'm a (retired) elementary school teacher in you-know-what grades. In many schools Show and Tell is a common method of encouraging students to bring and share a wide variety of personal interests with classmates. These confidence-building items might include hobbies, photos, books, weekend adventures, current events, drawings, etc. It's a quick way for classmates to be exposed to and learn about a myriad of subjects as well as focus and highlight on the individual's interests. Most of the Show and Tell offerings would seldom come up in the daily school curriculum. It also encourages participation from every person at one time or another. Everyone wins!!

This premise prompted me to try out Show and Tells at the beginning of our violet club meetings in Carlsbad, CA. It proved to be just as fascinating to our adults as it is to children! We look forward to these five minute or less presentations as a means to examine a problem plant, hear about pitting pumice in planting mix, try to identify an unnamed violet, pass around a piggyback or bustle plant, look at seedpods forming on a plant, give out handouts on tips for growing miniatures, show how to make mini greenhouses out of clear-lidded plastic food containers that previously contained commercial baked goods or salads, whew .....

Our list has been endless and never fails to be interesting and educational! It's a means for our members to share new ideas for consideration and for new members to seek advice from more experienced members. There are questions and answers after each presentation, which involve more people in the Show and Tell process. We look forward to these quick and diverse tidbits of violet trivia. The various subjects (conversation starters) often trigger questions to be discussed later and we break for coffee and dessert.

Each person who signs up on the Show and Tell sheet before the meeting is rewarded with a free ticket to be used later on our Opportunity Table. This sign up sheet gives the president a list of members to call on for Show and Tell. The flow of the meeting is not interrupted with someone's questions or comments – no matter how interesting – that do not pertain to the meeting's agenda. Many violet tips and surprises would not be brought to the attention of members in our club without Show and Tell. So much enthusiasm and education results from these few moments of sharing each month that do not cost anything and take so little preparation! Yes, everybody wins! Isn't there something you would like to share with your violet friends?

## AVSA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

As of July 1, 2005

Life Membership Dues are \$600.00

International Life Membership Dues are \$750.00

### IN MEMORY

#### Ella Kiesling

What a great lady she was! Ella Kiesling radiated her love for her family and African violets. As a teacher, passing on her vast knowledge and experience to others came naturally. She was an inspiration by example, raising and showing beautiful African violets. Ella was a member of the African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter I, since 1948. She was also a member of Hi Country Judges Workshop, Rocky

Mountain African Violet Council, and AVSA. She held many offices, including President and Show Chair of Council and was a Master Judge and hybridizer of over 100 varieties of African violets. Her best and favorite hybrids were 'Lavender Shadow' and 'Spiced Burgundy', still grown by many. We will never forget her wonderful sense of humor, vitality, and her sweet smile.



# Light is More Than Meets the Eye!

by Kent and Joyce Stork

Even though we all depend on light everyday to see, as well to give our plants energy to grow, it is much more complicated than most of us care to comprehend. It isn't really necessary to understand all of the physics involved to grow violets well, but it is useful to understand a bit about the differences between visible light and the energy that light radiates.

All of light is energy traveling in wavelengths. A small part of that light is visible, but most of it, like X-rays and radio waves, is energy that cannot be seen by human eyes. Plants use the energy of light for photosynthesis, and it happens that the wavelengths that they need fall within the bounds of visible light.

Visible light is comprised of the colors in a rainbow, with the length of the waves determining the color that is seen. Thus, the color of visible light ranges from deepest violet blue (at the shorter wavelength side) to red (at the longer wavelength side). Plants happen to be stimulated to grow primarily by the blue wavelengths, while red wavelengths stimulate plants to flower. The yellow/green wavelengths have a fairly negligible effect on plants.

The spectrum of visible light is brightest in the middle yellow/green section. The brightness of visible light is measured by foot candles, but that measurement isn't of much help to growers, because plants don't care how bright the visible light is. Plants respond primarily to the energy in the wavelengths which are on the somewhat dimmer edges of the spectrum regardless of how bright that light may appear to be.

For growers who choose to raise African violets under artificial light, it is fairly easy to provide the red and the blue wavelengths of light energy by using fluorescent tubes. Cool white tubes provide plenty of the blue wavelengths to stimulate good growth. Wide-spectrum tubes provide significant amounts of the red wavelengths, which aid in blooming, in addition to the blue wavelengths. Either type can be used for satisfactory results, but many growers choose a combination of the two, often for economic reasons.

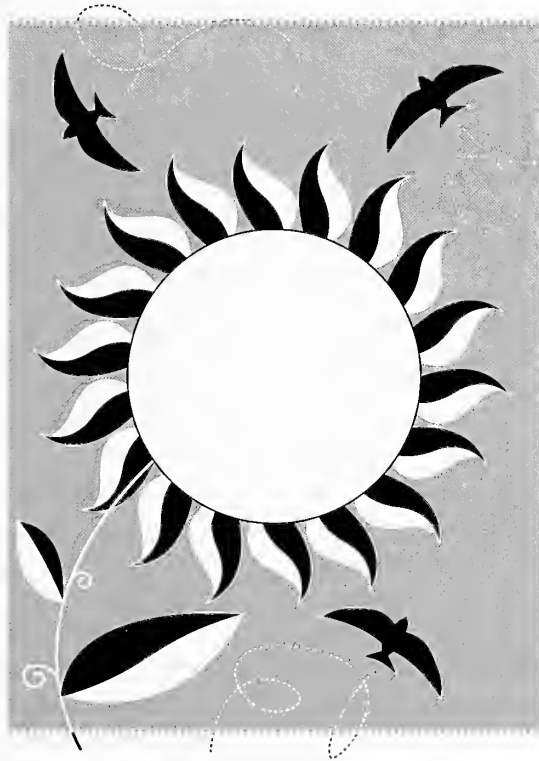
Getting the correct wavelengths is important, but it is also important to get the proper amount and quality of those wavelengths to keep each African violet happy. That is done by con-

trolling the length of the day that the fluorescent lights are turned on and by controlling the distance from the tubes as well as the position under the tubes. The average violet will get plenty of light energy when the fluorescent lights are set to run ten to twelve hours a day with the plant approximately ten inches from the tubes and near the middle of the shelf. Growers can tell when it is not enough or too much by watching the position and the color of the leaves.

While not only good for producing necessary light energy, the combination of cool white and wide spectrum fluorescent tubes produces a delightful visible cosmetic effect on violets. It highlights the colors of the flowers most effectively. Please note that now we are talking about the way the human eye sees it. Cool white tubes tend to make violets that have blue or purple blossoms look bluer. Meanwhile, wide-spectrum tubes tend to make violets with pink or red flowers look redder. This is most apparent when a burgundy-red violet blossom looks to be fire-engine red when grown under two wide-spectrum tubes. Used individually, the type of fluorescent tube chosen may cause certain colors to be over-emphasized and distorted. When the two types of tubes are used in combination, the color of the flowers will be more natural.

The cosmetic effect of the various sources of light is especially important when violets are on display in public rooms. Fluorescent ceiling lights will generally highlight the bluer flowers. Incandescent light bulbs will highlight the pink and red flowers. Mercury vapor bulbs, commonly used in large spaces like gymnasiums because they are bright and economical, will highlight yellow, green, and white flowers; unfortunately, it will also highlight yellow tones in the foliage. The latter type of bulbs is quite likely to make healthy light green foliage look like it has chlorosis and is in need of fertilizer.

Energy, brightness, and the color of light are all inter-related, but each has a different role to play. To be safe, follow the recommendations of good growers in choosing your artificial lighting. Don't be overly concerned about how bright the light seems, since the right type of light is actually more important.



# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
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Naples, NY 14512  
*Email:* robsviolet@aol.com

As I write this, the prospect of falling temperatures and rising heating bills looms. Let's hope that, by the time you read this, we're in the midst of a mild winter. Your violets won't mind if you turn the thermostat down a few degrees – they can tolerate a cooler household than you can. Variegation will be better as will bloom size and color. If you're growing in a cold basement, move your plant stands closer to a hot water heater or furnace, if you can, and further away from cold cement walls. For commercial growers and others with greenhouses, it might get expensive. When writing that check to the oil company, think of this: what better place to be in winter than working inside a bright, warm greenhouse filled with foliage and flowers?

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](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com) or via our web-site at [www.violetbam.com](http://www.violetbam.com). The web-site also contains a wealth of information (and answers to many of your questions).

**QUESTION:** *When rooting leaves, when you make the 45-degree angle cut on the stem, does it make any difference if the cut side is facing down or up when planted?*

**Answer:** Cutting the leaf petiole (stem) at an angle increases the surface area of the cut. Since new plantlets are produced along the cut, this increases the potential number of plantlets that can be produced from the leaf. Cutting at too sharp an angle, however, might result in damaging or losing the leaf if the cut petiole becomes too thin. Something approaching a 45-degree angle seems an acceptable compromise. The difference in number of plantlets produced with an angled (versus straight) cut isn't likely a large one, and is only an issue for commercial growers or others for whom maximizing the number of plantlets produced is important. Even then, many commercial members don't bother making angled cuts, believing the extra time and training required to do so properly with a large

number of leaves isn't worth the potential benefits. They just "stick it in the soil".

Though the leaf will root with the cut-side facing in either direction, it's better if the cut side is facing up (towards the front with the leaf facing upwards). With the leaf itself placed into the rooting medium at a slight angle, this means the cut surface of the petiole will be nearly parallel with the soil surface. Plantlets produced from the frontward-facing cut will have a shorter distance to travel before reaching the soil surface and, once there, will appear in front of the rooted leaf. This means that they can reach light and begin more actively growing earlier. If the cut side is facing down (or backwards), plantlets must grow around the petiole and may emerge from soil level beneath (or behind), and be shaded by, the blade of the rooted leaf, slowing its development. How do we do it? We cut the leaves at a 45-degree angle and root leaves at something less than a 45 degree angle.

**QUESTION:** *My violets are growing very well. They have gotten pretty big with lots of nice, green leaves but haven't flowered. What's wrong?*

**Answer:** First, be sure that, unless this is a trailing variety, your violet is free of "suckers", the small pairs of leaves that appear along the stem beneath the leaves (in the axils). New leaves should be produced from only one point, in the center of the plant. If "lots of leaves" is the result of more than one crown, or growing point, then your violet is too distracted producing foliage to bother producing blooms. Lots of leaves aren't necessary for lots of bloom, since flowers are only produced from newest growth and each leaf generally will produce only one flower stem. A well-grown violet, even when grown for exhibition, rarely needs to have more than 12 to 15 mature leaves.

Assuming that there are no suckers, and the plant otherwise appears healthy and lush, the most likely reason for a lack of flowers is inadequate light. If you're growing in windows, try moving the plant to a brighter exposure. Usually, east or west-facing windows are best, with southern light being too intense and northern exposures not bright enough. That said, every window, in every house, is different. Let your violet decide. If



one window doesn't seem to work, move it to another, or move it closer to the window it's in. Also, keep in mind that not all windows are good in all seasons in all climates. A north-facing window may be perfect in the middle of summer, when days are bright and long, but will likely be far too dark in the middle of winter. Your plants will tell you if they're happy!

**QUESTION:** *You've suggested using a "balanced" fertilizer, such as a 20-20-20 formula, but the only balanced formulas that I can find here are 7-7-7 and 10-10-10. Can I use these?*

**Answer:** We do suggest using a "balanced" formula, where the proportions of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) are relatively equal. It's been our experience that these formulas produce the lushest, healthiest plants, and plenty of bloom without the need of excessive doses of phosphorus (i.e. "bloom boosters"). Any of the formulas you mentioned would be fine. All of them have the same relative amounts of these three important nutrients. Just follow the directions on the container for dilutions when feeding every time you water. The manufacturer has already accounted for the strength of the fertilizer when determining the appropriate dilutions. If using a wicking, or other constant-watering method, fertilize at only 1/3 to 1/2 of the recommended dilution since plants watered this way process more water (and more fertilizer) than those that are not.

**QUESTION:** *How often should I water?*

**Answer:** We get asked this one a lot. Better to ask, when should I water? The simple answer is, when it needs it! There are just too many variables for a definitive answer. How quickly the soil dries depends upon heat, humidity, maturity and/or size of the plant, amount and porosity of the soil, size and type of pot, and many other things. When a grower says "I water once a week", that means either: a) in her environment, for her plants, they will need watering once a week or b), they need watering every 3 or 4 days, but her schedule dictates they be watered only every 7 days. Either schedule is possible, but the violets would be happier if they were watered at their convenience, and not hers.

Most plants, violets included, don't want to be either too wet, or too dry. The best rule of thumb is to water when the surface of the soil is "dry to the touch". Feel the surface of the soil. If it feels damp, or soil sticks to your fingertip, then water later. If it feels dry, water it now. Don't wait for it to wilt, yet don't water an already wet plant.

**QUESTION:** *Why do you instruct your customers not to handle plants? Doesn't that discourage customers from shopping and buying?*

**Answer:** This is paraphrased from observations (and a few complaints) from many visitors to our shop. Of course, we don't want to discourage visitors from buying plants, though that is

sometimes a consequence. It is true that it might sometimes seem that way. Before entering the shop, a visitor sees two large signs listing the "house rules". 1) If there is a "Do not Touch" or "Not for Sale" sign, please do not touch those plants, 2) Try not to pick up plants before you decide what to buy, 3) Place plants you want to buy on the front counter, 4) Do not move plants around, and 5) If you are "just looking", use your eyes, not your hands. Upon entering the shop and being "introduced", they'll be verbally reminded again by us or our staff.

It all can seem a bit harsh, especially since we should be encouraging visitors to enter the shop and buy plants! Usually, once we explain why, visitors are more understanding, if not appreciative. Besides helping keep the plants arranged and well displayed, and minimizing damage (in broken leaves and the like), this is a very important step in minimizing the introduction of pests and disease to our collection and controlling their spread once they are introduced. EVERYONE who grows plants, even indoors, will, at SOME time, have pest problems. If you, or another grower you know, hasn't yet, they've been fortunate-their time will come! Insects were on this planet long before us and will remain here long after we're gone. They're more adaptable and better at reproducing themselves than we are.

Eliminating pests from one's plant collection can involve using (often toxic) chemicals, as well as time and effort. It's always better to prevent their introduction into your collection in the first place and then, if they are introduced, to limit their spread and damage caused. As careful as we are in not bringing pests with us into our growing area, we only have limited control over what pests others (i.e. the public) bring with them. Fewer plants being handled means fewer plants being exposed. This isn't to say every visitor brings problems with them, but insects don't ask permission before "hitching a ride" on someone's shoes or clothing. It might be wise to follow the same rules that apply to us and our staff: don't work on outside plants (or lawn) and avoid walking in grassy or wooded areas before entering the growing area. We've been known to turn away hikers at our door for this reason.

Since pest problems are inevitable, especially in a "public" place with a large number of plants, limiting the movement of the plants also limits the potential spread of problems, should there be any. A good rule is to always try to grow the same plants in the same places, and not move them around too much. This way, should you see something "suspicious", it's easy to isolate that plant, or plants, from the others. If you don't have a habit of moving plants around, you can also be confident that you didn't spread the problem to other plants before the problem may have become visible. With a large number of plants, total isolation of a problem to one plant might not be possible, but at least the problem can be limited to a particular "area". At worst, we might have to discard a few hundred plants-better than thousands if a severe problem were to spread more widely.

# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
2855 Gayle Lane  
Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
*Email: bjabar@earthlink.net*

My husband Jack and I are back from our trip to the Baltic Countries and Russia.

My only wish was that we could have had more time in this fabulous country. The history was hard to grasp in only a few days. Look out Russia, I am coming back when I have

more time!

I have a correction to last month's issue of the AVSA Most Wanted. I wrote Mr. Brain, it should be *Mr. Brian*. I named it after my middle grandson. (I know he would approve of Mr. Brain though.)

## AVSA Most Wanted

Chateaugay  
Chisholm Trail  
Corpus Christi  
Crusade Trail  
Dark Crystal  
Drops of Wine  
Eleanor  
Ethyl Champion  
Foxy Lady  
Fringed Pink Swan  
Lovely Lace  
Lyon's Shockwave  
Mariner Blue  
Niagara's Blue Thunderhead  
Niagara's Celestial Star  
Niagara's Cream of Raspberry  
Niagara's Cream of Strawberry

Niagara's Critic's Choice  
Niagara's Ebony Cream  
Niagara's Foxpoint  
Niagara's Indigo Cream  
Niagara's Intermezzo  
Niagara's Miss Liz  
Niagara's Native Dancer  
Niagara's Sonata  
Niagara's Sweetums  
Niagara's Trillium  
Niagara's Unique Concept  
Navy Girl  
Optimara Hawaii  
Optimara Massachusetts  
Persian Treasure  
Plaything (Lyon)  
Priscilla

Rainbow's Dragonfire  
Rainbow's Dark Storm  
Rainbow's Emerald Frost  
Rainbow's Black Forest  
Rainbow's Enchanted Gold  
Rainbow's Starburst  
Rainbow's Galactic Storm  
Rainbow's Universe  
Rebel's Binky  
Rodeo Flashdance  
Silver Girl  
Spiro Agnew  
Starstruck  
Sybil  
Twist of Fate

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## Dixie AVS Convention

Mark your calendar!

The 50th Anniversary of the Dixie African Violet Society will be celebrated March 8-11, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, 197 East Broad St., Athens, GA 30603 706-549-4433. "Violet Time in Dixie-50 Years Later" is the convention theme. This was the show theme at the first convention held in the fall of 1956 here in Atlanta. The Georgia State African Violet Council is looking forward to sponsoring this 50th celebration

convention. Athens is a lovely city. Not only does it have the University of Georgia campus, but also the State Botanical Garden.

Contact: Kathy Spissman for more information:  
Email: Mrsstrepstrels@comcast.net  
Phone: 770-939-5289

*Aca's Eloise*

*Exhibited by: Sandra Lex*

*Hybridized by:*

**J. Brownlie**

*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

*Rob's Scooter*

*Exhibited by: Sandra Lex*

*Hybridized by: R. Robinson*

*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# NEW BIOPESTICIDES

by Nancy Robitaille

Our prayers have been answered! In the African violet world, we are constantly on the lookout for signs of mite, aphids, thrips, and all the other pests as well as weird looking viruses and diseases.

What would you give to have something that you could put on your plants that would make THEM do the work of protecting themselves from all our pests and diseases?

Science has finally caught up with us. Here's what's happening:

Some very courageous small businesses have been doing a lot of research for a more environmentally friendly way to get rid of the insects, pests, and diseases that plague us. Actually, they are working to improve food crop yields, but we seem to have a lot of insects and diseases that food crops have.

These are biopesticides where you put them on the plant and the plant itself is triggered to protect itself from pests and diseases. Biopesticides are virtually non-toxic to mammals, birds, honeybees, plants, and fish.

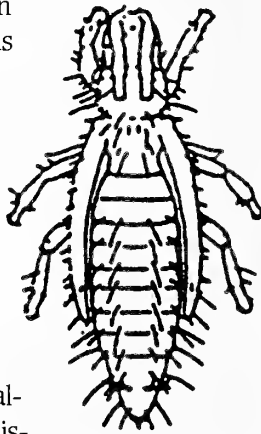
Eden Biosciences from Bothell, Washington, has discovered and is marketing a product called MESSENGER. This product wards off attacks from mite, aphids, and other insects as well as common diseases and environmental stress by activating the plant's natural growth and defense mechanisms. The product contains HARPIN, a protein which, incidentally, is the same bacterium that causes fire blight. HARPIN was discovered by Dr. Zhongmin Wei, Vice President and director of research at Cornell University.

MESSENGER IS A BIOLOGICAL PESTICIDE. Its job is not to kill pests or pathogens but rather will protect plants by activating the plant's own defense mechanisms. Results from California say MESSENGER is helping plants to protect themselves and already shows an 18% average yield increase in tomato trials due to this product.

Other biological products, VALERO or CINNAMITE, derived from cinnamon, controls powdery mildew, mites, leafhoppers, and aphids.

MYCOTROL and BOTANIGARD controls whitefly, aphids, and thrips. This is derived from naturally occurring fungus *Beauveria bassiana*.

Fungal diseases such as botrytis, downy mildew, powdery mildew, fusarium, verticillium, and *Phytophthora* can be con-



trolled with a product called SERENADE made by the company AgraQuest.

A product called SONATA is superior for controlling downy mildew. This product is still on trial.

The company AgraQuest is licensing a product called MUSCODOR ABUS and related strains for use as a biological fumigant. This produces a gaseous substance that will control soil-borne fungi such as *Fusarium*, *Phytophthora*, *Phyium*, *Phizoctonia*, *Verticillium*, and *Scleroticia*.

Dow Agro Science's product SUCCESS will control worm pests and is easy on delicate beneficial insects. SUCCESS is a beneficial fungus discovered outside a warehouse in the Caribbean.

There is little doubt that discoveries such as these are both effective and unprecedented in sparing the environment not to mention the health of the person who must use the product.

Smaller firms are the ones producing for the most part. New biologicals mean money. But first it costs money—and lots of it—to discover the product, test the product, and put it on the market.

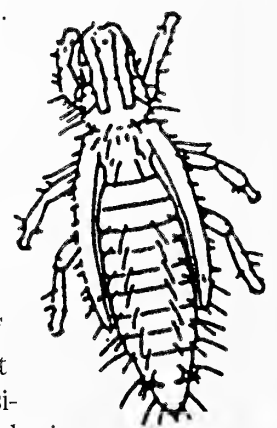
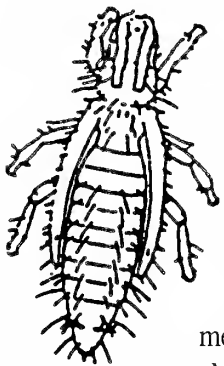
One company raised 36 million dollars before going public two years ago, and spent most of the money on research and development of MESSENGER.

Now this is the problem, I think. All of these will soon be available to us for our collections of African violets. BUT think of what will happen to those huge companies who have produced all the chemicals we have been using. Do you think they will buy out the small companies and never release these valuable discoveries so we are forced to continue using chemicals?

These products will reduce the need for all chemical poisons. These products are not presently registered for use or for sale in the United States. EPA registration is anticipated in a few weeks, or so they say.

MESSENGER is currently being evaluated in US, Mexico, and China.

Will we be allowed to use these products? Hopefully so. But you know what lawn mower manufacturers did with the invention of grass plants that stopped growing at 3 inches. Hopefully, these small businesses will not be taken over by big business, and products will be registered and be sold for a cleaner environment and a healthier YOU!





# "A Good Member, continued

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

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Email: Promers22@hotmail.com

Having a club full of good members is so important in encouraging guests and visitors to join that I decided to spend two columns on the subject. If your club would like to have one or both of these columns sent to you via attachment in Word format, please contact me by email above, and I will be glad to send it to you.

**Bee a worker.** Be a doer, a worker, not a watcher or a spectator. The best way to learn is by doing. Find a committee that you would like to work with and offer to assist. Ask the President or Show chairman where they need help. If you have a special talent or interest, you might as well work where you have the most to offer. But, do something!

**Bee a supporter.** Support whoever is willing to do the work. Do not be a troublemaker or cause friction; don't gossip or complain.

**Bee dependable.** Accept and carry out duties of various chairmanships and assigned duties. Refer to the columns in the January and May issues of the AVM, "Strive for the A+". In short, be reliable, committed, be a member who can be called upon to do anything any time.

**Bee willing.** Be available to help whenever possible, whenever needed.

**Bee challenged.** Accept challenges. Some members like to do the same job each year because they feel comfortable doing the same thing over and over again. Try something new and be creative, original, and imaginative. It makes the club healthy and strong when members are trained to do different jobs. I was a member of a club once that had the same show chairman over and over. She did not want anyone else to do it. It was her job. When she died, so did the club.

**Bee educated.** Participate in programs and workshops. Listen, pay attention. Learn so that you can grow better violets and so that you can confidently share in educating the public on how to grow better violets.

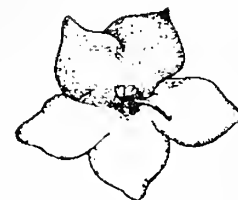
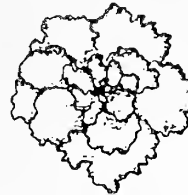
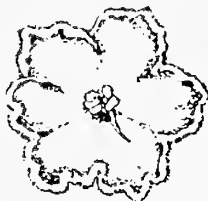
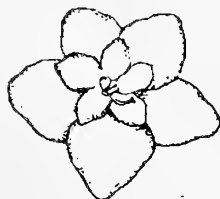
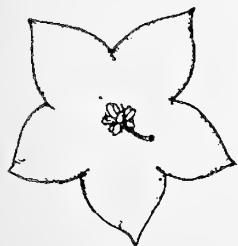
**Bee a helper.** Be willing to help other members. Provide them with answers, information, any help that encourages them to grow better plants, helps them do a better job, or helps them to be better members.

**Bee charitable.** Be giving and sharing. Share leaves, plants, and cuttings with club members. Don't just "bee" a taker. As a new member, you may not think you have much to share at first. You would be surprised how much even your most active grower enjoys a new plant or finding a leaf of a plant that he/she hasn't grown in a long time. Do not limit your sharing to the tangible. Sharing your knowledge is just as important. The more a member learns at a meeting, the more likely he or she is to keep returning.

**Bee a communicator.** Be understandable, intelligible, and clear. Make sure that people understand clearly what needs to be done, when, and how. Many problems and misunderstandings occur simply because people do not take the time to explain clearly. Sometimes they beat around the bush instead of just telling it like it is, especially when trying to make a job seem simpler than it really is.

**Bee club-minded.** Be a member, part of the whole. All the members must work together. It's just as bad to do everything, even if you want to, as it is to do nothing at all.

Have you ever been a member of a club and watched presidents resign their memberships after completing their terms as president? It is usually the result of members not doing their jobs and leaving the president to do all or most all the work. The office of the president should be the easiest one of all. The President should preside over the club like the "Queen Bee", and all the other members should be the "worker bees". It's obvious that not all members can exemplify all these twenty traits all the time. Where are your strengths? Where are your weaknesses? I'm sure everyone can find something to work on. I know I can!



# CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EPISCIAS AND AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Nancy Robitaille

Photos courtesy of Winston J. Goretsky

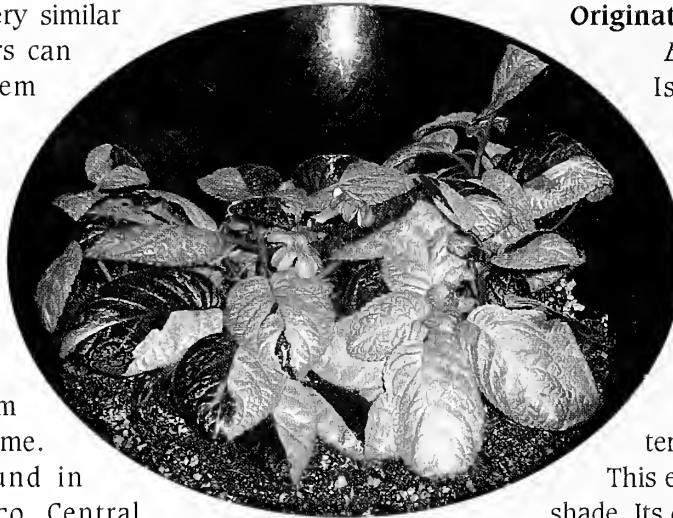
The culture of episcias is very similar to African violets, and growers can even "get by" by raising them exactly like African violets.

But there are subtle differences. When you know these differences, you will be able to raise more luscious, more colorful episcias thriving with health.

The first thing on the voyage to lovelier episcias is to learn from where each hybrid's parents come. Episcias were originally found in Northern and Southern Mexico, Central America, South America, Brazil, West Indies, Southern island of the Lesser Antilles, and other tropical areas. They are seen growing in the wild from full sunlight to tropical shaded woodlands. Most episcias need as much or more *shade* than African violets. When you know from where they were discovered, you get a better idea of the ideal conditions under which they should be grown.

According to research, there are over forty species of episcias, but only ten or so are well-known. Those grown and used as hybridizing parents are: *E. cupreata*, calyx green inside, sometimes flushed red outside. Narrow, hairy, not toothed, pointed lobes orange-red, approximately three-eighths inch. *E. lilacina*, with flowers of white with lavender blue throats

boasts having the largest flowers of all the episcia species, and *E. reptans*, oblong hairy lobes, pale rose red outside, inside, blood red. These have translucent papillae at the throat. Lobes are toothed and are about one-half inch long which widens slightly toward the throat. *E. cupreata* and *E. reptans* are two highly variable species which can change continuously.



## Origination of Species:

*E. cupreata* is from the Pacific Island Ecosystems, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, Central and South America, etc. *E. Cupreata* prefers shade to part sun. *E. Cupreata* grows in the range of nine to twelve inches tall by two feet spread. It needs regular watering.

*E. lilacina* is very tender to temperature and may die when temperatures go below 60 degrees F.

This episcia and its hybrids prefer shade. Its origin is Panama to Nicaragua. *E.*

*Lilacina* grows to six inches tall and needs abundant watering. This species can be difficult to bloom indoors but the very fine foliage



makes

it worth growing.

Some of the other species are *E. dianthiflora* (requires very high humidity), *E. punctata*, *E. fimbriata* (may have disappeared from cultivation), *E. xantha*, *E. viridifolia*, *E. prancei*, and *E. melittifolia* (transferred to *Nautilocalyx*). Several species episcia have also been transferred to other genus.

## Episcia Colors:

*Episcia* flowers are tubular with five petals (lobes) which sometimes show pinked or fringed edges. The range of color is wide: red, scarlet, orange, orange-red, orange-yellow, wine, pink, yellow, lilac, or blue and white. These have patterns as well. Foliage colors are just as wide: light emerald and jade

green, bronze, copper and silver-leafed as well as brown, pink, and white. These have texture of smooth or pebbled, glossy or matte finish as well as iridescence and have scarablike markings of bronze, copper, green and silver. Foliage variations are numerous.

Healthy episcias should be able to flower from spring to fall when requirements are met. Episcias can be propagated from most any part of the plant. Stolon propagation is quickest. Cut stolon from plant, pin it down onto fresh soil, and place a plastic bag for humidity. Plantlets may be obtained by setting an episcia leaf in soil, although this method is much slower than propagation by stolon. These plants can also be propagated by seed.

#### Temperature:

Sixty degrees F. is about as low as an episcia should have to endure, and 65 to 90 degrees F. is a much more welcomed temperature.

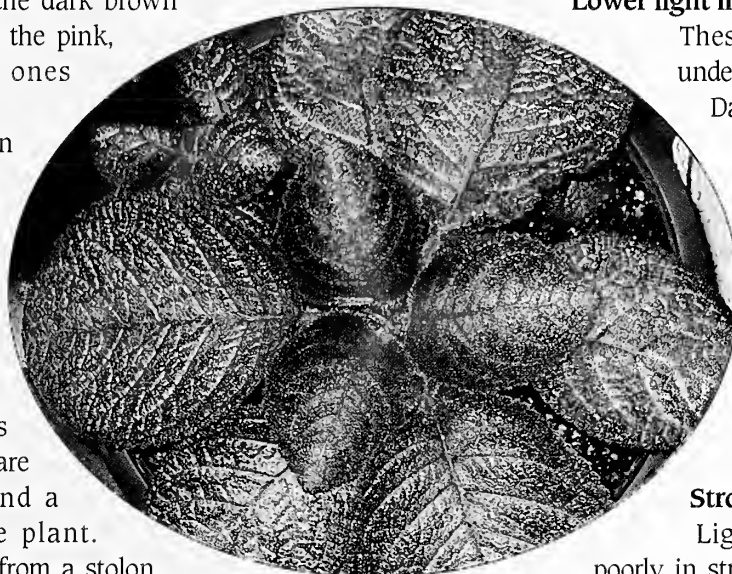
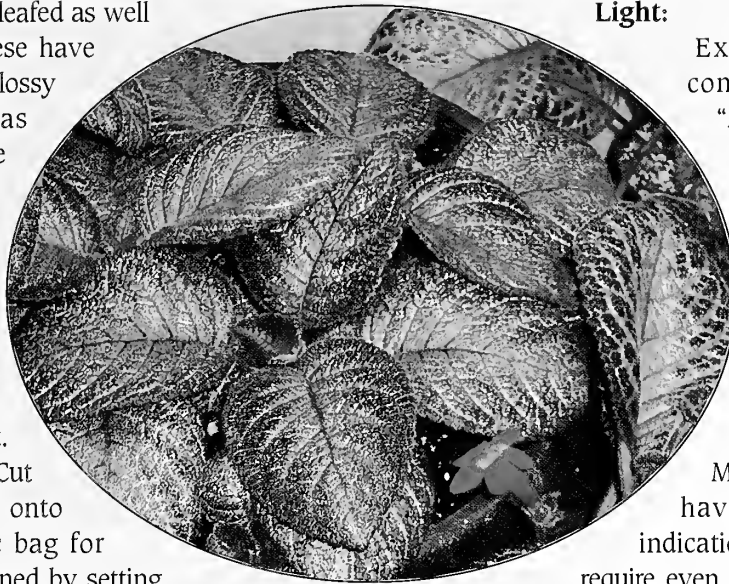
Amazingly enough, a temperature of 110 degrees F. will not be injurious to the plant if you provide daily mistings. Episcia roots should never be allowed to dry out.

When temperatures are lower than 60 degrees F., the edges of the leaves turn brown or the whole leaf will shrivel up and often will fall off.

Some varieties grow in the lower 65 F. to 80 F. range. In the medium temperatures 65 F. to 90 F., all the light green, medium green, and silvery *cupreata*-type hybrids will grow well.

From 65 F. to 110 F. all the dark brown and bronze hybrids as well as the pink, lilac, and magenta colored ones thrive.

Episcias cultivars can overlap these temperatures, of course. Sudden drops in temperature should be avoided. Top growth will be killed at 50 degrees F. Even though the plant looks like it is really finished, it can resprout in three to four weeks if the old leaves and soil mix are shaken off and replaced and a plastic bag is put over the plant. Actually, making a new plant from a stolon will grow faster than the plant that has suffered such neglect.



#### Light:

Experts give conflicting data concerning light for episcias. In "African Violets Gifts From Nature, Robey, on page 70, says, "All the members of the genus *Episcia* perform best when grown in bright light. In fact, episcias are outstanding bloomers when provided with more light than most African violets receive." Virginie and George Elbert, authors of "The Miracle Houseplants," say, "There have been very misleading indications from experts that episcias require even less light than African violets. If

we grew them only for their leaves, this might be true, but since we want flowers, considerably more light is needed. The confusion results from a difference between indoor and greenhouse growing. ...The majority of episcias require 500 to 800 footcandles for good flowering under fluorescent lights."

If I am not mistaken, African violets need 1000 footcandles of light. The majority of Episcias require 500 to 800 footcandles for good flowering under fluorescent lights, kept around 6 inches from the lights which is slightly less than African violets.

Episcias are tolerant of less light than most gesneriads. In fact, the name "*episcia*" comes from "*espiskios*" which means "shaded." Episcias can take dense shade or full sun depending on the variety and from where its parents come.

The *cupreata*-type hybrids will make beautiful large leaves but offer few flowers in low light. The darker the leaf, the more light they need so place darker varieties in the middle of a light stand.

#### Lower light intensity:

These varieties can grow very well under low light: Acajou, Boston Grey, Daisy, Fantasy, Filigree, Frosty, Jade, Emerald Queen, Noel, Painted Warrior, Shades of Erin, Wine Brocade.

#### Medium light:

Most *cupreata*-type hybrids with light green or silver leaves can produce many flowers using only medium light.

#### Strong light:

Light green and silver leaves do poorly in strong light. Dark brown or copper colored leaves grow well and bloom well in strong light. All blue, violet, blue and pink varieties require strong

light to bloom well, as well as high temperatures and humidity.

Don't crowd episcias. This causes them to grow weak and leggy since there is less light on all sides of the plant

### **Potting:**

Shallow pots are better than deep pots since roots like to grow up nearer the surface of the soil. Episcias placed in expositions are often grown in large saucers. Episcias do not like to be pot bound.

### **Soil:**

Good African violet soil less mix is adequate for episcias, using the 1-1-1 formula. Many growers prefer live sphagnum moss or suggest the use of bark with perlite and vermiculite.

### **Humidity:**

40% to 50% is adequate, but 70-75% humidity is much better.

Humidity is important to episcia culture. 30% and less will not produce beautiful plants. 40% to 60% is tolerated, but the ideal humidity for episcias is 65% to 75%. This higher humidity percentage produces larger, more luscious plants with vividly marked leaves. High humidity is also a must if you expect to grow large and numerous flowers. This is especially true on blue, pink, and magenta hybrids as well as most of the dark leafed cupreata-types.

### **Fans and Misting:**

Fans are important in an *Episcia's* growing room. These distribute mist, and keep humidity at the desired level, and provide air circulation to keep down mildew, mealy bug and other pests. It helps with carbon dioxide which is necessary for photosynthesis and respiration.

Misting cleanses the leaf pores and the stomata. Cleaning dust particles and other things in the atmosphere that have landed on the plants insures better health. Be sure to use hot water in spray bottles since sprayed hot water flying through the air becomes cooler. Certain episcias are shocked with cool water, especially plain dark brown or bronze hybrids.

Darker varieties tend to have leaves that are higher in temperature than light green or silver varieties since dark leaf surfaces absorb light while light or silver surfaces reflect light. It is suggested that you mist early in the morning to allow the foliage to dry during the day. Keep away from bright light when foliage is wet.

### **Watering:**

Keep on the slightly dry side: Adam's Rib, Amazon White, Chocolate & Cheries, Cleopatra, Dianthaflora, Filigree, Fire & Ice, *E. Lilacina viridis*, Mrs. Fanny Haga, Noel, *E. Reptans*, Star of

Bethlehem, Toy Silver, Topical Topaz, and Rose Brocade. The small root systems of these can easily be over watered.

Episcias with blue, magenta and pink flowering varieties should be kept on the wet side and can stand as much water as possible without drowning them.

"Episcias do not have a dormant season in the sense that tuberous or rhizomatous plants have, but they do have periods of slower, or no growth, and water should be slightly withheld gradually during the late fall and winter months...." Max Dekking, "Episcias: The "Peacocks" of the Gesneriad Family," Gesneriad Saintpaulia News January-February 1975.

### **Fertilizer:**

Episcias are heavy feeders yet need no more than 1/4 teaspoon fertilizer to a gallon of water. They enjoy foliar feeding.

### **Pests:**

*Episcia* are able to become infected with the same insects, pests, and diseases African violets have. When your plant room has a pest or disease, treat with homemade remedies or natural remedies first before resorting to chemicals which often destroy episcias before they cure them. New centers grow in extremely slowly if at all when burned out by chemicals or affected by pests. Episcias, especially younger cultivars, may be more sensitive to certain chemicals and may react badly.

Episcias are especially subject to foliar mealy bug. Look on the back of young leaves on spent leaves and flowers, on stems and crevices. Symptoms of mite include centers of the stolons or main crown appearing dusty, curled up, and hard.

Sometimes when centers turn brown and leaves completely shrivel up, it may not be mites. These symptoms may be from too high a percentage of nitrogen in the fertilizer which makes it too acid. Or it may be a symptom of salt build up. Top watering once each six weeks is recommended. This could also be from lack of humidity.

When plants wilt although well watered and seem not to be growing, in the 50s it was usually a sign of nematodes, a pest we don't often get these days because of our use of soil less mix. In the past, many growers used a soil mix which contained garden loam, and this is probably where most nematodes were picked up. Nowadays, these symptoms may be considered a sign of soil mealy bugs.

Crown rot is caused when soil mix is too heavy and keeps water in the plant. Make sure your soil less mix is light. Most growers recommend using a variation of one part peat moss, one part vermiculite, one part perlite with additives such as charcoal and other organics. Serious growers also use live sphagnum moss. Mildew is caused by poor ventilation and air circulation.





# Vacation Juggling

by Susan Gimblet

This past winter, my husband and I rented a house in Florida for a month. Including driving time, we expected to be away about six weeks. This meant that my violets would be left for a longer period of time than ever before. To make matters even more interesting, we would be returning home just six weeks prior to our spring violet show. Thus became my dilemma, how was I going to keep my violets watered and also have them ready for the show?

To begin, I analyzed what I normally do. I wick-water most of my violets using the standard deli tubs. I use the pre-show schedule from Pauline Bartholomew's *Growing to Show* book to prepare my violets for show. So, first I experimented with filling the deli containers to the brim and determining how long the contents lasted. Of course, this varied depending on the size and location of the plant as well as the amount of light and heat. However, I decided that if I filled each container to the top, the violets would have sufficient water. I expected that when I returned, the reservoirs would be dry, but the violets would not have completely cried out. (I hoped!) I did have a safety net. A friend was due to check the house on a regular basis and would add water to the reservoirs as a last resort.

Next, I reread the *Growing to Show* pre-show schedule. For those familiar with the schedule, it is suggested that a bloom booster fertilizer (5-50-15) be used during the 10th, 9th, and 8th weeks prior to a show. I would be leaving for Florida approximately twelve weeks prior to the show. I decided to give the violets one feeding of bloom booster fertilizer the week I left. I then filled the reservoirs with a 20-20-20 fertilizer for the remaining weeks. I kept the lights on the same schedule as always, deciding it was better not to try and increase light times.

I placed all my violets on wicks, disbudded completely, filled all the reservoirs to the brim, watered with 5-50-15 the

day before we left and hoped for the best.

When we returned six weeks later, the violets looked fairly good. They were a bit scraggly looking with leaves every which way. The plants had grown and were crowded. The reservoirs were empty or nearly so. The violets themselves were still barely moist to the touch. February turned out to be a cold, cloudy month, which I believe, helped to conserve the amount of water utilized. My friend had added water to some tubs toward the front of the light stands.

My first project was to evaluate each plant. I straightened leaves, removing leaves that were too misshapen, were baby leaves or affected the overall symmetry of the plant. I helped blooms to surface and removed spent blooms. I watered carefully with plain water. I separated plants as much as possible for better air circulation. The results were amazing. The violets looked great! Symmetry was good and most of the plants had a nice head of bloom. My plan had worked. At least some of the violets would be eligible for the show.

In the following weeks, prior to the spring show, the biggest issue became dying blooms. I had not been able to stagger disbudding according to plant type. Therefore many of the plants had come into bloom too early. Every day I was removing dead blossoms. I reduced the light times to 3-4 hours a day to try and slow the process. Fortunately, when it finally came time to pack up for the spring show I still had a nice selection of blooming violets to choose from. And the rewarding part was that they won some blue ribbons!

I will be trying the process again this coming winter. Our spring show is two weeks later this year. The one change I will make is not giving the violets a bloom booster feeding prior to leaving to see if this slows down the blooming. We will see the results come show time!

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



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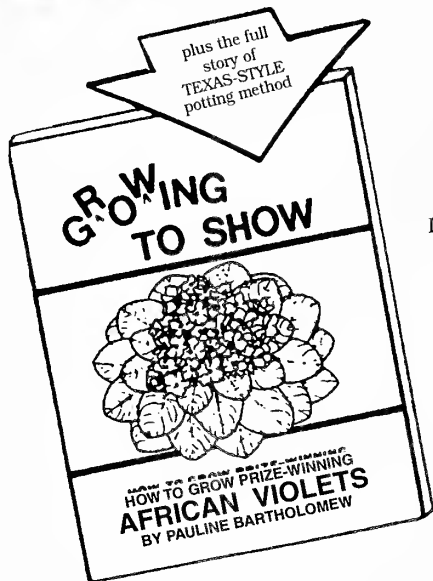
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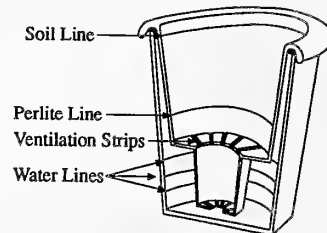
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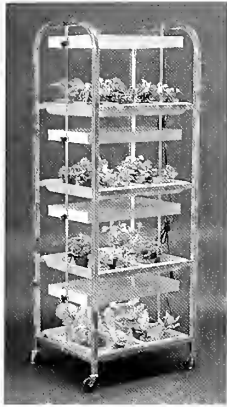
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VON'S MARINER – (Lambert), Nov p 13

WIKO – (Pilon), Nov p 37

YESTERDAY'S CHILD – (J. Smith), Jul p 12



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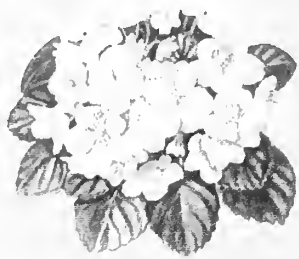
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**MA'S EASTER PARADE.** Double pink pansies, with slightly fringed light green edge. Variegated foliage.

**MA'S GRINNING GRAPE.** Large, lightly ruffled sdbl. purple pansies with very distinctive dark purple edges and tips. Wavy, heavily serrated variegated foliage.

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