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African Violet

Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African Violets.

January - February 1997

Volume 50

Number



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, 407-631-1106.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, 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. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

E-mail offmgr@avsa.org

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BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, 1534 Robeson, Fall River, MA 02720.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: St. Petersburg, FL - June 1-8, 1997. Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

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

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - \$10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook **prior** to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is \$4.25

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

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

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Oct. 15; Mar. issue - Dec. 15; May issue - Feb. 15; July issue - Apr. 15; Sept. issue - June 15; Nov. issue Aug. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send to Ruth Goeke, 4851 Pieper Rd., Brenham, TX 77833.

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

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

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith, 1449 Paloma Ln., Dunedin, FL 34698 and Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder. **Now available for \$15.00 each. MVL Number 7.**

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

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

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RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Richard Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

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

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Second class postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1996 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please Send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

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

January • February

Volume 50

Number 1



CONTENTS

FEATURES

In Memory of Myrtle Radtke	9	On the Detective Trail - Carolee Carter	31
50th Anniversary Book and Pin	17	Growing Show Winners - Richard Nicholas	32
AVSA 1997 Nominees	18	Every AV Society Should Be So Lucky! - Mary McFarland	34
AVS of Canada 30th Convention	21	New Collections of the <i>Saintpaulia</i> Species - Dr. Jeff Smith	36
The African Violet Around Kambai Forest - Diana Percy	22	A Basement Paradise - Anne M. Gannett	40
Violets by Airplane - John Nabors	24	What Next - Aphids in January! - Barbara Pershing	41
Growing & Showing African Violet Trailers - Ardath Miller	26	Love, Vi - Robert Berkenbush	44
MVL Windows Improved	27	More Members For AVSA - Jack Wilson	47
African Violets From Seed - Lola Rossi	30		

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2	Members	23
Officers & Staff	2	Showcase	28
President's Message - L.T. Ozio, Jr.	3	Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	43
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4	In Memory	45
Office Memo - Cindy Chatelain	5	Send Your Choices - Floyd Lawson	45
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	6	Coming Events	46
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	8	"And The Winners Are ..." - Ruth Goeke	48
Shows and Judges - Bill Foster	10	Membership Application	57
Registration Report - Iris Keating	11	Annual Index - Bill Paauwe	61
Question Box - Dr. Ralph Robinson	12		
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	14		
A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht	16		
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	21		
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	21		

CONVENTION

1997 Convention Awards - Linda Golubski	38
Affiliate Publications for the St. Petersburg Convention	45

COVER

Annabelle
From the 2nd Best Commercial
Display Table
AVSA 1996 National Show
Best Plant From a Commercial
Display Table
Kent's Flowers
Fremont, NE
Exhibited and Hybridized by:
Kent Stork
Standard
Photo Credit: Daemon Baizan



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A		M	
Acree Creations	51	Midland Violets	49
Alannah's African Violets	55	Mighty Minis	49
Alice's Violet Room.....	51	N	
American Gloxina and Gesneriad Society	56	Neptune's Harvest.....	54
American Orchid Society.....	56	O	
AV Enterprises Press.....	59	Optimara.....	25
AVS of Canada	56	P	
B		Pat's Pets	52
Bayou Violets	54	R	
Bluebird Greenhouses	49	Rob's Mini-o-lets.....	60
Brenda's Bloomin' Babes	54	Rozell Nursery	57
C		S	
Cape Cod Violetry	53	Shirley's House of Violets.....	58
Classic Ribbon & Design	51	Sonja's African Violets	58
Country Road Violets & Things	50	Source Technology-Phyton 27	54
Cryptanthus Society	57	T	
D		Tanzania Wildlife Fund	54
Dyna Gro	57	Teas Nursery	59
E		Tinari Greenhouses	Back Cover
Episcias Only	51	Travis' Violets.....	51
F		V	
First Austin AVS.....	52	Verilux.....	52
Florals of Fredericks	52	Violets by Appointment	56
H		Violets, Etc., Inc.	50
Hattie Baggett's African Violets	58	Violets Galore of Georgia.....	57
Have An Idea?	54	Violet House.....	Inside Back Cover
Herbal Gardens Ceramics	49	Violet Showcase	50
Hobby Greenhouses	54	Violets From the Stars	49
I		Violets In Vogue	54
Indoor Gardening Supplies	56	Volkman Brothers.....	59
J		W	
J & F Industries	54	Jim Wildman	50
L			
Linda's Heavenly Accents.....	49		
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses	55		



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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 and Friends,

As we begin the new year of 1997 it is my privilege to join the AVSA Board of Directors in wishing all of you our heartfelt hopes for a wonderful New Year. May it bring you much joy, an abundance of good health, and true happiness.

The attention of AVSA members is being focused on our fifty-first annual convention and show to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida at the Trade Winds, a gulf-front resort, from Sunday, June 1 to Sunday, June 8, 1997. The setting for our convention promises to have "everything you could wish for and more". With that promise, no one should pass up this wonderful opportunity to be with us for the convention and show.

For the past several years, the AVSA Executive Committee has been able to schedule a meeting of its members at a function a majority of them could attend. Most of these occasions have been at state conventions. Our most recent gathering was in Dallas, where the Lone Star AV Council hosted its Convention Show and Sale in October. My personal thanks to all who took the time to attend. The Committee was successful in handling matters needing attention and solutions. The added pleasure was being able to attend the beautiful show and the banquet which followed. It was a great convention and we all had a wonderful time, thanks to our Texas hosts!!

Elsewhere in this publication you will find the 1997 AVSA Convention Show Schedule. By all means, read about the show, meetings, and tours. I know that you will want to make plans to be present for what promises to be a fun time for all.

As we begin the year, 1997, let us put our efforts together to obtain additional members for AVSA. Sharing your knowledge with your friends and introducing them to the pleasures and joys of growing African violets is one of the best ways to increase our membership. Give it a try!

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • *email* editor@avsa.org

In this issue you'll find the "purple pages", your guide to the AVSA 51st National Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida. I know that our Convention Director, **Ann Miller**, and the violet folks in Florida, under the direction of the '97 Convention Chairman, **Mary Lou Hardin**, have been hard at work to ensure that this convention will be one of AVSA's best.

The area around St. Petersburg, and the **Tradewinds Resort** have much to offer. I looked up St. Petersburg on the Internet and was treated to beautiful color photographs on their city's web page. It truly looks like paradise!

So many of you will be looking forward to participating in AV shows around the country, and preparing for the national show in Florida. In this issue you'll find a few articles directed to those of you who do grow for show. On page 32 **Richard Nicholas**, Chairman of our Research Committee, shares his methods for growing prize-winning standards. For growers who enjoy trailers, be sure to read **Ardath Miller's** article "Growing & Showing AV Trailers" (page 26), and our "Thinking Small" columnist, **Pat Richards**, shares her successful methods for growing the small ones for show (page 14). In March, Pat is turning her column over to a guest writer, **Darryl Hoover**, who will share his own methods for growing small African violets.

Thanks to **Dr. Jeff Smith** and new contributor, **Robert Berkenbush**, for answering my plea for more articles. As you know, many of the articles printed in the AVM come from the fine publications produced by our

The response to our plea for a new "shepherd" for the Maas varieties in the November AVM was limited, but productive. The primary "shepherd" is Lisa DiMambro, of Violets By Toni, New Hampshire. She will have a list available in the spring and invites inquiries.

Lisa DiMambro
182 Old Chester Turnpike
Chester, NH 03036
(603) 8870352

Thanks to all of you for your interest in this project.

Bill & Kathryn Paauwe
Violets By Appointment

affiliated clubs. I don't know what I'd do without them! Reproducing these articles gives us all a chance to learn about other ideas and growing methods.

When you start planning your trip to Florida, you may want to re-read **John Nabor's** article, "Violets by Airplanes - How Do I Carry All Those Plants On Airplanes?" (page 24).

I was saddened to hear about the death of **Myrtle Radtke** (page 9), one of the earliest members of AVSA and a former President. In the process of compiling the AVSA 50th Anniversary Book, I spent many months reading and researching back issues of the AVM. Few members in the history of the society appear as devoted to AVSA as Myrtle Radtke.

The 1996 Annual Index to the African Violet Magazine appears in the back of this issue. Compiled by **Bill Paauwe**, the index lists every article by topic, author, or title, as well as every color photograph published in the AVM in 1996.

The video of **Dr. Charles Cole's** presentation at the Atlanta Convention, "**Hungry Athletes**", is now available for rental. This 75 minute tape is packed with information on plant needs and the serious grower will find it helpful and interesting. Rental fee is \$10, and as with all other library materials, it is available directly through the AVSA office.



The Important Thing About Kate

by Kate Dennis
Olathe, KS

Kate Dennis, nine year old
member of AVSA.

The important thing about Kate is she loves growing African violets.

It is true that Kate is a plant lover.

She loves growing plants in her backyard.

She loves ice cream.

She has two bunnies.

She has one dog.

And she has a best friend.

But the most important thing about Kate is she loves growing African violets.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.



by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager

2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702 • offmgr@avsa.org

The busy holiday season is over and the office staff is gearing up for a busy period in the coming months.

If you experienced delays in receiving your November AVM, we apologize. We are using a new address labeling system to meet the new postal reclassification requirements. Hopefully, we will have all of the problems worked out soon and you should receive your AVM even earlier than you have in the past. Please call the office anytime you experience a delay in receiving your magazine. Should your address change at any time, please let the office know immediately. Failure to notify us results in your magazine not being delivered and it also cost AVSA additional postage fees.

We would like to request that Affiliates, in areas bordering on two (or even more) states, decide among the members under which state you want your affiliate listed in the September AVM. This is also very important to regional affiliates such as Mid America, Dixie, etc. The affiliate is now listed under the home state of the current president, and some affiliates alternate from one state to another as new presidents are elected. Please notify the office as to which state your affiliate will permanently be listed. You may call me and I will note this in your affiliate records.

In the November issue, I listed two affiliates that had errors or had been omitted in the September AVM. Two of those appeared with incorrect information. Please note that the president of Gateway West Gesneriad Society of

Missouri is Gary Dunlap, and in Florida the correct name of the affiliate club listed is Treasure Coast AVS of Florida, not Treasure Cove.

If your affiliate has not signed up for liability insurance, you still have time to do so. Please do not wait until your local mall or meeting place requests the certificate of insurance to sign up. You will lose the security of having the insurance for the full year, yet the cost will remain the same.

If you are connected to the Internet, be sure and check out AVSA's web site at <http://avsa.org>. On the Links page there is a link to Hearst Corporation's website called Homearts. It has a great gardening section and currently features a short but informative article on African violets. There is also a beautiful picture of "Ness' Midnight Fantasy" hybridized by Don Ness of Midland Violets. There are many informative web sites now devoted to gardening and indoor house plants. We also have a second affiliate on line. Check out the Bay State AVS of Massachusetts home page at <http://users.aol.com/bsavs/index.htm>. We are really proud of our web site and feel it is reaching many people who don't know about our wonderful organization. I welcome any suggestions, criticism, or ideas regarding the web site. You can e-mail any comments or suggestions to me at offmgr@avsa.org or call the office. I am currently working on upgrading and adding to the present site so if you haven't visited us in a while, please do so.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Awards are still needed for the AVSA Convention in St. Pete's Beach, FL. If your award reaches me by February 15, 1997, your name, or the name of your affiliate club will be printed in the Convention Souvenir Book. Don't delay, send your award today!

Send to
Mrs. Linda Golubski, Awards Chair
1416 NW "A" Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015

AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

The following amendment to the Bylaws will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in St. Petersburg, FL.

Article VII, Section 1d be amended by striking d and replacing it with the following:

"Meet before the annual business meeting of the Society and after the annual business meeting if needed."

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

When Repotting is Inevitable... *Relax and Enjoy it!*

Of all the violet tasks that can be put off until another day, is there any so postponable as repotting? It seems like so much work. And it makes such a mess! The plants are still blooming. Nope, not today. Maybe next week when there's more time.

The day always comes, however, when it can no longer be delayed. Plants become so ugly that even a few blossoms can't hide their ungainliness. Top-heavy violets are falling over. Maybe it's because company's coming and your reputation is at stake. It's time ... now do it!

How do you know when it's time to repot?

Recognizing the need to repot a violet is a basic skill. A good rule is to repot any time a "neck" becomes visible between the lowest leaves and the soil line. If it has been more than six months since the soil was last changed on a standard-size violet (3 months on a miniature), then repotting will usually be beneficial.

Unless you are growing trailing violets that have many crowns (or centers of growth), your violets should be kept single-crowned. If it appears that you have more than one plant in a pot, they need to be divided and repotted.

Good growers also recognize that African violets need to be in properly-sized pots. If a plant has grown to more than three times the diameter of its container, it may be wise to transplant it into something larger. As a general rule, miniatures and semiminiatures are never placed into a pot larger than two or three inches in diameter. Standards need shallow pots that are usually anywhere from three to six inches across, depending on how broad their leafspan is. Mature trailers may be grown in almost any size shallow container, as long as there is only a minimal amount of soil

visible around the perimeter of the plant.

A violet may go into a crisis that requires repotting promptly if the plant is to be saved. Over watering, for example, often results in tissue damage to the roots. As a result, the outer leaves become limp as if the soil were too dry. Moving the plant into fresh soil and perhaps even into a smaller pot may divert the onset of crown rot.

Similarly, plants whose roots have been damaged by any number of enemies (e.g. temperature extremes, heavy soil, excess fertilizer, insects, chemicals, etc.) will reflect that damage in the foliage. When leaves wilt, spot, or age very rapidly, it might be wise to repot as a first course of action.

If the leaves seem to yellow, in spite of regularly used fertilizer, the pH of the soil may be out of balance. This also may be remedied by repotting.

One other good rule: if you feel like repotting your violets, do it!

Assembling the materials needed

The most important element of successful repotting is the use of a good potting mix. African violets are fibrous-rooted plants. Their root balls are comprised of only fine, hair-like roots. A high-quality porous potting medium is needed to allow plenty of space between soil particles into which the tender roots grow, as well as providing room for air. At the same time it must still maintain a moist environment that keeps roots from drying out. Many violet growers have found that mixing their own soil using a 1-1-1 formula (one part peat, one part perlite, one part vermiculite) is a dependable method of guaranteeing a good quality medium for violet roots.

If we may insert a personal gripe here, many of the premixed potting soils labeled for African violets are awful. It appears that discount brands and even well-known companies are dumping the lowest quality, blackest, most decayed peat possible into these mixes. Over the years, we've had a lot of customers bring their sickly violets into our shop for evaluation. We have often observed that violets repotted into this junk show severe tissue damage exactly at the point where the black peat mix contacted the stem. We have yet to find any soil, packaged for sale in stores as "African violet soil," that is actually good for violets. Some are not as bad as others, but they all need to have more perlite or vermiculite added to increase the air capacity. If you have tried repotting with one of these premixed soils and lost your violets, you may not be at fault. Try again with a good potting mix and see what a difference it makes!

Moisten the soil mix thoroughly. This will cut down on excessive dust and residue on leaves and in the air. Moist soil will protect delicate roots as well. Dry soil can literally pull moisture out of the roots and cause them to wither.

The right tools will also help make repotting more pleasant. A good knife for trimming roots and separating crowns is essential. A dull pencil or a specialty tool called a "sucker plucker" will be useful for removing secondary crowns. We also like to have a piece of heavy wire bent into a hook so that a watering wick can be pulled through the freshly repotted rootball. It's wise to have a broad working area with a garbage can nearby to catch the worst of the mess. You'll also need a container of water for watering the plants in their new home, and saucers or trays to catch the run-off.

It is helpful to keep shallow pots in several sizes on hand. You will also want marking pens and labels to ensure that the variety name stays with the plant.

One very helpful trick is to place newly repotted plants into a clear plastic bag or some other clear plastic container. This is especially helpful when the roots have been highly stressed. We maintain a quantity of clear bags in several sizes for each stage of repotting and transplanting.

If you really want to enjoy all of this, add some pleasant music to the background. Some growers enjoy sharing this adventure with a violet friend, while others love working alone so they can really concentrate. Maybe you shouldn't attempt to eat while you are doing this, but a beverage can usually be protected from flying potting mix. Try to clear your schedule of other tasks when you are repotting and maybe let the answering machine take any phone calls. Interruptions will make the job much more tedious and the plants do not enjoy waiting once they are out of their pots.

Ready, set, repot

Select the plants that need repotting and deal with them one by one. It is helpful if the plants have not been watered for several days. Slightly dry plants are usually more flexible and less likely to break in the process.

First, lift the plant out of the pot. Squeezing the pot or lightly tapping the pot on an edge may help to loosen the rootball. Small secondary crowns (suckers) may be prodded loose or weeded out with a pencil point or a "plucker". Larger secondary crowns may be cut away from the main crown using a knife. Any leaves that are deviating from a symmetrical pattern should be removed. If you are not certain which crown a leaf belongs to, remove it.

Next, remove all leaves that are misshapen, damaged, or show any sign of age. It is natural for violets to lose older, lower leaves which often fail quickly after transplanting. If they are removed, repotting will not soon be necessary. The remaining crown may be quite small, especially in comparison to its original size, but it will be fine as long as there are at least three or four leaves remaining.

Removal of leaves will result in a bare stem between the remaining foliage and the root system. Any stubs should be gently scraped away using the dull side of the knife. Any dried brown tissue (where the stem scabbed over when earlier leaves were lost) should also be scraped away.

Now, examine and evaluate the rootball. Don't disturb the roots unnecessarily, but look for signs of insects, and smell for signs of rotting. Evaluate the rootball. Was the pot full of roots? Do the roots have plenty of robust white roots, as well as finer new root growth? If so, the plant is healthy and likely to quickly adapt to a new pot. It may be wise to give it a slightly larger pot, so it can grow even larger (providing that the variety is genetically capable of that). If the roots are skimpy or nonexistent, analyze why. Was the previous soil too heavy? Was the plant over-watered or over-fertilized? Has there been some recent wide fluctuation in temperature in the soil ball (perhaps due to watering with cold or hot water)? Are there root-feeding pests present? Resolve to correct the problem when the plant is put back in place. It may be wise to pot this sickly plant into a smaller pot. It is always best if the roots more or less fill the pot, and as the root system regrows, the violet will soon be ready to move back into the larger pot again. (Yes, that means repotting a second time.)

At this point, compare the plant to the chosen pot. Healthy plants will probably need to have the lower part of the rootball removed in order to completely bury the neck. The lowest leaves on the plant should be just above the soil line when the repotting is done. If the neck is one inch

continued on page 42

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

I recently observed an event in African violet genetics that I had not seen before. A plant from a cross of 'Sigi Falls' X 'Fickle Flirt' was bred with a plant from a cross of 'Sigi Falls' X 'Sapphire Halo'. Some of the seedlings from this cross showed Fantasy flowers, yet the parent from the 'Sigi Falls' X 'Fickle Flirt' cross did *not* have Fantasy flowers. Since Fantasy flowers is a dominant genetic trait, this parent should have expressed the trait, but it did not. When a dominant trait fails to be expressed when present, geneticists say that the trait has failed to "penetrate" and be expressed in the phenotype. Failure of a genetic dominant to penetrate is known for many other species of plants and animals, but this is the first time I have observed this event in African violets. Hybridizing with the species violets can be full of surprises!

Q: What would I get if I crossed a Fantasy plant with one of the Optimara "Artist Pallet" series plants?

A: This is a cross I cannot accurately predict because I do not yet know the inheritance mechanism of the "Artist Pallet" flower pattern. I "suspect" that this flower pattern may be a genetic dominant trait as are other flower pattern traits such as raspberry edges. If this is correct, it is possible that the two patterns could be combined into the same flower. Can you imagine a plant with flowers in the "Artist Pallet" pattern that are also spotted with Fantasy dots? If you make this cross, be sure and let me know your results!

Q: Is it possible to get a white flower with Fantasy dots?

A: The answer to this is "yes" and "no". A true white flower lacks any pigment at all. In this case, it would not be possible to get Fantasy dots on a white flower. It

is possible, however, to reduce the amount of background pigment to a near white with the use of color inhibition genes. In these cases, the background color would be a very pale pink and pale blue fantasy dots can still be expressed. A plant with this flower color combination can be bred by crossing a Fantasy plant with a very pale blue or pink plant. The color inhibition genes are dominant and will greatly reduce the flower color in the offspring. If the original Fantasy parent had medium or pale colors, some offspring should be produced with a very pale background color with Fantasy dots.

Q: I have observed plants with red-leaf backing to produce babies without the red color, then have these plants produce babies in the next generation with the red-leaf backing. What is going on?

A: One possible explanation is that the gene for red leaf backing is a "jumping" gene such as those found in corn by the famous geneticist Barbara McClintock. These genes are capable of moving and changing their locations on the chromosomes. When the genes are inserted in some locations, they can be expressed and the back of the leaves develop the red pigmentation. If the genes move to a different location, they cannot be expressed and no pigment is produced. Because the genes "jump" the color of the leaf backing will be observed to change such as in the example given in the question. In cultivars where this is common, a number of red pigmented areas, sometimes called "birth spots" may develop in the leaves. The more birth spots that are present, the more the genes appear to be jumping or changing location. This trait is an unpredictable one and cannot be controlled through hybridization.

Q: Does the environment where a plant was hybridized affect its ability to grow in other locations?

A: There is a correlation in some respects. A plant that was hybridized and grown under greenhouse conditions will likely grow best under those conditions. A plant that was hybridized and grown under artificial lights will likely grow best under these conditions. The two environments are different in temperature, light, and relative humidity and plants that grow well under one environment may not always grow well under the other. This is why some growers prefer to choose cultivars developed by hybridizers who grow plants under the same environments as themselves; it helps them find plants that perform well under the same growing conditions.

Q: If I cross a "girl" foliage plant with another "girl" foliage plant, will all of the offspring have "girl" foliage?

A: Most plants with "girl" foliage have only one dose of this dominant genetic trait. Crossing two "girl" foliage plants together should only produce "girl" foliage in

about 75% of the offspring. The other 25% should have "boy" foliage. A caution on working with "girl" foliage. This trait in the homozygous dominant condition produces plants that have very unmanageable twisted foliage. About 25% of the offspring will be homozygous dominants and will likely have to be discarded. Therefore, only about 50% of the total offspring will have "girl" foliage that will be acceptable for selection.

Q: I've recently seen trailing African violets that were grown in very shallow saucers or dishes. Do these plants have something different in their genetic makeup that allows them to grow in this type of container?

A: Many of the today's trailers trace their ancestry to the trailing African violets species such as *Saintpaulia maunquensis* var. *minima* and *S. grotei*. These plants were often found growing on rock ledges and cliffs in very shallow soils. This environment was selected for plants with shallow roots who could survive on these soils. This trait, likely a genetic trait, has been maintained in many of today's trailing cultivars.

In Memory of Myrtle Radtke

Myrtle Radtke, of Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away on October 28, 1996, at the age of 97. A Charter Member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., Myrtle served as President from 1950 to 1952.

Myrtle began collecting African violets about 1938, with a few plants of "Blue Boy." Throughout her many decades of growing, she provided Cincinnati newspapers with articles on the history, care and propagation of African violets.

In 1949, the AVSA convention was held in Cincinnati, with registrations "far beyond expectations." There were three thousand members in the society, and three hundred attended the convention, coming from twenty-five states, Washington, D.C. and Canada. The convention was held privately, at the Cincinnati Club, "because it was feared the public would crowd out members." Alma Wright was President, Myrtle Radtke was 1st Vice

President and succeeded her friend as President, running unopposed.

In September, 1949, the AVSA show was held at the Cincinnati Zoo; the first such event ever held in the city. It was sponsored by the Queen City AV Club.

Myrtle Radtke presided at another national convention in Dayton, Ohio in April, 1951. In January, 1952, she travelled to the west coast, visiting club members and conducting schools for qualifying judges for AVSA. After her term as President, she also served AVSA as Treasurer.

Caring for her plants (almost a thousand at one time), her activities in AVSA and her local club, were great joys for her, and she always felt that the friends she made through this hobby enriched her life.

Donations in Memory of Myrtle L. Radtke may be directed to: The Alzheimer's Disease Association, 644 Linn Street, Suite 1026, Cincinnati, OH 45203.



Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
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Happy New Year! I hope each of you had a joyous holiday season. We must now put the holidays to rest and start preparing for all the spring shows. Be sure to read this issue of the African Violet Magazine very carefully. It is filled with AVSA convention information. You need to start planning now for the journey to Florida and our 51st convention. Don't delay in sending in your registration forms, and coupons to judge, clerk, attend judging school, etc.

Here are a few discussions left over from the Atlanta convention.

Q: Please discuss why African violets do not have to predominate in container gardens.

A: Because container gardens are miniature landscape scenes. The landscape plan counts 40 points. This means that the landscape plan needs to use plants that are in scale with each other so the scene can look as natural as possible. If African violets predominate they would most likely be out of scale with the rest of the plant material. Think of how large the African violet is in an Interpretive Plant Arrangement. Now, can't you just imagine how that *big ole* African violet would look with all those small trees and other plant material if it were to predominate the scene?

Q: Discuss the necessity of writing comments.

A: Comments are very beneficial to exhibitors. They are especially beneficial to new growers and exhibitors. I can still remember my first show (barely) and I can truthfully say that I gained an abundance of knowledge from the comments the judges wrote on my entry cards. I think it is good to even comment on blue ribbon entries if a little grooming could have made the entry a contender for a special award. Often there is

not enough time to comment on all blue ribbon entries but every effort should be made to comment on entries with red, white, or no ribbon. If this is not done, how is the exhibitor to know what to do to improve?

Q: Elaborate on the new scale of points for species. Species in our area that are not superior quality are winning gold and purple rosettes over other outstanding collections.

A: The new scale of points just did some combining. The 50 points for cultural perfection combined symmetry and condition. Most of the species are not known for their symmetry anyway. The grooming is worth 30 points. Grooming of species mainly means keeping the spent blossoms, stems, and yellowed leaves removed and not to try to improve so much on the shape or symmetry of the plant. If you will read page 50 of the HANDBOOK, it will tell you that they should be allowed to grow as natural as possible and that judges should not deduct points for an occasional deviation. Not knowing who submitted this question nor from what area they come, I have no knowledge of the quality of the species that have won in collection classes. I can say that the ones that I have seen as collection winners were deserving of the award. One must remember that the species are never going to have the beautiful form and the many beautiful blossoms that our present-day cultivars have, but that doesn't mean they are not quality plants. Without them we wouldn't have the wonderful varieties we have today!

Q: An affiliate show schedule read: "Containers in the Horticulture Division (except for trailers, unusual containers, the other gesneriads and MoistRite planters) must be in green or white pots. No double

continued on next page

Registration Report



Iris Keating
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Claremont, CA 91711

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.

REGISTRATIONS

Rahim Wilson - Port Orchard, WA

***ORCHARD'S BUMBLE MAGNET** (8479) 8/21/96 (R. Wilson) Double pink star. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Miniature**

***ORCHARD'S BLUE CHIP** (8480) 9/10/96 (R. Wilson) Single blue sticktite pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

Andrea Worrell - Downers Grove, IL

***ANITA RAE** (8481) 9/10/96 (A. Worrell) Single white sparkle pansy/purple-blue fantasy, pink frilled edge. Medium green, round, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

Frank Tinari - Huntingdon Valley, PA

BIANCA (8482) 9/23/96 (F. Tinari) Double white ruffled

large/pink-tinged center. Medium green, spooned, serrated. **Standard**

REGISTRATION ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS

(indicated by **Bold Face** type)

Rahim Wilson - Port Orchard, WA

***ORCHARD'S PURPLE HAZE** (8470) 7/1/96 (R. Wilson) Double white star/purple-lavender shading. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

ACA'S PINK PET (8471)

ACA'S TORNADO (8472)

DAPHNE'S CHILD (8473)

KINKY PINKY (8474) (Misspelled in November, 1996 Master List Supplement, Page A6)

PATRIOT'S HEIDI (8475)

FRANCES MCCOWN (8476)

LITTLE PRIZE (8477)

MARION'S ENCHANTED TRAIL (8478)

NAME RESERVATONS

Francine Pilon - Saint-Leonard, Quebec, Canada

* Fatima Fonseca * Gazou * Louiman Sequo * Ma Mimie
* Ti-Mine

potting, flared-top pots, clear plastic containers, supports or collars are permitted." Several other gesneriads were exhibited in clear plastic pots. Should they have been judged or were they not in compliance with the rule?

A: I am thinking that whoever wrote the schedule was talking about no African violets in a terrarium-like container when they stated "no clear plastic containers". Perhaps they should have been more clear with the rules. Most schedules state that trailers and other gesneriads may be exhibited in the container in which they are grown. Most judges are aware of this

and I feel they did right in judging the plants in the clear pots. I am assuming they WERE judged.

I was notified recently that one of the master judges, whose name is on the current judge's list, has been deceased for several years. I appreciate receiving this information. Since master judges are not required to take exams, and if they are an AVSA Life Member, we have no way of knowing that we should remove them from the list if we aren't notified. I feel sure there are others on the list who should be removed, but I will have to depend on you to let me know. We will talk again in May, but in the meantime, get those convention registrations in.

Question Box



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Ralph Robinson
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As always, your questions are welcomed. My busy schedule, however, doesn't allow me to personally reply to each letter. My apologies to those still awaiting one. That said, I'm always willing to answer phone calls, since cordless phones permit me to continue working as I talk.

By the time this column appears, the winter season will have arrived. Be alert for the usual wintertime problems—cold, dry, and/or stagnant air. Most violets will tolerate temperatures as low as 60 F. degrees, but below this can show the following symptoms: slow growth, tight centers, abnormally “hairy” leaves (similar to symptoms of a cyclamen mite infestation). Dry air can be a problem when the furnace is in constant use. One advantage of growing more plants is that humidity is increased with their numbers (more pots of damp soil and transpiring leaves). Stagnant air, along with the sharp drop in temperature at night, can lead to a “powdery mildew” problem—the fine, white, powdery substance on leaves and blossom stems. Though this can be controlled by spraying with a fungicide like Benomyl, perhaps, I prefer to use a less toxic alternative—powdered (precipitated, “flowers of”) sulphur. Dab a bit onto the affected areas with the bristles of a small brush and immediately brush off. It kills the mildew on contact and will keep it from returning to the treated area.

QUESTION: *I received a box of Optimara fertilizer as part of a prize for one of our violet shows. It is a 14-12-14 formula and I am wondering why the phosphorus is so low.*

ANSWER: To review, these numbers represent the percentage contained of three major elements: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Most fertilizers also contain various secondary and “trace” elements, which may or may not be listed on the package. To (over)simplify, nitrogen promotes healthy foliage development, phosphorus promotes root, bud, and blossom development,

and potassium promotes general plant health. Choice of a formula can depend upon other cultural factors, as well as what the individual grower wants to achieve. Personally, I believe a “balanced” formula is usually best, such as the Optimara formula.

Though occasional use of high nitrogen or high phosphorus fertilizers can be beneficial, for most growers, most of the time, it is unnecessary. A 5-1-1 formula (e.g. fish emulsion), lacks the necessary phosphorus for prolific bloom, while a 0-6-5 or 5-50-17 formula (e.g. “Granny’s Bloomers” and “Peter’s Variegated Special”, respectively) lacks sufficient nitrogen for dark green foliage. Variegation is more a function of (cool) temperatures, not lack of nitrogen, and a balanced fertilizer has more than enough phosphorus for good bloom. Regular use of high phosphorus “African violet” fertilizers won’t produce foliage with that desirable dark-green appearance, unless supplemented by other soil or water additives.

Many growers use a high phosphorus fertilizer in the weeks immediately before a show to encourage heavy blooming. This is probably the best way to use such fertilizers—at certain times only, for a specific purpose. I’ve never found this necessary. My showplants receive Peter’s 20-20-20 fertilizer, all the time, and my showplants have never lacked bloom. For the novice grower, as well as those who have little interest in exhibiting, a balanced fertilizer is probably best. I suspect these growers are most of Optimara’s customers.

QUESTION: *The crown of my plant stops growing and divides into 3-4 little sucker crowns. The plant seems to be dividing at the crown and I can’t seem to distinguish which one is the true crown. I had a plant do this previously, and when the two crowns were large enough, I split them and got two plants.*

ANSWER: “Crown-suckers” can be especially

disfiguring, since identifying the true crown, as well as their removal, can be difficult. Their cause can be either cultural or genetic. An African violet will often sucker when subjected to stress—it's a means of survival. Extreme heat, overfertilization, a toxic reaction to chemicals, and disbudding are a few of the possible causes. In each case, the plant tries to survive by vegetatively reproducing itself through suckering. In many other cases, unfortunately, this habit is genetic. These varieties will tend to crown-sucker more often than others, especially when subjected to stressful conditions. An example is an older variety of mine, 'Rob's April Storm' which, though beautiful, would always seem to do this at the worst times (like when grown for show). Even different plants grown from leaf cuttings would tend to do this eventually.

The best recommendation would be provide good culture, minimizing stress, and to avoid growing varieties with this habit (which can be hard to know before the fact). Once crown-suckers begin to form, **carefully** remove them, if this can be done, to allow only one crown to develop, or let each crown grow to a size large enough where they can be divided into separate plants, as was done by this grower.

QUESTION: *I've heard it's difficult to propagate a variegated leaf if it is mostly white. Is there anything that can be done to help or encourage the leaf to propagate more easily?*

ANSWER: Heavily variegated leaves can often be more difficult to successfully propagate, though some varieties are prolific propagators. The best advice is to first select leaves from these plants that show as little variegation as possible—i.e. are mostly green. A variegated variety will produce variegated plants from leaf cuttings, even if the leaf rooted is green. I've also found that it helps **not** to keep the rooting mix too wet. Heavily variegated plantlets are much more susceptible to rotting than are green-leaved ones. The plantlets produced will also be sturdier, and more likely to survive their initial separation and potting. It also helps to fertilize with a formula that has sufficient nitrogen, particularly when plantlets are young and/or heavily variegated (see the first question in column). Warm, but not hot, conditions will also encourage the young plantlets to grow "greener".

QUESTION: *Seemingly overnight, two of my repotted plants leaves have turned a light yellowish-green in the center growth.*

ANSWER: When I saw this question in my folder, I immediately thought back to one of my local club meetings

last week. A member brought in a "problem plant", whose outer rows of leaves were its usual shade of green, but whose center rows were a nearly-yellow green. Just by chance this was "soil-test" night, where members can have the pH of their soil tested. Her soil tested at a pH of 5.4, **very** acidic and far below the optimum (about 6.8, where 7.0 is neutral). When this was pointed out to her, she then told us that she had recently repotted a number of plants into a commercially sold mix bought at a local department store. There couldn't have been a better example of the consequences of too low (or high) a pH if we had planned such a program.

When pH is too low (acid) or too high (alkaline), many of the nutrients become "locked up" and can't be used by the plant. Even with proper fertilization, plant roots are unable to take-up important nutrients and, simply put, the plant nutritionally starves. The result is the yellowish foliage growth that appeared once the overly-acid soil mix was used by this grower. The consequence of a pH too high can be the same. This is a problem for those of us with very hard, alkaline water. For example, my water usually tests at a pH of 7.4 to 7.8. To correct for high pH, I simply add enough vinegar so that my pH is as close to neutral (7.0) as possible. For my showplants, I use "distilled" water that I collect from a dehumidifier, and which has a neutral pH.

Acidic water is a less-common problem. Rain water can be quite acidic—one recent caller using rain water complained of yellowish leaves. She found the water to be quite acidic when tested. The only product I know of correcting acidic water is "pH Up", a product of Dyna-Gro. This is a fertilizer supplement (a formula of 0-0-8) that raises water pH. A supplement called "pH Down" is also available (a 1-5-0 formula) and I have heard positive comments—if vinegar isn't for you. A reader has also written and suggested perhaps using products available at tropical fish stores to correct pH. It would seem reasonable to assume that if these products are safe for use in aquariums, they would be safe for use on plants, though I haven't personally conducted any experiments. Perhaps someone reading this has some more information on this topic—drop me a note.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.



Thinking Small



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Small Thoughts

What a vast and wonderful group of growers we have in our organization, and it's ever broadening because of the Internet. I invite those of you who have access to contact me via E-mail at Leongatha@aol.com. Now, let's progress to this issue's topic, how to grow the small ones for show!

DEVELOPING AN ATTITUDE

All of us have a few people in our local groups who always take home the top prizes. They grow for show and nothing else. What sets them apart? I believe it is an attitude, a philosophy, even a lifestyle. If you want to grow great show plants, then you too, must adopt this attitude. What does this mean? To explain, let's resort to the four "D"s: devotion, dedication, desire and diligence.

First, there's devotion, meaning loyalty or deep affection. Most of us qualify on this account because by joining AVSA, admittedly, we enjoy our hobby. Our love of violets has caused us to seek out additional information and other enthusiasts so that we can enjoy our hobby more. Second is dedication: carrying our devotion to a higher level where our hobby becomes simply not just growing violets, but growing outstanding violets. We are growing for a special purpose, specifically, for show. Next comes desire. This is when we want, even long, to grow and show the best plants possible. We don't accept growing nice plants; we want to be Best in Show. This becomes a goal, and for months, even years, we strive for it. That's the kind of desire I'm talking about. Finally diligence, which is not only having devotion, dedication and desire, but following through. Growing great show plants means knowing what to do, when to do it, and THEN DOING IT! Diligence, quite simply, is perseverance. It encompasses choice, hard work and work carefully done, all of which is contingent upon TIME. Very few of us reach this level of showmanship.

GREAT SHOW PLANTS ARE BORN, NOT MADE

We'll now begin our discussion of one of the most

important aspects of growing show plants: how to select them. First, certain hybridizers are well known for putting out perfect, quality show plants every time. Also, Tally Time, Best Varieties and show reports will give you ideas as to plants that perform well. When reading commercial lists, watch for those that get rave reviews in the write-up, especially when the author seems somewhat discriminating. After putting together a list of potential varieties based on all of the above, continue narrowing down your choices by considering the following characteristics.

Perfect Foliage

One of the first things you must consider is the plant's foliage, not the bloom. I know this sounds funny but you must learn you cannot make a great show plant from any violet that has gorgeous, exquisite blooms. Instead, the plant must have very symmetrical foliage that radiates out from the center like spokes on a wagon wheel. Not only that, but the leaves must be wide enough to overlap each other so that no petioles, soil, or tabletop can be seen when the plant is looked down on. I call this the "melted butter" effect. Each leaf just melts into the next, so that the effect is foliage as a whole, rather than separate leaves. Some of this can be controlled through culture, but most of it is hereditary. If you have a violet you just love that doesn't meet the melted butter criteria, you might as well not grow it for show. Finally, select variegates that are less sensitive to temperature changes. A great show plant will variegate evenly.

Perfect Blooms

Another thing we need to look for in a great show plant is the number of blooms the violet will put up. We want lots of blooms per stem, at least 8-10, and hopefully more. That means if we only have three bloom stalks, we still easily meet the number required for a blue ribbon exhibit, and if we're going for top awards, it will be all the easier to create the "snow cone" effect: when you look at

the plant, you see nothing but a mound of blooms on top. This doesn't happen with just any violet! We also want flowers that have good substance. Heavy, thick petals that will hold up under the grooming, transporting and entries process that our violets must go through. The longer we hold the blooms, the greater will be the "snow cone" effect.

GREAT SHOW PLANTS ARE MADE, NOT BORN

What? Stay with me, now! Even though we have a well grown great violet we must take the time to groom it well. Even Miss America, as naturally beautiful as she is, benefits from a beautiful gown with well-done hair and makeup. She would not win if she showed up in pigtails and jeans. The same is true of our show plants! Any of us who have judged know how distressing it is to come to a truly outstanding plant, but it has dirt on the leaves and a row of leaves that should be removed. Admittedly, "Little Pro," "Ness' Sno Fun" and "Rob's Fuddy Duddy" grow themselves, but we must groom them properly.

Perfect Blooms

To begin with, all blooms must be open and fresh. Any that show signs of aging as we're preparing to take them to show should be removed. By the time they've traveled to the show, and waited to be judged, that bloom will have gone completely down. Take it off at home when your nerves are steady. Furthermore, even though we're desperate for bloom count, if we have just one open, fresh bloom left on an old bloom stalk, take the entire stalk off. More is lost by leaving it on than by taking it off. As you can see, what we are trying to do is to make the perfect even more so.

Another trick that will save you on show day is using tweezers to remove any brown center petals from an otherwise undamaged, fresh bloom. They may be brown for any number of reasons, but if left, points will be deducted. Carefully hold onto the individual bloom stalk and using tweezers, remove the brown tuft, being sure to leave no petal residue. If the bloom has truly aged, it will fall apart. If not, you've just saved yourself 1/2 point.

Perfect Foliage

A very common mistake exhibitors make is leaving on too many rows of leaves. We often believe bigger is better, but remember, the judges are point scoring, so perfect is best! Carefully look over the foliage. Remove any undersized, haloed or damaged leaves in the lower row. Once one leaf is removed, it is very likely at least two more must go to remain in balance. Why? During its growing cycle, the violet forms its leaves in trios. Hence, any cultural damage will occur in a triangle, and if one point of the triangle must be removed, so must the other two to obtain balance. This is usually, but not always true. Before removing the leaves, place small pieces of paper over those

leaves you think should be removed. Look down on the plant. If the symmetry is improved or maintained remove the leaves. (This is another advantage of small ones over standards: they can be placed on the table in front of you, whereas standards should be placed on the floor to get the best view.)

You may have to repot your violets to be rid of the neck that is left when the leaves are removed. With caution, this can be easily accomplished. The easiest approach is to pot into a deeper pot, however, this is not easily done with the small ones because their pot height is not as variable as with standards. Because we will usually have to place our small one into the same depth pot, some of the rootball will need to be removed. Some exhibitors will remove the leaves a few weeks in advance, putting moistened sphagnum moss around the remaining neck (similar to air layering). This allows roots to form before the plant is potted down which reduces the shock to the plant when it is finally transplanted a few days before the show.

Even More Perfect Foliage

Hopefully, we now have perfect foliage! But we can still have points taken off if the foliage is dirty or stained. To the benefit of small ones though, because their foliage is smaller and less visible under the blooms they are easier to clean up. To wash your foliage, use the system Kent Stork uses. First, get a quart-size spray bottle of lukewarm water and put a few drops of Ivory liquid in it. Mist the foliage to the point of runoff. If there are blooms on the plant, make a more direct stream of water, take it to the sink, and while tilting the plant at not quite a 90-degree angle, squirt the leaves away from the blooms. Let the plant sit while you spray two more plants. Then, go back to the first plant and use a second spray bottle filled with plain, warm water to clean off the Ivory solution. This second spraying needs to be done over the sink, again tilting the plant to allow runoff. After rinsing the remaining two, go back over each with a paper towel, blotting off any large droplets of water that remain.

A few additional ideas: always wash and brush from the inner leaves to outer, otherwise you're moving dirt back into the plant. Also, always follow the pattern of the leaf hairs on the individual leaf to create the best shine. When you brush, use a very soft brush, yet firm enough to get the dust off. Keep in mind, inexpensive brushes will fall apart, leaving their bristles on the leaves. A method some exhibitors use to remove stubborn dirt particles is to take a drinking straw, point it directly at the offending particle, and blow! Don't rely on this method too much, as hyperventilation is sure to result! I also suggest using a flashlight to spot the most subtle remnants of soil and lint.

continued on page 42

A Family Portrait



Georgene Albrecht
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Oakdale, PA 15071

Achimenes 'Pink Rose'

Our featured gesneriad is *Achimenes* (ah-KIH-meh-nee-z) 'Pink Rose.' Marcia Belisle sold rhizomes at the Atlanta Convention. The few I purchased I planted right away. They were placed horizontally one inch deep in a Premier Mix with the wiry growths pointed upward. If you use polymers to retain moisture, keep them away from the rhizomes but close enough for the root system to reach. About an inch below the rhizomes is a good measure.

They grew slowly to produce the most glorious pale pink, double rose-like flowers. The foliage is light green on a compact, upright plant. I have brought all my gesneriads and orchids inside early because the frost is on the pumpkin very early this year. Some of my *Achimenes* were going limp in August when we had a few record low nights. They are damaged by temperatures around 55°. When chilled they look as if they were frozen.

Storage during dormancy is important. Most of the time I let them go to sleep in their baskets. If they have been in the soil for more than one year I remove them to heavy plastic bags with vermiculite added. Then, place them in a cool, dry place. To store the entire basket, allow them to dry, remove the spent foliage and place them in a black rubbish bag. Mark them well, so that they are not tossed in the rubbish. Wide tape will do the job. When they wake up about January to February, look for growth and then start watering lightly. Break the soil surface so that moisture can be absorbed. Using warm water may help, too. When they have four small leaves, add a timed-release fertilizer and stand back. Give them bright light. Here in Pittsburgh, they



can stand full sun because our sun is so sparse. You may have to provide shade for them. They are, without a doubt, one of the most beautiful hanging baskets ever grown.

If they were planted late, after June 1st, I think they will need to be placed under fluorescent light or in a bright window in order to extend their bloom cycle so that they produce rhizomes for next year. You can also take cuttings and root them but they must live long enough to bloom and produce rhizomes. This can vary with the variety. Most upright growers need to be pinched back at least once. Some, like 'Pink Rose' and 'Pink Showers' do not need to be pinched at all.

SOCIETY PAGE

Last August the educational Director of Phipps Conservatory, Robert Alexander, invited all the local plant societies to set up educational exhibits. It was very hot and we were amazed at the number of visitors able to enjoy strolling through the hot houses. Well, it was highly successful in that we garnered four new members. We also got new members during the summer, so we are delighted. An interesting pattern developed when we started to look at all the other societies. We enjoy other plants, too. So Dorothy ended up joining the Cactus and Succulent Society and I joined the Hosta and Daffodil Society if they would join the violet society.

Well, the next month, five of those wonderful new members came to our meeting. What an initiation! We were cramped in this smaller than usual room at the library. A reporter and photographer were there to cover the meeting for the newspaper. I had asked everyone to bring plants so, along with refreshments, we had no room for the

photographer to be mobile. To add to the jubilation, a charter member, whom we hadn't seen for two years, walked into the beehive. I squealed. People complained about the noise. No one can say our meetings are boring!

Well, let me get back to our Phipp's Exhibit. Ruthie Rumsey, our Editor, sent me a video and Arc Journals from the Tanzania Wildlife Fund. I took my TV and VCR to play this over and over for the public. AVSA member, Ellen Beckerman, created a beautiful flyer for us to give out. Several people were interested and watched the entire video. One gentleman in particular watched with interest and I decided to talk with him. He seemed amazed at the number of species in the Arc area. I asked him where he lived and he pointed to the map on the Journal cover. "I live right about 'ere in Madagascar." Yes, he had exactly the same wonderful accent as the people in the video.

During this exhibit, we took turns manning the tables. Even our newly-wed bride, Nancy, came to show off her lovely plants. We did not have a regular show, we simply

brought in the best of what we had. Joe brought in two of his large *Saintpaulia* plants to display in the great educational exhibit he put up. We displayed our AV Magazine and our local newsletters, too. I was proud of us and our display. It was very well received and some growers sold enough plants to buy supplies. This type of exhibit may be a trend of the future. It was easy to set up and tear down and we kept it light-hearted and fun.

Well, we now have an invitation to do our show at Phipps. It is a welcome invitation because we have difficulty finding a mall that will allow us to sell plants. We elected to have a judged show on May 17 and 18, 1997 at the Conservatory, if we can work out the details.

It is important to remember that the more local members we have, the more members AVSA will have. If our chapters are strong and active, AVSA will be strong and active. When the local members see the handsome color photos in the magazine, they want those beautiful hybrids.

AVSA 50th Anniversary Book



- Over 100 beautiful color photographs of African violets
- Detailed history of AVSA's first 50 years with original photos and articles from each decade

Limited supply - will not be reprinted - \$19.50 ppd

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gold & white hard enamel*

*A valuable keepsake for every
AVSA member*

\$10.00 ppd

INTRODUCING YOUR 1997 NOMINEES TO THE AVSA BOARD



For President: Esther Edwards Wells of Liberty, Missouri, has been a member of AVSA since 1981. Esther is a Life Member and Senior Judge.

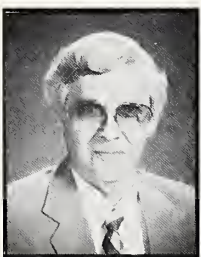
Esther has served on the AVSA Board of Directors since 1987 when she was elected as a director. She served as Awards Committee Chairman from 1989 to 1995. Esther has served on the Executive Committee as First, Second, and Third Vice President. She is a member of the Bylaws Committee, the Publications Committee, and the Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committee. Esther was Convention Chairman for the 1989 AVSA Convention in Kansas City and served on the Convention Committee for four years. She currently chairs the Salary Committee.

Esther is a member of Mid-America African Violet Society and has served as President, First and Second Vice President, and Treasurer. Esther served as Yearbook Editor for Mid-America for several years. Under her direction, Mid-America AVS received the award for Best Affiliate Yearbook at the 1995 AVSA Convention with the first entry using the larger size format.

Esther is a charter member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council and served as its first Secretary, Bylaws Chairman, and Parliamentarian. Esther is also a charter member of the Midwest African Violet Judges Council.

Esther holds a M.S. degree in Student Personnel Administration from Central Missouri State University and a B.A. in Mathematics and Psychology from William Jewell College. She has been employed as Data Processing Supervisor for eleven years in an accounting firm with offices in the Kansas City and Chicago metropolitan areas. Previously, Esther was Director of Student Activities at William Jewell College for over eight years.

Esther's husband, Charles, is employed by Hallmark Cards and serves as Commercial Sales & Exhibits Committee Chairman.



For First Vice President: Bill Foster has been a member of the AVSA for over 20 years. He is a Life Member, a master judge and teacher. He served as Affiliate Chairman for AVSA from 1986-1990 when appointed to the job of AVSA Chairman of Shows and Judges, a job which he still holds.

Bill is a member and past president of The First Nighter

AVS of Dallas, a past president of The First AVS of Dallas, a charter member and past president of North Texas African Violet Judges Council, a member and past president of The Lone Star African Violet Council, and an honorary member of Alpha AVS of Dallas. He served as convention chairman for the AVSA convention in Dallas in 1988, and has served as second vice president of AVSA for the past 2 years.

Bill retired in 1986 after a 31-year career with Atlantic Richfield. He is married to Paula, who is also very involved in African violets and AVSA. They have a grown daughter and son.

Other than hybridizing and caring for their many violets and club activities, Bill and Paula are woodcrafters.



For Second Vice President: Lynn Lombard, a long-time resident of Southern California, moved last year to Auburn, in the Sierra foothills of Northern California. An AVSA member since 1977, she is a Life Member, Judge, and owns and operates The Velvet Leaf. She is the Compiler of the MVL, and with

the help of dedicated committee members she and her husband computerized it in 1990. She is on the Plant Registration Committee and Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committee.

Lynn belongs to affiliations in both Northern and Southern California and has served in many capacities for those clubs. She founded Foothill AVS in 1983. While co-registration chairman for the 1985 AVSA convention in Los Angeles, she and her husband computerized registration, entries and awards for the first time. She does speaking engagements on AV culture and, prior to the move, grew nearly 3000 violets in the house.

A UCLA graduate, Lynn taught junior and senior high school for almost 30 years, The Lombards are building a home with lots of room for their large dogs and her smaller, more sensibly sized violet collection. She's enthusiastically working with the affiliates who are sponsoring the 1998 AVSA National Convention in Sacramento.



For Third Vice President: Jack E. Wilson.

Jack, a native of Ohio, lived in both Florida and California during a 30 year Navy career and now lives in Manassas, Virginia. He has grown African violets for over 41 years and has been a

member of AVSA for over 30 years. He is a life member, a senior judge, and has attended 16 AVSA conventions. He has been an AVSA director, Chairman of the Membership and Promotion Committee, member of the Ways and Means Committee, and presently heads the Open Forum. He was an active member of the Balboa Park AVS in San Diego, California and the Judges Council of Southern California. He is the Virginia Director for the Dixie AVS, a charter member of Mid-Atlantic AVS, and a member of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society and Gesneriad Society International. He is an active member of the Old Dominion AVS and Potomac Council of African Violet Judges.

Jack also belongs to the American Orchid Society and the American Conifer Society. He has a BA in Behavioral Science and an MBA. He is also a graduate of the Program Management Course at the Defense Systems Management College. He is a consultant for procurement and quality improvement issues.



For Secretary: Sue Ramser, of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for 23 years. She has served as show chairman, secretary, treasurer, vice president and president five times.

As member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, Sue has served as newsletter editor twice, secretary, vice president, and president. She is also active in the North Texas African Violet Judges Council, having served as corresponding secretary, secretary, vice president and president.

At the AVSA Convention in Austin in 1978, she was a member of the classification committee and in 1988 was the president's aide for the AVSA Convention in Dallas. She has served as vice chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, elected director in 1990, has served as AVSA Sales and Promotion Table Volunteer Coordinator for the past two years. She serves as secretary of the Shows and Judges Committee. Sue is an AVSA Life Member, senior judge and teacher, and in 1993 she compiled "Teaching Tools".

Sue is a graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton, with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Her husband, Charles, is a Professor of Management at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. They have four children. The Ramser family was selected as Wichita Falls' Family of the Year in 1989. Sue's other interests include sewing and knitting.



For Treasurer: Meredith Hall of Houston, has been a member of AVSA for 23 years, and a Life Member since 1978. She is a senior judge and a teacher.

Meredith attended her first AVSA convention in Austin in 1978 and has attended every one since. She formerly owned The African Violetry, selling plants and supplies to retail customers.

A director of the Dixie AVS, she is past president of Lone Star African Violet Council, Central Texas Judges Council, the African Violet Study Club of Houston and the Spring Branch AVC. Currently she is co-chairman for Commercial Sales Exhibits and Publications. Meredith served as advertising manager for the AVM for seven years.

Her hobbies are ceramics, sewing and gardening especially hibiscus, of which she has a large collection.



For Director: Ronald (Ron) Davidson of Red Oak, Texas has been a member of AVSA for five years. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and holds a degree in engineering. Ron retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1990, serving the army corp of engineers for over twenty years. He is

a professional engineer for the state of Texas doing structural foundation consulting for Chief Engineering in Dallas.

Ron is a Life Member of AVSA and an advanced judge. He is a member of the DIXIE AV Society, the Lone Star African Violet Council and ALPHA AVS of Dallas. Currently he is the show chairman for the Lone Star African Violet Council 1996 annual show. He served as president for ALPHA AVS of Dallas for the past three years and has served on various committees within the club.

Ron and his wife Janice have been growing African violets for many years. Jan gave her collection of African Violets to the women in Saudia Arabia before departing the country. They then began growing their own.

Ron and Jan have two daughters. Ron's favorite past time is deer hunting and playing with his grandson, Brandt.



For Director: Gary Gordon of Ashton, Maryland, has been a member of AVSA since 1990 and is a Life Member and judge. He started growing violets in 1990 when a friend gave him an unidentified trailer. Since then he has acquired a couple of violets on his own (he grows about 600 varieties, not

including over 130 species of other gesneriads). He has attended the last five AVSA conventions.

Gary is currently Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, 3rd Vice President of the Dixie African Violet Society, Secretary of the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges, and is Treasurer of the Baltimore African Violet Club. He is also member of AGGS, GSI, AVS of Canada and the National Capital Area Chapter of AGGS.

Gary is a graduate of Louisiana Tech where he received a B.A. in Business and an M.B.A. with a Financial Management specialty. He has held the positions of Division Controller of Maremont Corporation, Nashville, Tennessee; Chief Executive Officer of HealthAmerica Corporation of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio; and President of Healthcare Corporation of America, Washington, D.C. Currently he is semi-retired, but works part time as a Business Consultant primarily in the health care and insurance industries. He is also active in several community organizations.

Gary lives with his little buddy, Rusty, a miniature poodle. Other interests include computer games, traveling, crafts and plants in general.



For Director: **Kazuko Lyons** of Levittown, Pennsylvania, known as Kay to most of her violet friends, has been an avid African violet grower for 25 years. She has been a member of AVSA and an AVSA judge since 1974 and a Life Member since 1982. Currently a senior judge, she has attended 15 conventions.

Kay is a 22 year charter member of the African Violet Society of Lower Bucks County, Levittown, PA. She has held many offices and positions; served as show chairman many times and is currently serving as President. She is a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic AVS, a member of the New York State AVS, the TriState Council of AV Clubs and the New Jersey Council of AV Judges. She served as Judges Council Treasurer until 1991 when she resigned to assume the duties of Show Chairman for the 1993 National Convention in Lancaster, PA. In 1994, she received an honorary one-year AVSA membership.

Kay has won many awards locally, regionally and on the national level. Kay was instrumental in the founding of the African Violet Clubs of Burlington, NJ and Morristown, NJ. Besides growing violets she enjoys knitting, sewing and cross-stitching. Much of her "violet work" has been admired at the AVSA Conventions where it is presented for fund raising.

Originally from Japan, Kay has been married to her husband Bill for over 40 years. She served on the original Building Fund Committee under the chairmanship of Neil-Sue Tyson. She is currently a member of the Membership

and Promotion Committee and serves as Vice Chairman of the Booster Fund.



For Director: **Jo Anne Martinez** of Tampa, Florida has been a member of AVSA since 1980 She is a Life Member of AVSA, an advanced judge, a member of the Tampa African Violet Society, President of the African Violet Council of Florida and a life member of Dixie AV Society. She is also a life member of AGGS and a senior gesneriad judge. She is Past President of the Tampa African Violet Society and Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society. The first AVSA convention she attended was Orlando in 1987, and she has attended every one since then.

Jo Anne has a Masters degree in Math Education from the University of Southern Florida but retired when her first child, Tiffany, was born. She has four children, Tiffany, Michele, Robert, and Kristina. When Jo Anne is not caring for children or violets, she helps her husband, Robert, manage his Neurology practice.



For Director: **Norah Otto** has been growing African violets for 23 years: Gesneriads share the stands with her violets as a result of her becoming an AVSA judge: she felt she had to learn about them if she were to judge them.

Norah is a member of Happiness Is African Violet Society (1979), the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers (1981), High Country Judge's Workshop (1980) and the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council (1980). She has performed many jobs, including 3Gs newsletter editor, HIAVS club president, 3Gs/HIAVS show chairman, RMAVC awards chair, RMAVC judges chair, etc. She has served as RMAVC president three times and is currently the treasurer. She is an AVSA senior judge and has attended 10 conventions, beginning in 1981 in San Francisco. Norah served as a member of the AVSA Future Directions Committee, and also served as a judge for eight AVSA conventions.

Norah currently serves as host of Gesneriphiles, the African violet and gesneriad E-mail group. Gesneriphiles currently has over 300 members participating from around the world.

Norah works in a research institute at the University of Colorado and is completing an honor's seminar in sociology. She has been married for 26 years and has a daughter attending CU this year as a freshman. Some of her other hobbies include horseback riding, watercolors, the flute and photography.

AVSA Booster Fund

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AUG. 1ST - SEPT. 30TH

Marge Jasinki, Cheektowaga, NY	\$10.00
Jean Paul, Ontario, Canada	\$10.00
Jefferson AV Association #221, Metairie, LA	\$25.00
Thelma Henrich, Cave Creek, AZ	\$5.00
Windsor AVS, W. Hartford, CT	\$25.00
Georgian Aboko-Cole, Silver Springs, MD	\$10.00
Connie L. Leifesti, Woodway, TX	\$10.00
Sylvia Siegel, Norwalk, CT	\$5.00
Dorothy L. Vogt, Stockton, CA	\$25.00
Hans & Everdina Inpijn, Laguna Hills, CA	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Jack Hanthorn, husband of Audrey Hanthorn.</i>	
Union County Chapter AVSA, Roselle Park, NJ	\$25.00
Martha Dyson, Baton Rouge, LA	\$10.00
<i>In lieu of speaker's fees for Sundowners AVS.</i>	
Harriott Morgan, Manhattan, MT	\$5.00
Frances Olson, Rush City, MN	\$10.00
Saintpaulia Society, St. Louis, MO	\$41.61
<i>Club disbanded.</i>	
Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY	\$10.00
Unpredictables AVS, Independence, MO	\$10.00

Total \$261.61

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive
Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from July 20, 1996 - Sept. 20, 1996

First AVS of Spartanburg, Spartanburg, SC	\$10.00
Metropolitan St. Louis AVS, St. Louis, MO	\$20.00
<i>In memory of our friend and active member, Earl J. Jackson.</i>	
Mary E. Gall, Leawood, KS	\$15.00
<i>In fond memory of Earl W. Jackson.</i>	
Hoosier AVS, Gary, IN	\$20.00
<i>In memory of Walter Galster.</i>	
Windsor AVS, Windsor, CT	\$50.00
<i>In memory of our beloved member, Bertha Pfau.</i>	
The Town & Country AVS, Redlands, CA	\$30.00
<i>In lieu of speaker's fee to Leonard Re.</i>	
Michael R. Isreal, Louisville, KY	\$25.00
Maragret L. Gensel, Novato, CA	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Catherine A. Mileti.</i>	
San Mateo County AVS, San Mateo, CA	\$10.00
<i>In memory of our dear member, Catherine A. Mileti.</i>	
Jefferson AV Association, Metairie, LA	\$25.00
AVS of North Jersey, Clifton, NJ	\$5.00
Donna R. Williams, Olympias, WA	\$20.00
Kerry W. Brookman, Cerritos, CA	\$25.00
NASA AVS, Houston, TX	\$25.00
M K O Dyn-A-Mite AVS, Joplin, MO	\$25.00
Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX	\$15.00
Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Marla Henderson.</i>	
Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Lovetta Tatro.</i>	
Catherine Luse, Billings, MT	\$5.00
Connie L. Leifeste, Woodway, TX	\$10.00
Edna M. Trimmel, Burton, SC	\$10.00
Unpredictables AVS, Blue Springs, MO	\$10.00



The African Violet Society of Canada presents its
30th Convention and Show

"Violets Among Friends"

May 1-7, 1997 in Toronto, Canada

The AVSA Judges' Council - Ontario is proud to host the 30th Convention & Show of AVSC, May 1-3, 1997 at the Howard Johnson Plaza-Hotel, 2737 Keele St., Toronto, a 5-Star, Gold Medal Winning Hotel known for superior customer service. This hotel has been named the Howard Johnson Property of the Year.

The hotel is conveniently situated on Keele St. right at Highway 401 -12 minutes from Toronto International Airport (\$5.00 fee for Shuttle bus). Complimentary indoor covered parking is extended to all overnight guests and daytime show visitors. It is 20 minutes from downtown Toronto, where you may visit many popular tourist sites. Eaton Centre, Skydome Stadium, CN Tower, Royal Ontario Museum, Harbourfront, the Art Gallery of Ontario, China Town, and Queen's Park are only a few of your 'must sees'. Yorkdale Shopping Centre with 250 shops and 4 department stores is just 5 minutes from the Hotel, as is the TTC subway station.

You may wish to take in some theater or a concert when in town. Massey Hall, Roy Thompson Hall, O'Keefe Centre, Elgin and WinterGarden Theatre Centre, Princess of Wales, Royal Alexandra and Pantages Theatres, are all downtown and have top quality shows. We will list those playing closer to the

convention date. The Ford Centre for The Performing Arts is in North York and 'Ragtime' will most likely be playing. The hotel will make reservations for you if you so wish.

To top all this we guarantee one of the best African Violet shows in Canada, featuring a room full of show plants, a superb design division and sales of plants and growing supplies. A workshop by Paul Kroll on Saintpaulia species is on tap and an AVSA Judging School for anyone interested in learning more about growing and judging African violets. Anyone wishing to renew their judges' certificates will be able to do so at the Convention.

We also promise fine dining, superb entertainment and warm hospitality. Enjoy to the fullest as your excellent hotel rate may be extended a few days.

Don't be shy - Come join us and have a great time!

For further information you may call:


Betting Tapping
Convention Chairman
511 The West Mall, Apt. 1512
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 1G5
(416) 621-1549

Doris Brownlie
Show Chairman
600 Silvercreek Blvd. #80
Mississauga, Ontario
L5A 2B4
(905) 270-6776

THE AFRICAN VIOLET

AROUND KAMBAL FOREST

BY DIANA PERCY



One of the most prized endemic plant species coveted in the Eastern Arc Mountains is the African violet, *Saintpaulia*. The Usambara Mountains harbor 13 of the 20 known species. Many households in Britain and America have at one time played host to this popular houseplant. It is therefore strange to realize that the wild source of such a common and well-loved "pet" plant, could have a severely limited and threatened distribution.

The Eastern Arc Forests incorporating seven mountainous refugia has a biblical ring; "edens" of virgin forest; that can be entirely justified by the covenant of rare and endemic species (native only to a certain region) found within these ranges. This continental archipelago of forest islands contain animal and plant life older than 10 million years. It was around this period that the general lack of rainfall on the African continent started to change a richly forested pan-tropical belt, to what is now dry savannah, scrub and woodland. The unique geographical location of the Arc mountains; highlands on an otherwise flat coastal plain, ensure that these ranges are the first recipients of moisture carried inland from the Indian Ocean.

The African violet, *Saintpaulia*, was discovered in 1892 in the Usambara (Tanga) Region by Baron von Saint Paul Illaire. The first specimen was named *ionantha*, and like all *Saintpaulia* it is restricted to the moist cool forest habitats of the East African coast.

Although the majority of cultivated *Saintpaulia* are derived from a limited gene pool of only two species, it is estimated that 20 different species of *Saintpaulia* exist in the wild. A full taxonomic investigation has not been undertaken since the early 60's and much new information now needs to be incorporated into a current revision. Out of these 20 species, an estimated 13 are found in one range of the Arc mountains, the Usambaras, and 8 of these 13 species are native only to the East Usambaras.

Recent surveys have shown that the habitat of *Saintpaulia* is largely restricted to gneiss, or limestone rocks, and steep slopes near water courses. Kambai forest, an area of 1,010 hectares, maintains a permanent water source in the Miembeni River with several other smaller seasonal water courses. The combination of rapid altitudinal (from 150m-780m) and microhabitat variation certainly ensures

that Kambai harbors a number of other *Saintpaulia* species in addition to *Saintpaulia diplotricha*. The many rocky outcrops provide the reserve with numerous sites typically preferred by *Saintpaulia*.

Already noted, are variations in flower color from the more common opaque, milky purple to a rarer, deep violet. There are variations in leaves from larger, sparsely haired to small, compoundly orbicular leaves with long, dense white hairs on the upper surface. There are habitat variations from large rock faces some distance from water courses (2 to 3 kilo-meters in some cases), to rock boulders in the center and edges of the Miembeni River bed. *Saintpaulia* have been found growing in the knobbled trunks of the globally-threatened cycad plant, *Encepharlatius hildebrandtii*, and in the crooked branches of *Pandanus* palms. These habitats provide the essential shade and degree of moisture required.

While it is known that different species of *Saintpaulia* may be found in the same location, hybridization is common and besides confusing botanists, this promiscuity is seen as a threat to critically endangered species such as the highly isolated *S. tongwensis*, limited to only four known sites in a few square kilometers of forest. The difficulties in assessing the taxonomic status using morphological characters alone may now only be clarified with molecular investigations.

The growth habitat of *Saintpaulia* is typically precarious, where only a very superficial root system attaches the plant to its surface, and the soft, fleshy vegetation is easily damaged. There may also be some threat from unmonitored human curiosity and "tourism." But a much more immediate threat is that of disturbance from reduction in forest canopy cover destroying the essential shaded habitat. This threat is growing, and needs to be tackled at the community level to prevent further logging and clearing of forest trees. Where trees have been removed, creating "gaps" around *Saintpaulia* sites, dissected and dying plants can be found. Another potential effect of clearing, is the establishment of invasive species such as *Maesopsis emnii* already present at the forest edge. *Maesopsis* does not provide the closed canopy required to maintain a moist microclimate on the forest floor. It is not only the *Saintpaulia* that is dependent on such a microclimate, but a variety of rare plants and animal species, many of which may still be unrecorded.

Diana Percy is a botanist with the Frontier Tanzania Forest Research Programme.

Reprinted with permission from the ARC Journal publication of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.



Mrs. Judith M. Carter of Houston, TX, won the Best Design award at the 50th Annual AVSA National Show in Atlanta.



Audrey Salzman was the winner of the original design African violet wall hanging raffled by the Tidewater AVS of Norfolk, VA. The wall hanging was designed and made by Sue Hoffman.



Heather Morgan's mobile won Best Design, and Cathy Cornibe's entry of "Rob's Fuddy Duddy" won Best in Show at the San Mateo County AVS judged show.



Jeanette Martin, Penny Winchman, and Paula Duncan, winners of the Cincinnati AVS Show.



Winners of the Omaha AVS fall show with their winning entries: Nancy Horan with "Baby Brian", Nancy Brown with "Victorian Flirt" and "Pen & Ink", Karen Larson's "International".



Lenora Munk of the Spring Branch AVC, Houston, TX, with her winning plants from the club's spring show: "Rodeo Country", Best in Show, "Apache Victory", 2nd Best in Show, and "Ness' Cranberry Swirls", Best Semi.

M E M B E R S

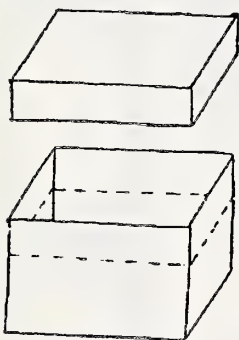
Violets by Airplane

How Do I Carry All Those Plants on Airplanes?

by John Nabors
Houston, TX

At the DAVS convention in Nashville, Tennessee, several people asked how I could carry so many African violet plants on the airplane.

Having done this with some success (as well as a few disasters) during the last several years, I have found the best way to transport plants by airplane is to hand-carry the plants on board in a cardboard box and place it in the overhead storage compartment.



Trim the box by 2 inches

I always use a box that copying paper comes in (10 reams of 8 1/2" x 11" paper). This box is sturdy, readily available, and uniform in size. The top slips on so no flaps press down to crush blossoms.

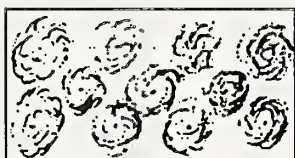
The first step after finding the correct box is to remove the lid and carefully cut two inches off the box. This shortens the box to the

height that will fit in most overhead storage compartments of airplanes. (Call ahead for exact sizes when you make your reservation.) The lid will still fit correctly.

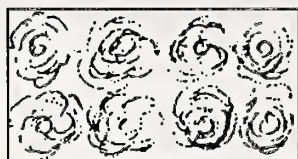
Generally, airlines will allow one carry-on box per person. But this differs with airlines, so check.

The next step is to determine how many of which plants you are going to take as a carry on.

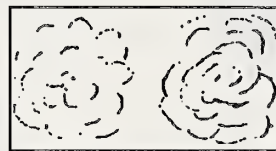
This size box will hold 11 miniature or 6-8 semis or two small standards/trailers (no more than 11 inches across).



Eleven Minis



Eight Semiminis

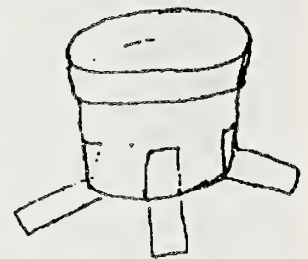


Two Trailers or Two Compact Standards

Water plants before beginning the next step (the night before is best).

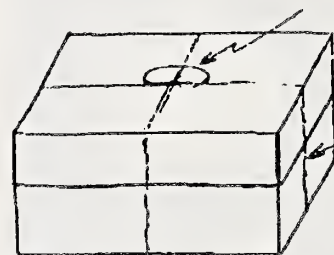
Secure each plant pot to the bottom of the box using 1/2" wide and 4"-6" long strips of duct tape (length depends on pot size).

Next, take unused laundry plastic and crumple small amounts around each plant to cushion the plant from both sides of the box and from the other plants. This also reduces dehydration from the dry air in the airplane and the cardboard of the box. Kitchen type plastic-wrap is undesirable because it clings to blossoms, pots, and leaves.



Tape the Pot Down with 1/2" x 4" Strips of Duct Tape

After all plants are secured, gently mist the inside of the lid with tepid water. Do not overmist. Then slip the lid on and tie a string around the whole box. Where the string meets, make a handle out of duct tape for ease in carrying.



Make a Handle and Wrap String Around the Box

Put felt-pen markings on the box such as FRAGILE, LIVE PLANTS, THIS END UP, so the box does not get mishandled going through metal detectors or by other passengers who move overhead luggage around.

Packing plants this way allows for plenty of bumps and jolts while still getting to the show fresh and intact.

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OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Big Sky Violets
 10678 Schoolhouse Lane
 Moiese, MT 59824
 406/644-2296

Selective Gardener Catalog
 P.O. Box 78398
 Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
 2325 Valley Road
 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
 215/947-0144

Cape Cod Violetry
 28 Minot Street
 Falmouth, MA 02540
 508/548-2798

Teas Nursery
 P.O. Box 1603
 Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
 713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
 45 Third Street
 W. Sayville, NY 11796
 516/589-2724

Innis Violets
 8 Maddison Lane
 Lynnfield, MA 01940
 617/334-6679



Growing & Showing

AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS

by Ardath Miller
Manchester, MO

African violet trailers have the same size range as single-crown plants. They are available in microminiature, miniature, semiminiature and standard sizes. AVSA rules require trailers to have a minimum of three crowns growing from a central stem in order to be considered for a blue ribbon.

Trailers are easily propagated either from leaves or stem cuttings. Starter plants should be watched for development of new crowns. These appear the same as suckers on standard-type plants. Some cultivars branch out without pinching. However, most trailers will need pinching to force development of new crowns. To do this, simply remove the 2 or 3 smallest leaves of the growth tip. This can be done with finger tips. I find it easier and safer to use small, pointed scissors. Embroidery or manicure scissors work well. Pinching will force the growth of new crowns at lower axils. Usually two crowns will replace the growing tip that was removed. As new crowns attain the size between 1/8 and 1/4 inch, remove that large leaf where it was produced. Use scissors! This step accelerates the growth rate of a new crown and avoids a ragged appearance as each plant develops. As each new crown gains about 2 inches of growth, pinch each one again. Once the plant reaches maturity, occasional pinching will be required over the lifetime of the plant. Most of the microminiatures do not require pinching as they branch out well on their own. It is said that trailers will sometimes throw out a crown with larger leaves than others on the plant. If this happens, remove entire crown with off-size leaves.

Trailers require good light. Place tops of starter plants 7 or 8 inches below lights. As the plant grows taller, lower it to maintain at least that distance. It is thought by many that older varieties require less light once established and should be grown in natural light to avoid the bleaching of foliage. I grow my plants under fixtures with one cool white and one

Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tube. Lights are on 12 hours a day. All my plants are grown in rooms that also have good natural light.

Soil requirements are the same as for standard-type violets. It should be a loose, porous mix. My soil mix is a basic 1-1-1 mix with dolomite lime and horticulture charcoal added.

Trailers need a bit more fertilizer once the plant is established. I constant feed, using 1/4 teaspoon of a high phosphorous fertilizer plus 1/8 teaspoon of Rapid-Gro (23-19-17) per gallon of water. The exception to the stronger mixture is to be found with the microminis. Using the increased nitrogen with them increases their leaf size, destroying their charm.

Disbudding trailers works for me. It helps to bring on a mass of bloom when you want it and also encourages the formation of new crowns. If you wish to enter your trailer in a show, disbud the last time 6 to 8 weeks **before showtime**. Time variance is dependent on variety and growing conditions. Do last pinching 3 1/2 to 4 months before the show.

As mentioned before, AVSA rules require show trailers to have a minimum of 3 main crowns growing from a main stem in order to be considered for a blue ribbon. Crowns must be distributed evenly in order to have good form. Semitrailing varieties have a more bush-type growth habit and do not trail over the side of the pot as the trailing varieties do. Condition is another consideration when trailers are judged. There should be no yellow, spotted or damaged leaves, bare stems showing or spent blossoms. The plant must be clean. There are no size restrictions regarding pot size for trailers. Minis and semis may eventually need the same size pots as standards. However, the pot should be in proper proportion to plant. The quantity of bloom should be in proportion to size of plant. However, consideration must

be given to the number of blooms produced on each stem to help determine the number which can be expected. Blossoms should be spaced evenly around the plant from all three main crowns. Size, type and color of blossom is judged according to variety of trailer.

Older trailers will eventually become leggy and develop bare stems. This is a good time to take cuttings for propagation of new plants. I root cuttings in my regular potting mix, first removing 4 leaves from lower stem which will go into the soil. Water, and treat as you do for leaf cuttings.

After reading THE JAPANESE TECHNIQUE FOR GROWING AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS in the January/February 1988 issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, I knew I would try this method. This technique was adapted to my growing environment and material available to me. I began by transplanting an established starter plant beginning to trail into a 5 inch pan pot that had 1 inch of perlite in the bottom. That plant was placed in the center and soil filled around the root ball. First watering was done from the top. Thereafter, the plant was watered from a saucer, as with Texas-style growing. After initial watering, evenly distribute crowns in the pot. Remove lower leaves on each crown that will be on the soil side. Pin crowns down to keep in constant touch with soil. Roots will soon begin to form along stems. Pins should be removed in about 6 weeks. Try to use pins of a color easy to spot at removal time. A center crown, or crowns, should be left unpinned to grow upward. Care of the plant is the same as for other trailers except that crowns must continue to be pinned down as they grow.

The plant will need to be repotted when crowns are trailing a few inches over the edge of the pan pot. The next

container will be a plant saucer. Try to obtain a saucer 11 or 12 inches in diameter and as deep as possible. Burn several holes in saucer bottom. A heated ice pick works well. **BE SURE TO HAVE GOOD VENTILATION WHERE THIS IS DONE!** Again, use a layer of perlite in the bottom of the saucer. Repeat previous potting steps and continue the pinching and pinning of crowns.

In my opinion, plants with a good trailing habit lend themselves better to this method than those producing a more bushy growth. Bush types do well, but require less pinching as fewer crowns can be allowed. They tend to grow upward. Enough space must be allowed for each crown to develop without crowding each other. Rob's Sticky Wicket is the variety that has performed best for me, using this method.

My trailers, that I am seriously working with for a show, are kept disbudded for many months, with last disbudding at about 7 weeks before show. It becomes quite a tedious task in the last months before show. I place my largest trailer growing in a 12 inch plant saucer on a rubbermaid turntable.

It is placed in the center of the shelf and the fertilized water is poured onto the turntable. With numerous holes in the saucer, the solution is drawn up quite quickly. I give the turntable a quarter turn each time I water.

I water with a bloom booster fertilizer twice, once at 10 weeks and again at 8 weeks before show. The lights are on 12 hours normally and work up to 14 before show. My general timing is quite like Pauline Bartholomew's schedule.

African violet trailers are fun to grow. If you haven't grown them before, I hope you will give them a try.

Reprinted with permission from the Missouri Valley AV Council Newsletter

Windows Version of MVL Improved

As you may have heard, the African Violet Society of America is now offering the *Master Variety List* on computer diskette in the new Windows® version. There is an accompanying program, **First Class**, which searches the list for names alphabetically or using a key word or by hybridizer. It also prints out descriptions of cultivars selected by the user.

First responses from those who have purchased the program have been very good. They are impressed with the fact that it is easy to install and use. A few people have made suggestions for improvements, resulting in version 1.1 of **First Class** with these added features:

- A new data format which uses less hard disk space
- The ability to print descriptions on labels
- An option to change the font used for printing

Purchasers of version 1.0 were sent a free upgrade. A special thanks to Judith Smith (PA) and Sharon Johnson (MN) for their suggestions to improve the program.

Especially helpful is the provision for printing descriptions on address-type labels (30 on a sheet) with a laser or ink jet printer, which can then be affixed to pots (or plastic bags with leaf cuttings).

First Class runs under Windows® 3.1 or later. It includes a *Master Variety List* database, which is updated 6 times a year. The program and database require 2.5 MB of hard disk space and at least 4 MB of RAM. It runs best on an IBM-compatible 486 or better computer.

You can order your copy of **First Class** from the AVSA office for \$25.00, which includes shipping and handling. Updated database diskettes will be only \$7.50 each, which also includes shipping and handling. You must be a registered owner to order the updated database. It is suggested that you purchase a new database at least once a year—just before a show if you are using it for classification, or just after the *Master Variety List* supplement has been published (Nov/Dec issue of *AVM*) if it is for your own personal use.

Showcase

Frosty Spring

*Exhibited and Hybridized by:
Sidney Sorano
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Standard*



Bianca

*Hybridized and Grown by:
Tinari Greenhouses
Standard*





***Best AVSA Collection
Of Minis or Semiminis (Commercial)
1996 National Show***

*Left to Right:
Rob's Red Rooster
Rob's Boondoggle
Rob's Fuddy Duddy*

*Exhibited by: Sidney Sorano, Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Hybridized by: Ralph Robinson*

AFRICAN VIOLETS FROM SEED

by Lola Rossi
San Mateo, CA

Learning to pollinate some of your favorites so they form seed pods and then planting the seeds after the pods have matured is not difficult. Once you know what you are doing, that is.

My first attempt was successful in generating three seed pods, and I patiently waited about 7-8 months for them to mature, dry up and be ready for germination. But, I didn't know enough about the planting medium and the proper method of doing this. I wet the soil, which was plain commercial African violet soil, from the top, soaking it thoroughly. I then sprinkled the tiny seeds, which are like black dust, on top of the soil and I covered it with plastic wrap. Soon, I noticed a little grey, fuzzy mold developing. I had failed to sterilize the soil and had provided no ventilation. I carefully removed the grey fuzz, but after about 4 weeks, it was very obvious my experiment was a failure and nothing was going to germinate.

Not being one to let a challenge stand in my way, I decided to try some Ron Nadeau seed kits. The little peat pots which arrived with the seed are very fluffy when wet and a perfect medium for germinating seed. I realized that my soil mixture had been too heavy and needed a lot of good quality, fine peat moss. The directions said to punch holes in the bottom of a plastic container, then let the peat pot absorb the water from the bottom up. With this method the soil would be thoroughly moistened, but not too wet. This can take upwards of three days, but works well. Then, I covered the container with plastic, after punching a few holes in the plastic so the condensation would not drown the seed. I placed the container in a warm, bright atmosphere and in less than two weeks, to my joy, I saw tiny little specs of green appear! I soon had aluminum cake pans containing my tiny babies all over the house basking in the best warm, lighted spots.

Though I was thrilled to know that I could grow from seed, and had read that most of the seedlings would probably grow up to be rather plain or ugly, needing to be

discarded, I don't think I believed it. Well, I should have.

After my first failure, I was successful in growing from my own seed pods, and had several successes with Ron Nadeau seed. However after five tries, I have only kept four plants! But, I'm not discouraged - even one plant that is special is worth the effort!

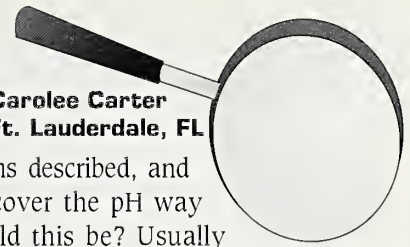
I kept a very large, very frilled double dark, dark purple with prominent yellow pollen sacs. It is so gorgeous, I named it Beauty and a remake of this variety is currently growing in my living room. Another was a hanging variety with somewhat insignificant single lavender blooms, but the leaves were so beautiful. It was worth having the plant just for the leaf formation. They were dark green and heart-shaped with a red back. It was stunning! I named it Jo, for my dad. Then came a huge blossom of an unusual shade of lavender, double ruffled with slightly darker edges and so beautiful, I named it Fascination. I had never owned such a beauty, before or since. Lastly, and this has been my favorite, was a variegate which I *almost* threw out because it grew so very slowly (two years) before it decided to bloom. Once I saw the blooms, I knew it was worth the wait. It has very large, single blooms which do not drop easily. The slightly-fringed edges are a shimmery light pink, with dark pink on some of the fringed edges and large yellow pollen sacs. It is so plush when it gets going that I could not believe how beautiful the blooms were! I named it Fluffy, an odd name for an African Violet, but it somehow reminded me of a much-loved pet. I shall have this variety forever!

Growing from seed is easy! Just make sure you have a light, porous soil, heavy on the peat moss, or buy the peat pots or a kit. Make holes in a plastic container and dampen the soil with warm water from below, then sprinkle the seeds carefully. Cover with plastic wrap with holes, to avoid too much condensation, place in a warm, bright spot, and you will soon have dozens of healthy baby plants. Only a few 'keepers' will make it worth the effort!

ON THE DETECTIVE TRAIL

to Solving My Plant's Malady

by Carolee Carter
Ft. Lauderdale, FL



Usually, every February after the show, I go through my violet collection with a fine-toothed comb to eliminate all of the plants that I have either grown tired of, or that are beyond my patience in bringing back to top condition.

This year was no different. My collection had been trimmed to a manageable number of plants, I repotted every one that needed it, and the plants were all lookin' good! I had stopped fertilizing with an African violet fertilizer and had switched to 20-20-20 to stop forcing blossoms and concentrate on redeveloping their foliage. My newly purchased plants from the show were not being fertilized for a month because I knew these plants had just gone through a big jolt of fertilizer to get them ready for sale.

Last week, however, I began to notice a few subtle changes on some of my plants—changes that were reminiscent of a malady that I have had several times before. The center leaves were beginning to stop their normal surge of growth and remained small and narrow. They were also taking on a yellowish cast. Some of the leaves began to show what I call a "veining" effect. In other words, you could see reddish "veins" through the leaves while the leaves themselves became lighter.

There was no indication of any pest infestation, so what could be causing this to happen?

I started searching for clues that would point to what was happening to my violet leaves. I finally began reading a chapter in Melvin Roby's *African Violet* book about signs to look for in essential-element deficiencies, or those elements found in the fertilizers we give our plants - nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, magnesium, calcium, iron, boron, manganese, copper, etc., which are all necessary for our plants to thrive.

Despite what sounds to be a dull topic, I was amazed to discover that a deficiency in both magnesium and iron produced the symptoms I was encountering. As a matter of fact, the symptoms described for other trace elements could also be found in my plants.

So, how could I get my plants to begin assimilating these nutritional vitamins? They were apparently not getting them, despite the fact that I was using a fertilizer that contained all of these trace elements. Why weren't my plants taking advantage of the food I was feeding them?

The answer wasn't to give them more of the same food. It must have to do with either the soil or the water, I surmised. And I think I'm right on both counts.

Those of us who mix soil know the importance of a proper pH balance. We test the soil to see it is in the 6.1-6.9 range in which violets thrive best. If it deviates significantly to either the acidic or alkaline ranges, the soil nutrients become locked up and unavailable for absorption by the plant. The plant develops malnutrition. Could this be the missing link in my puzzle?

I tested several samples of soil from plants showing the

worst of the symptoms described, and was surprised to discover the pH way above 7.0. How could this be? Usually plants became acidic after a few months, not alkaline. The soil pH was fine when I repotted the plants. And, my new plants were fine for about six weeks before signs of trouble began to appear. Maybe some factor in my watering was altering the pH as well.

I researched some more and discovered an article written in the AVM in 1992, that spoke of a test a club did in their community on their water supply and discovered it was excessively alkaline. So, I tested our tap water, and sure enough, it was almost off the pH reader in alkalinity.

The article went on to say that they believed this excessive water alkalinity adversely altered the soil pH enough to alter plant growth and that wick-watered plants were more affected than top-watered plants. Bingo! This had to be the answer. Now, what next?

Many who have experienced the same problem have solved it by using rain water to water their plants, successfully. The plants returned to their vigorous growth in a few months. Some have tried to speed up the process by using a solution of 2 tablespoons vinegar to one gallon of warm water and top watering their plants several times in place of regular watering. This method has not been as successful as the rain water, but it does work. And, others have sprinkled finely ground sulfur on the soil (1 tsp. to a 4" pot) and then top watered for a two- to three-week period.

I've begun my experiment, and hopefully my plants will respond. In the meantime, the rest of you might want to do some reading yourself to discover what deficiency characteristics might be damaging your plants.

Here's a list of some of the most common taken from Robey's *African Violet* book:

Yellowing of the Oldest Leaves: suspect nitrogen, potassium, magnesium and molybdenum deficiency.

Yellowing of the Youngest Leaves: suspect sulfur, calcium, boron, manganese, copper, zinc and chlorine deficiency.

Leaf Margins or Leaf Tips Dry Up: suspect potassium, copper, magnesium and manganese deficiency.

Yellow Leaves with Dark Veins: suspect iron and magnesium deficiency.

Necrotic Spots on the Leaves: suspect manganese zinc, molybdenum and chlorine deficiency.

Leaves or Flower Buds Twisted, Wrinkled or Curled: suspect potassium, calcium, boron, and copper deficiency.

Root Growth Reduced or Discolored: suspect calcium, boron, chlorine and manganese deficiency.

Reprinted with permission from "The Violet Voice" publication of the Violet Patch of South Florida.

Growing Show Winners

by Richard Nicholas, Denton, TX

I love large African Violets! Although I do grow a few of the small ones, my real interest is standards. When I enter my plants in a show, I enter standards almost exclusively. Early in my efforts, blue ribbon awards came quickly, but higher awards did not. Over time, however, I have learned from several talented growers and conducted a number of experiments to determine the most effective way for me to grow for show. Once the awards, including Best of Show, began to come my way, I began to share the methods I use with others. This article is a summary of the "Growing for Show" presentation from the 1995 AVSA Convention held in St. Louis.

Goals

The methods described below are intended primarily to grow larger plants, especially larger leaves. Larger leaves will provide better shape and will fill in spaces better thus avoiding deductions for open growth. In addition, there is just something special about a really large standard in full bloom that catches the eye of judges and the public as well.

A Word About Conditions

While the focus of this article is not on basic growing conditions, a few words may be in order. My plants are grown on four-shelf carts under fluorescent lights (two Gro-Lux WS bulbs). Each is grown in a light, porous soilless mix and wick-watered on individual reservoirs. The fertilizer system is constant feed, using Peter's African Violet Special (12-36-14) alternated periodically with a higher nitrogen fertilizer, such as Rapid-Gro or Peter's 20-20-20.

The remainder of this method is shown through a series of hints called "keys."

KEY 1: SELECTION

The first step of selection is to work on plants that grow best under your conditions. Like most everyone, I have tried a variety of new plants, some of which just did not do well for me. I used to assume that I was doing something wrong. Now I know better. My conditions are my conditions. Violets which want something different are soon gifts to someone else or sale plants! So, grow what works for you!

The next part of selection is to choose plants with show potential. Just as you cannot "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" some violets will never make a winning show plant. Like most everybody else, I have a few sentimental favorites which never get to a show. For the most part, however, non-show worthy plants are kept in the corners of the shelf or given away.

There are several easy ways to select potential winners: (1) go to shows and try to purchase leaves or starter plants of the winners, (2) read the African Violet Magazine for lists of show winners, or (3) try the new releases from a hybridizer whose plants have previously performed well for you.

There is one final hint in the selection process which may sound like heresy to some. The bloom does not matter! That's right. In the AVSA scale of points by which your plant will be judged, **there are no points for "pretty" or "unusual"!** While the plant will be judged for quantity of bloom and whether or not the plant is blooming true to color, there are no points for stripes, spots,

bicolors, or tri-colors. There are no points for the biggest bloom. With this in mind, show plant bloom selection should depend on high quantity of bloom and for the ability to hold blooms high in a crown or halo. My last Best of Show winner, Gay Lady (Wilson), was pictured in the AVM recently. The plant was large, symmetrical, in good condition, and had lots of bloom. The color? Pink. Just pink.

KEY 2: CONSISTENCY

We know that violets do best when grown with consistent conditions. Constant watering methods, such as wick or mat watering, have an advantage over methods that rely on busy growers to remember to water. Fluorescent lights on timers have an advantage over window growing where light is subject to changes from sunny days to cloudy days.

Consistency can be carried one step further. My show plants spend their entire life under the same conditions. I start all of them from leaves. Even when I acquire a starter plant, I quickly put down a leaf. The new baby plants then stay under the same conditions until show time many months later. With only one exception, the hundreds of plants I have shown have all been handled with this consistency.

KEY 3: LESS LIGHT

As a beginning grower, I often read that lights should be on for 12-14 hours each day. Using this method, I never achieved the leaf size I wanted, so I began to experiment. A change made sense when I read the symptoms of too much light: smaller leaves, shorter petioles, tighter centers. What I wanted was the opposite, i.e., larger leaves and a larger plant. I have now settled on 10-11 hours of light per day.

Caution: the amount of light your plants need and get actually varies with the room conditions. Your plants will need the lights on for less hours in a light room, especially if the shelf backs up to a white wall. If the room itself is darker or the walls and shelves are darker, there will be less reflected light and the lights will need to be on longer.

KEY 4: GROOM WHEN WATERING

In my system each prospective show plant is individually wicked into its own reservoir — not because the watering is any better, but because I am then required to pick each plant up when watering. This is grooming time. By grooming regularly for spent blooms (or disbudding as described later) and for improved leaf pattern when watering, I do not leave form, symmetry, or condition to chance shortly before show time.

Here are some things to watch for when grooming for leaf pattern:

- 1) **Leaf holding a leaf.** This problem is usually seen with new growth near the center of the plant. Smaller new leaves often are caught by an edge of the next row of leaves. A little help to bring them out where they belong will prevent a permanently deformed leaf later.
- 2) **Ring holding a leaf.** Plastic "rings" or leaf supports are a blessing for many varieties, but they can present a grooming



AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE

"A Florida Fantasy"

JUNE, 1997

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.

1a. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).

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

SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE

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

SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

13. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
14. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
15. White, cream, and blush
16. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
17. Fantasy and all edged

SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

18. Purple and all shades of blue
19. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
20. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
21. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged
22. Fantasy
23. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
24. Pink, coral, red, fuchsia, variegated foliage
25. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
26. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
27. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM

28. Purple and all shades of blue

29. Pink and coral
30. Red and fuchsia
31. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
32. All edged
33. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
34. Fantasy
35. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
36. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
37. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
38. Two-tone multicolor, and chimera, variegated foliage
39. All edged, variegated foliage
40. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION VI - TRAILERS AND SPECIES, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE

41. Standard trailers
42. Miniature trailers
43. Semiminature trailers
44. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids

SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

45. Seedlings
46. Sports or mutants

SECTION VIII - AFRICAN VIOLET PLANTS IN UNUSUAL CONTAINER

47. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in container
48. One African violet trailer in container

SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

49. Miniatures, size limit of five inches (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted)
50. Tuberous-rooted
51. Scaly-rhizomed
52. Fibrous-rooted
53. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

DESIGN DIVISION

Webster defines "fantasy" as: "imagination or fancy; esp., wild, visionary fancy; an unnatural or bizarre mental image; illusion; phantasm; an odd notion; whim; caprice." Beginning in childhood, and continuing through adulthood, we all go through life with various fantasies. What fantasies have you had? Maybe, it was to someday be a lawyer, doctor, movie star, or President. Maybe, to travel around the world, ride the space shuttle, or to win the lottery. Whatever, your fantasy maybe you will be able to explore it when executing your designs.

SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each entry is a design using fresh cut African violet blossoms. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted and colored plant material, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American and national flags are not permitted. Backboards and draping of niches are permitted, as are accessories, unless restricted by the particular class.

54. **"A Florida Fantasy"** – Many fantasies have been associated with Florida, the land of eternal youth, the land of perpetual sunshine, a tropical paradise, etc. Challenge your imagination and create a rendition of your Florida fantasy with an interpretive flower arrangement using African violet foliage cut from the root or soil ball, along with other materials. African violet blossoms are not permitted. White cardboard niche 28" H x 22" W x 12" D (additional 4" in front of niche may be used to accommodate base area of design). Limit 6.

55. **"Strike It Rich"** – Just about everyone has had a fantasy of winning a sweepstakes, the jackpot at Reno, or the lottery. Show us your "one-in-a-million" chance of "striking it rich" with a rich and/or lavish interpretive flower arrangement. White cardboard niche 28" H x 22" W x 12" D, (additional 4" in front of niche may be used to accommodate base area of design). Limit 6.

56. **"Out of This World"** – Whether your fantasy is to be an astronaut and pilot a space shuttle or just be a passenger, take us out of this world with your mobile flower arrangement. You must furnish your own means of suspending your design. White cardboard niche 36" H x 24" W x 12" D, (additional 4" in front of niche may be used to accommodate base area of design). Limit 6.

57. **"The Oval Office"** – Just about every little boy and girl (despite what Wal-Mart says) grows up with the fantasy of someday becoming President. Give us a free-standing patriotic flower arrangement, to be staged against a red and white horizontally striped background and placed on a primary blue table covering. Design will be allowed space of 28" H x 22" W x 16" D. Limit 6.

58. **"Quiz Show"** – Remember the heyday of the quiz shows, when most of us were mesmerized by the contestants on such network TV shows as "The \$64,000.00 Question" and "Name That Tune"? Put on your thinking cap and mesmerize us with your interpretive flower arrangement. To be staged in a recessed gray box 24" H x 14" W x 12" D, with a dark gray frame 2" wide. No backboards or draping allowed. Limit 6.

59. **"Off to See the Wizard"** – Follow the "yellow brick road," with one or more of the characters from the fantasy of all fantasies, "The Wizard of Oz." Exhibitor will be furnished three yellow bricks 7-1/2" long and 3-1/2" wide x 2-2/8" thick, with 10 holes. You may use one, two, or three of the bricks in this whimsical or capricious flower arrangement. White cardboard niche 28" H x 22" W x 12" D, (additional 4" in front of niche may be used to accommodate base area of design). Limit 6.

60. **"A Small World"** – We, at some time in our lives, have had the fantasy of traveling the globe. Takes us to one of the stops on your journey with a small interpretive arrangement. To be placed on a wooden shelf 6" W x 3-1/2" D, against an unfinished wood background. An 8" H x 6" W backboard may be used, and top of shelf may be covered with same material as backboard. Name the "stop" on your 3x5 card. Limit 6.

61. **"Fantasy Friends"** – As small children, we all had our make-believe imaginary or fantasy friends. Share yours with us in

this small arrangement to be placed on a wooden shelf 6" W x 3-1/2" D, against an unfinished wood background. Backboards and draping not permitted. Limit 6.

62. **"Romeo or Juliet"** – Each of us at some time or another, have had a fantasy love who kept our passions burning and our hopes alive. Create a small romantic flower arrangement in white and shades of red and/or pink against a "hot" pink oval cutout, 8" H x 6" W. To be placed on a wooden shelf 6" W x 3-1/2" D. Limit 6.

63. **"Glass Slippers"** – In an underwater flower arrangement, show us some portion of the Cinderella fantasy that all of us know by heart. Container will be elevated to eye level in a pale blue niche 24" H x 22" W x 12" D. Backboard/draping not permitted. Limit 6.

SECTION XI. – INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

Each entry is to be a design using one or more African violet plants, removed from the pots, with the root balls encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant materials, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American and national flags are not permitted. Backboards and draping of niches are permitted, as are accessories, unless restricted by the particular class.

64. **"Show Business"** – Share your fantasy idols with us in this two arrangement depiction. For example, Tracy and Hepburn, Bogie and Bacall, Astaire and Rogers, Garland and Rooney, etc. Name the team on your 3x5 card. White cardboard niche 28" H x 22" W x 12" D, (additional 4" in front of niche may be used to accommodate base area of design). Limit 6.

65. **"Far Away Places"** – We've all had our dreams of a fantasy getaway to a far away place. Take us to your fantasy getaway place in this interpretive plant arrangement. Name the place on your 3x5 card. White cardboard niche 28" H x 22" W x 12" D, (additional 4" in front of niche may be used to accommodate base area of design). Limit 6.

66. **"When I Grow Up"** – Lawyer, doctor, movie star, soldier, nurse...whatever. Show us your childhood fantasy. The profession must be interpreted in the plant arrangement, and not named or mentioned on your 3x5 card. White cardboard niche 28" H x 22" W x 12" D. No additional space may be used in front of niche. Limit 6.

67. **"A Page in History"** – We've all fantasized about living in a certain time in history, i.e., pioneer days, the Roaring Twenties, the Gold Rush days, the opulent days of queens, kings, or Pharaohs, etc. Show us your special page in history with your interpretive plant arrangement. White cardboard niche 28" H x 22" W x 12" D, (additional 4" in front of niche may be used to accommodate base area of design). Limit 6.

68. **"Pomp and Circumstance"** – All of us have, at times, dreamed or fantasized about being famous or world renown. In this free-standing interpretive plant arrangement, divulge your "fantasy persona." To be staged on a round flat black table with a circumference of 62-1/2", a diameter of 19-1/2", 25-1/2" off the floor. Arrangement may not be over 36" or less than 28" high, and will be viewed from all sides. Limit 6.

SECTION XII – CONTAINER GARDENS

Each entry is a miniature garden with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plants. All plants must be planted in containers. No cut plant materials are permitted. Accessories are

permitted. Terrariums with mirrored sides may be used. Unlimited entries, but only one entry per class by an exhibitor.

"Shangri-La" – We've all fantasized, at some time or other, about our special "Shangri-La." Share yours with us in your container garden. Name it on your 3x5 card.

69. Terrarium, not to exceed 30" in any direction. Cover required.
70. Dish Garden, not to exceed 24" in any direction.
71. Natural Garden, not to exceed 30" in any direction.
72. Bottle Garden, not to exceed 36" in any direction. Opening need not be covered.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIII – EDUCATION EXHIBIT

73. Education exhibit (by invitation or appointment)

SECTION XIV – AFFILIATE PUBLICATIONS

74. Yearbooks (once a year publications)
75. Newsletters (16 pages or less)
76. Magazines (more than 16 pages)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION XV – SPECIMEN PLANTS

A. Collections

77. AVSA Collections
 - a. Standard Plants
 - b. Miniatures and Semiminiatures
78. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

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

C. Specimen African Violets

83. Standard, plain green foliage
84. Standard, variegated foliage
85. Miniatures, plain foliage
86. Miniatures, variegated foliage
87. Semiminiatures, plain foliage
88. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage
89. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)
90. Saintpaulia species

D. Gesneriads

91. Gesneriads (other than African violets)

SECTION XVI – DISPLAY TABLES

92. Display tables

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, June 4, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for Convention Workers only and on Thursday, June 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 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.

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

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

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative white. 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 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 3 through 44.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 44, 47, and 48 as those in classes 3 through 44.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 48 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 45.

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.

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

13. Any African violet entered in an AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2, must be AVSA registered *Optimara*® and/or *Rhapsodie*® plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2.

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

17. Entries must be checked out on Saturday, June 7. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

DESIGN DIVISION

Rules and Regulations

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

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, June 4, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, June 5, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. MEMBERS ON TOUR ONLY may enter on Thursday, June 5, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Design entry books will be closed on Thursday, June 5, at 9:00 p.m.

Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class, but is limited to a total of six entries in classes 54-68 (Interpretive Flower and Interpretive Plant Arrangements) and a total of four entries in classes 69-72 (Container Gardens).

Advance written reservations are required for all design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than February 15, 1997, nor later than May 1, 1997, to: Rita Hilton, 2295 West Helen Circle, Bartow, FL, 33830. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons who wish to cancel confirmed reservations may write or call (914) 533-2413.

All entries must be the creations of the exhibitors, and must be placed by the exhibitors.

Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, June 5, until 10:00 p.m., and on Friday, June 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the show room by 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 6.

All design exhibits must be checked out and removed from the show room Saturday night, June 7. Instructions on check out will be provided at the convention.

3. Any type of plant material (except artificial), man-made materials, bases, accessories, backboards, and draping may be used in all interpretive flower and plant arrangements, unless restricted by the particular class. Accessories are permitted in all container garden classes; but, cut plant materials, underlayments, bases, backboards, and draping are prohibited. Mirror-sided terrariums are permitted. The American flag, national flags, regional flags (or facimiles of any flag) and live or dead creatures may not be used in any exhibit.

4. No part of a design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space limitations.

5. All exhibits must have a white 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known) used. A written subtitle may also be included on the cards, except in class 66.

6. Exhibits will be merit judged by qualified AVSA judges. Decisions of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or the rules of this schedule.

7. Only blue ribbon exhibits will be eligible to receive special awards.

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

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

Rules and Regulations

1. Only AVSA affiliates in good standing are eligible to enter year-

books, newsletters, and magazines.

2. Yearbooks must be mailed to Tri-State AV Council, Bill Lyons, Chair, 38 Indian Creek Dr., Levittown, PA 19057. Three copies of the yearbook must be in possession of the judges by February 15, 1997.

3. Newsletters and magazines will be mailed to Mary A. Boland, Chair, 6415 Wilcox Court, Alexandria, VA 22310-3329 by February 15, 1997. A complete club year of the issue must be included in duplicate.

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter either the Specimen Plant Section or the Display Table Section, but not both. They may also enter the Design Division.

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

3. All plants must be correctly named, and all African violets must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species, and trailing gesneriads.

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

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either Specimen Plant Section or Display Table Section will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or the right 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. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section.

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

9. Any plant, up to a maximum of 15 plants, on a display table may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards, either standard, miniature, semiminature and all types of trailers, either standard, miniature, or semiminature.

10. No other material, such as ivy, may be used on a display table.

11. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted, except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of

the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

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

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

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.
16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

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

18. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each display table exhibitor to show how trophies are awarded.

19. To reserve a display table or for further information, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068. Phone (816) 781-2160, after 6:00 p.m.

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or
before May 5, 1997
will receive table assignments.

**All reservations received
after that date will have
unreserved seating at meal functions.**

SPECIAL MEALS

All Special Meal Requests
should be made through the
AVSA office, in writing,
NOT the hotel.

WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 50th Anniversary Celebration. They will be shown at the Thursday night social hour. Include any information about the slide (names, state, etc.).

Slides of the 1996 Atlanta Convention will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by April 20, 1997 to:

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

ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Saturday Luncheon at the 1997 Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. This year's narrator will be Kent Stork. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

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

Send your slides before May 10, 1997, to:

**Jackie Jones
607 14th Avenue, Box 34
Durant, IA 52747**

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

1997 Tours – St. Pete Beach, FL

Tour #1

Tarpon Springs

Monday, June 2, 1997

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Today, we travel north to the Greek town of Tarpon Springs. Our first visit is to St. Nicholas Cathedral. The community revolves around this beautiful church which has a very interesting history. The church is famous for its festivals and Epiphany which celebrates the birth of Christ. Each year the priest leads a procession down the Bayou, throws a cross into the spring and all the young boys in town jump in to retrieve the cross. A Cathedral guide will be available for all our questions.

Next we go to Pappa's Restaurant for a Greek lunch on your own.

There will be time for shopping after lunch, before we board the bus for Tarpon Springs Cultural Center. A short film and guided tour of the town is the final attraction for the day.

Cost: \$25.00



This tour is a must for plant lovers.

A lunch stop is not provided, but you'll have time to get a bite to eat before afternoon committee meetings.

Cost: \$20.00

Tour #4

Sarasota

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Today we arrive in time for the bird show at the Jungle Gardens, where Cockatoos and other birds are trained to do some unique tricks. We will walk in the gardens with a printed guide book to help us identify the flowering trees and other plants growing there, and the head gardener will talk to us.

Next, we travel to Miller's Dutch Kitchen for lunch on your own. This is an Amish restaurant with a wonderful gift shop.

After lunch, it's on to the Ringling home, museum and art gallery, where John Ringling bequeathed his art collection and property to the people of Florida. We'll see his home, art collection and a museum full of circus memorabilia. There is even a miniature, mechanical circus for your watching pleasure. As it has done in the past, the Ringling Circus still winters in Sarasota.

Cost: \$35.00



Tour #2

Tropiflora and St. Armand's Key

Monday, June 2, 1997

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Today, we travel to Bradenton, Florida, where Dennis and Linda Cathcart maintain a huge wholesale and retail mail order Tropiflora Bromeliad and Orchid farm. Each year they travel on collecting trips to bring back plant materials for sale. They have a huge variety of plants and are expanding this year to orchids. Here we will be given a guided tour of the greenhouses and a demonstration on mounting. You may buy plants if you wish. (I understand the plants will keep very well in baggage compartment of bus, or you may have them shipped directly to your home.)

Lunch, on your own, at Columbia Restaurant.

Cost: \$22.00



Tour #5

Europa Boat Cruise

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

6:00 pm to 12:30 am

Picture yourself with friends on a cruise to nowhere. This evening, we will be cruising on a 162 foot ship with three decks. You may dine and play in the Casino. And, if you're not a gambler, there is still plenty to do. Enjoy the live entertainment and dancing, or take a stroll outside and savor one of Florida's summer evenings and the lights of Central Florida's islands.

Cost: \$45.00 (includes dinner and \$20 in gambling tokens)



Tour #3

Richard Dunn's Greenhouses and Bud Spense's Orchids

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Our half-day tour highlights Richard Dunn's Greenhouses full of wonderful gesneriads. He has been on several collecting trips to South America and Costa Rica. He will talk to us about his collection and present plants for sale.

Bud Spense is a retired school teacher who has turned his hobby into a business. He has many varieties of orchids and has done some hybridizing. Bud will have orchids for sale, as well as other plants.



Tour #6

Cypress Gardens

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

8:00 am to 5:30 pm

Today we board the bus for the one and one-half hour trip to Winter Haven, Florida and beautiful Cypress Gardens. Our early departure will allow us to arrive in time for the world's first and finest Water Ski Show. You'll see feats on water skis that you've never seen before. Located on a chain of lakes, you can visit the Botanical and Butterfly Gardens. A boat ride through part of the gardens is available. We will be spending the day here with lunch on the property. During lunch, the head horticulturist will present a talk about gar-



dens and answer our questions. Lunch consists of a croissant with chicken, shrimp or tuna salad (choice of one), fresh fruit, potato salad, and choice of beverage (coffee, iced tea or soft drink). Take your camera and don't miss this tour at a bargain price!

Cost: \$52.00

Tour #7
Museum of Science & Industry and Florida Aquarium

Wednesday, June 4, 1997
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

The Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) is a forty-seven acre campus where Science comes to life. People come here to explore in a hands-on environment. Experience the "Gulf Coast Hurricane" and get blown away by winds up to seventy-four miles per hour, complete with thunder and lightening. Visit the IMAX Dome which is not just a movie, but an experience. From flying to floating to jumping and diving, you will get as close as you can to a completely different perspective. From underground, try to spot your location on a photo-mural of the Florida peninsula that was taken 190 miles above the Caribbean Sea by a space shuttle, then walk all over a map showing how Florida got its shape.

From the MOSI, we travel to the Florida Aquarium for lunch on your own. You'll find the Aquarium to be very unique - all under one roof and air conditioned. Like a single drop of water, you'll bubble up in one of Florida's pristine springs and embark on a journey through wetlands, marshes, bays and beaches. Then plunge into the underwater world of a sixty foot deep coral reef.

Cost: \$43.00

Tour #8
Musicana Dinner Theater

Wednesday, June 4, 1997
6:00 pm to 11:30 pm

Join us for a wonderful evening of food and entertainment in Clearwater. Musicana is a unique dinner theater - wonderful singing voices will bring back the old days of music. You'll enjoy the music and singing and the dancing is superb. At Musicana, you are served "Broadway at Your Table." Not only does this extraordinary cast entertain you, but they serve you as well. By the end of the evening, you will have gotten to know the cast.

The specific production is unknown, but it is preceded by such great offerings as "City Lights", "When Radio Was King", and "The Beat Goes On". A special showing is in store for you (they are not usually open on Wednesday, but this day is just for AVSA).

Entrees: Prime Rib, Broiled Norwegian Salmon, Eggplant Parmigiana, and Chicken grilled Hawaiian Style.

Cost: \$46.00 (of course dinner is included)



Tour #9
Selby Gardens and Gesneriad Research Foundation

Thursday, June 5, 1997
8:30 am to 4:30 pm



Selby Gardens is situated on eight acres in downtown Sarasota, right on the bay. There are display greenhouses, wonderful grounds with tropical trees and plants among which to walk, a museum and gift plant shops. You will be given a "behind the scenes" tour with the head horticulturist. Selby Gardens is home to many endangered species such as orchids, bromeliads, begonias, etc. and you will have a chance to see all of them.

Morton's will provide a box lunch (Chicken Salad Croissant, Pasta Salad, Fruit Salad and assorted Cookies with Iced Tea, included in tour) on the property so you will have plenty of time to see the gardens. The lunch is served picnic-style, in air conditioning.

From Selby Gardens, we will travel to the Gesneriad Research Foundation (GRF) for a visit with Dr. Hans Weihler. We'll tour his greenhouse, viewing the plants that he has collected from different parts of the world. GRF is also Dr. Weihler's home. He has created a rain forest in his back yard that improves with each passing year. He will also have plants for sale.

Cost: \$40.00

Tour #10
Ybor City

Thursday, June 5, 1997
8:30 am to 4:30 pm



Today, we are welcomed to Tampa's Historic District, Ybor City, the Cigar Capitol of the World for over half a century. On our tour of a bakery, you'll get a glimpse of the operation from "behind the scenes." To give you a feel for the town, we will tour a couple of museums.

Lunch, included in the tour, will be at the world famous Columbia Restaurant where you will be given a tour and see your lunch prepared. The menu contains a cup of soup and salad, your choice of entree (Fresh Merluza "a la Rusa", Palomilla or Chicken "Ybor" and Yellow Rice), Cuban Bread and Butter and your choice of dessert (Key Lime pie or Flan) all served with Coffee or Tea.

You will see how cigars are made, walk the square and shop in some unique shops.

Entrees:

Merluza - a boneless fillet of fish, lightly seasoned with bread crumbs, grilled, then topped with a lemon butter sauce of Spanish pimentos, parsley and chopped egg. Served with yellow rice and steamed veggies.

Palomilla - a marinated top sirloin cut very thin and quickly grilled. Topped with mojo crudo (chopped onion, parsley and lime juice). Served with plantanos, french fries, or yellow rice.

Chicken "Ybor" - the traditional dish from Tampa's Ybor is one quarter chicken baked with rice, green peppers, onions, tomatoes and virgin olive oil.

Cost: \$42.00

51st Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday, June 1 - Sunday, June 8, 1997

"A Florida Fantasy"

SUNDAY, June 1, 1997

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Registration
Information

Locations for each event will be published
in the souvenir book at the convention.

MONDAY, June 2, 1997

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:35 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Registration
Information
Tour # 1 - Tarpon Springs
Tour # 2 - Tropiflora and St. Armand's Key
Registration
Information
President's Reception for the Board of Directors

TUESDAY, June 3, 1997

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to comp.
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 4:50
4:30 p.m. to 5:30
4:30 p.m. to 5:30
6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Registration
Executive Committee Meeting and
Salary Committee Meeting
**Tour # 3 - Richard Dunn's Greenhouse
and Bob Spense's Orchids**
Tour # 4 - Sarasota
Information
Committee Meetings: Affiliate - Advertising -
Awards - Booster Fund - Convention -
Commercial Sales & Exhibits - Shows & Judges -
Membership & Promotion - Publications
Registration
Information
Vice Presidents Meetings with Committee Chairmen:
1st Vice President - 2nd Vice President -
3rd Vice President
Affiliate Presidents' Meeting
Future Conventions Meeting
Tour # 5 - Europa Boat Cruise

Locations for each event will be published
in the souvenir book at the convention.

WEDNESDAY, June 4, 1997

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Information
Judging School
Tour # 6 - Cypress Gardens
**Tour # 7 - Museum of Science & Industry and
Florida Aquarium**
Information
Board of Directors Opening Meeting
Membership and Promotion Table
Building Maintenance Fund Table
Booster Fund Table - Ways and Means
Table - Sacramento Promotional Table
Board of Directors Luncheon

2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration
Information
AVSA Information & Sales
Nominating Committee Meeting
Tour # 8 - Musicana Dinner Theater
Classification & Entries for **convention workers**

Locations for each event will be published
in the souvenir book at the convention.

THURSDAY, June 5, 1997

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
7:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon
7:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Teachers Breakfast
Registration
Information
Commercial Sales Open
**Tour # 9 - Selby Gardens and
Gesneriad Research Foundation**
Tour # 10 - Ybor City
Hospitality Room open
Classifications & Entries
AVSA Information & Sales – Membership and
Promotions Table – Building Maintenance Fund Table
Booster Fund Table – Ways and Means Table
Sacramento Promotional Table
AVSA Information & Sales
Hospitality Room open
Registration
Entries for **those on Tours Only**
Social Hour & Slides
Presentation 2
"Let Me Tell You About My Violets," A Grower's Forum
Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups
will close for the night

Locations for each event will be published
in the souvenir book at the convention.

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m. to completion

11:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, June 6, 1997

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Registration
Information
Design Exhibitors will be permitted to
work on their designs
for replacement of blossoms only.

Locations for each event will be published
in the souvenir book at the convention.

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Commercial Members Breakfast
Judges and Clerks Instructions
Commercial Sales open
AVSA Information & Sales
Hospitality Room open
Presentation 3
"Florida Keys to Growing Gesneriads", by Dale Martens

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Presentation 4
"Through the Looking Glass", Container Gardens
by Alyce Droege

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 noon

Membership and Promotions Table
Building Maintenance Fund Table
Booster Fund Table – Ways and Means Table
Sacramento Promotional Table

10:00 a.m. to completion
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Judging of Show
Presentation 5
"Honey, I Shrunk the Violets", Miniatures, by Ralph Robinson

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

Presentation 6
"Get Me Through This Meeting", Parliamentary Law,
by Phyllis J. Wood, PRP

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AVSA Information & Sales

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Presentation 7 "The Beast Within", Plant Hunger, by Dr. Charles Cole
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Presentation 8 "Designs are a Wish Your Heart Makes", by Sandra Mims
4:30 p.m. to comp.	Photography - Library and AVM
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Opening Reception (cash bar)
7:00 p.m. to comp.	Opening Dinner "Shipwreck Fantasy" - Show Awards will be presented
9:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	Show opens to AVSA Convention Registrants Only

SATURDAY, June 7, 1997

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Showroom open to photographers only
7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Judges' Breakfast and Workshop
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Information
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Show Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Presentation 9 "Fantasy of a Perfect Violet", by Joyce & Kent Stork
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Presentation 10 "Beast Among Beauties" , Pest and Disease, by Dr. Charles Cole
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Membership and Promotions Table Building Maintenance Fund Table Booster Fund Table – Ways and Means Table Sacramento Promotional Table
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	New Introduction Luncheon (slides)
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Registration
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transportation into controlled countries and states
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Annual Membership Meeting & Open Forum
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	President's Reception & Hospitality Hour Non-alcoholic punch provided (cash bar)
7:00 p.m. to completion.	Installation Banquet and Entertainment, "Fly Me to the Moon" Awards to be presented: Tinari Greenhouse's Membership Awards, Publications Awards, Honorary Society Awards
9:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.	Commercial Display Tables Breakdown
9:45 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	Commercial Sales Breakdown
10:15 p.m.	Entry check-out begins
12:00 a.m.	Showroom Closes

SUNDAY, June 8, 1997

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

* * * ALL AREAS MUST BE CLEARED BY 12:00 NOON * * *

AVSA 1997 CONVENTION – ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA

PRESENTATIONS

1. "Social Hour and Slides"

Thursday, June 5, 1997 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
By Nancy Hayes

2. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets" Growers Forum
Thursday, June 5, 1997 8:30 pm-comp.
Moderator Mary A. Boland
Panelists Sidney Solanto, Dr. Jeff Smith
Anne Tinari and Dr. Charles Cole

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

3. "Florida Keys to Growing Gesneriads"

Friday, June 6, 1997 9:30 am to 11:00 am
By Dale Martens

"Florida Keys to Growing Gesneriads" will be presented by Dale Martens of League City, Texas. Dale is an AGGS Master Judge who has won numerous awards for gesneriads at the local, state and national levels. Her hybrid seedling, "California Sunset," won Best Tuberos at our 1995 AVSA Convention. Dale will show us her recent hybridizing efforts with compact streptocarpus and miniature sinningias. Her new intergeneric, XPhinastema "California Dreaming," appeared in the May/June 1996 issue of the African Violet Magazine. You won't want to miss Dale's humorous style as she shows us the keys to successful Gesneriad growing.

4. "Through the Looking Glass" Container Gardens
Friday, June 6, 1997 9:30 am to 11:00 am
By Alyce Droege

Follow "Alyce" through the wonders of Container Gardening as she shares gardening expertise that is guaranteed to give you new confidence in your own abilities. Alyce Droege resides in Maitland, Florida, and is a Life Member and Director of AVSA, a Senior Judge and 1994 recipient of the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership. She is Past President of the African Violet Council of Florida and African Violet Association of Gardeners, Orlando, Florida. Alyce is a life member of Dixie AVS, as well as a Director for two terms. She is also a member of MAAVS, Nutmegger, GSI, AGGS, and Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society. She owns and operates African Violets by Florals of Fredericks in Maitland.

5. "Honey, I Shrank the Violets" Miniatures
Friday, June 6, 1997 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
By Ralph Robinson

Ralph Robinson, formerly Professor of Business and Economics at SUNY at Buffalo, NY, and Daemen College, is now owner and operator of THE VIOLET BARN (better known as "Rob's Mini-O-Lets"). Rob has found the secret to growing outstanding miniatures and is a 4-time winner of Best Commercial Display at AVSA convention shows and a 5-time winner of Best New Cultivar at AVSA convention shows. Here is an opportunity to learn from this internationally known hybridizer who followed his dream and made it come true.

6. "Get Me Through This Meeting!" Parliamentary Law
Friday, June 6, 1997 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
By Phyllis J. Wood, PRP

Phyllis Wood, a Registered Parliamentarian since 1979 and a professional since 1983, is a Past President of the Florida State Associations of Parliamentarians and serves now as chairman of its Education Committee. She serves as Bylaws Chairman of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, as National Bylaws Chairman for the National League of American Pen Women, Parliamentarian for the National Council of State Garden Clubs, as well as her local Garden and Women's Clubs and several other organizations. Phyllis enjoys teaching Parliamentary Law and does so in a humorous, enjoyable way.

7. "The Beast Within!" Plant Hunger
Friday, June 6, 1997 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
By Dr. Charles Cole

Tired? Drooping? Cranky? Not you, not your kids, your PLANTS! YOU can head for the kitchen for revival tactics, YOUR KIDS gravitate to the Golden Arches, but YOUR PLANTS have to sit there and hope that you remember to bring them something special – and SOON! Dr. Cole has studied the effects caused by plant nutrient deficiencies, as well as imbalance of pH, and will tell us how to recognize when our plants need a "food fix" and how to give it to them.

8. "Designs Are a Wish Your Heart Makes" 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Friday, June 6, 1997
By Sandra Mims

Sandra Mims is an extremely creative designer who gives generously of her talents in the numerous design workshops that she has led. Here's a chance to learn how to create that special design you've always wanted to do...but never quite knew how. Sandra has been an AVSA member since 1979 and has been entering her designs in AVSA and local shows since then. She served as President of Dixie African Violet Society in 1988-1989. She is a member of Isle of Palms Garden Club, Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

9. "Fantasy of a Perfect Violet" 9:00 am to 10:30 am
Saturday, June 7, 1997
By Kent & Joyce Stork

Is a "perfect violet" just a fantasy of your imagination? Kent and Joyce Stork will answer this question and share with us just what we need to do to produce a perfect violet. The Storks own and operate KENT'S FLOWERS, a full-service floral shop with a specialty in African violets, in Fremont, Nebraska. They have produced commercial display tables at AVSA conventions since 1981 and have won numerous awards for their outstanding new hybrids. In 1989 the Storks received the AVSA Bronze Medal for Horticulture achievement. For the past six years they have been writing the "Beginner's Column," a regular feature in the African Violet Magazine.

10. "Beasts Among the Beauties" Pests and Disease
Saturday, June 7, 1997 9:00 am to 10:30 am
By Dr. Charles Cole

Dr. Cole, author of many articles on the subject of pests and diseases, including his own book, "Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets," will give us practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which invade our African violet collections. Dr. Cole is always happy to share his knowledge with us through his lectures and slide presentations, and has been a significant contributor to the work of AVSA over the years.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

51st Annual Convention & Show

June 1-8, 1997 - Trade Winds Resorts St. Petersburg Beach, FL

Call for 1997 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, June 7, 1997, at 2:30 p.m., at Trade Winds Resorts, St. Petersburg, FL, for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 1997 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, June 4, 1997, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Tradewinds Resorts, St. Petersburg, FL and Sunday, June 8, 1997, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 1997 Open Forum Meeting

The 12th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, June 7, 1997 at Tradewinds Resort, St. Petersburg, FL. This will take place the First twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School For New Students & Certificate Renewals

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

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) to Beverly Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Drive, Monument, CO 80132 by **April 25, 1997**. The test will be based on latest edition of the Handbook with all updates. The Handbook, 1994 printing, which includes all updates through December 1994, is available from the AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. The cost of the Handbook is \$10.25. **Registration for Judging School must be received by April 25, 1997.**

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, or Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150. **These must be postmarked no later than April 1, 1997.** 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. Please indicate below if you are experienced in any of the areas listed. If accepted, you will receive notification of assignment. Applications received after April 1, 1997 will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: ___Advanced ___Senior ___Master ___AGGS ___Nat'l Council

Experience: ___Minis/Semiminis ___Trailers ___Species ___Design ___Commercial

Attention Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled by other AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in the order in which applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete the form below and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150. **These applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 1997.**

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___Student Judge ___Advanced Judge ___Master Judge ___AVSA Member

Design Division Reservations

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

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

1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____ 5.____ 6.____

Alternate Choices: 1.____ 2.____ 3.____

I would like to enter container gardens in the following classes: 1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____

Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked February 15, 1997 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations **no later than May 1, 1997**, to: Rita Hilton, 2295 West Helen Circle, Bartow, FL 33830.

AVSA's 51st Annual Convention & Show
"A Florida Fantasy"
 June 1-8, 1997 – The TradeWinds Resort, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida

AVSA Convention Registration Form

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

Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the St. Petersburg Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office – 2375 North, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by May 5, 1997. There will be a \$5.00 paper work fee charged for cancellations. Registrations received after May 5, 1997 will be \$40.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

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

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

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

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

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

TRAVEL BY: Personal Car _____ Rental Car _____ Other _____ RV _____	ACCOMMODATIONS: The Tradewinds _____ Other _____
Plane _____	
Airline _____	

If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____	

If by plane, departure day/date and time _____	

After May 5, 1997, each registration will be \$40.00 or \$43.00 respectively.

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member	\$35.00	\$ _____	
AVSA or Associate Member (after May 5, 1997)	\$40.00	\$ _____	
Non-Member (Guest)	\$38.00	\$ _____	
Non-Member (Guest) (after May 5, 1997)	\$43.00	\$ _____	

TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ _____

Meals:

___ 1.	Wed.,	June 4	Board of Directors Luncheon (Turkey Pannini) Spouses Welcome	\$14.50	\$ _____
___ 2.	Thurs.,	June 5	Teacher's Breakfast (Trade Winds Scramble)	\$13.50	\$ _____
___ 3.	Fri.,	June 6	Commercial Breakfast (Continental Plus)	\$14.50	
___ 4.	Fri.,	June 6	Opening Dinner "Shipwreck Fantasy"™ (Chicken Picatta)	\$29.00	\$ _____
___ 5.	Sat.,	June 7	Judges Breakfast (French Toast) not restricted to Judges	\$14.00	\$ _____
___ 6.	Sat.,	June 7	New Introduction Luncheon (Caesar salad with grilled chicken)	\$17.50	\$ _____
___ 7.	Sat.,	June 7	Installation Dinner "Fly Me To The Moon" (Strip Loin of Beef)	\$31.50	\$ _____

TOTAL MEALS \$ _____

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 May 5, 1997. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE MAY 5, 1997 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 MANAGER AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. **REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

TOURS: (Asterisk denotes meals included in price of tour.)**

___ 1. Mon., June 2	Tarpon Springs	\$25.00	\$ _____
___ 2. Mon., June 2	Tropiflora and St. Armand's Key	\$22.00	\$ _____
___ 3. Tues., June 3	Richard Dunn's Greenhouses and Bud Spense's Orchids	\$20.00	\$ _____
___ 4. Tues., June 3	Sarasota	\$35.00	\$ _____
___ 5. Tues., June 3	Europa Boat Cruise**	\$45.00	\$ _____
___ 6. Wed., June 4	Cypress Gardens**	\$52.00	\$ _____
___ 7. Wed., June 4	Museum of Science & Industry and Florida Aquarium	\$43.00	\$ _____
___ 8. Wed., June 4	Musicana Dinner Theater**	\$46.00	\$ _____

****NOTE: YOU MUST CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:**

1. PRIME RIB: _____
2. BROILED NORWEGIAN SALMON _____
3. EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA _____
4. CHICKEN, GRILLED OR HAWAIIAN STYLE _____

___ 9. Thurs. June 5	Selby Gardens and Gesneriad Research Foundation**	\$40.00	\$ _____
___ 10. Thurs., June 5	Ybor City**	\$42.00	\$ _____

****NOTE: YOU MUST CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:**

1. MERLUZA (A BONELESS FILLET OF FISH): _____
2. PALOMILLA (SIRLOIN) _____
3. CHICKEN _____

TOTAL TOURS \$ _____

We reserve the right of cancellation if minimum number is not met.

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

(Tickets **will** be used this year. We request your indicating which presentations you will attend for our planning purposes)

Thursday, June 5

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | "Social Hour and Slides of 50th Convention", by Nancy Hayes |
| ___ 2. 8:30 p.m. - comp. | "Let Me Tell You About My Violets", Moderator: Mary Boland, Panelists: Anne Tinari,
Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. Charles Cole and Sidney Sorano |

Friday, June 6

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ___ 3. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | "Florida Keys to Growing Gesneriads", by Dale Martens |
| ___ 4. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | "Through the Looking Glass", by Alyce Droege |
| ___ 5. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | "Honey, I Shrunk the Violets", Miniatures, by Ralph Robinson |
| ___ 6. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | "Get Me Through This Meeting!", Parliamentary Law, by Phyllis J. Wood, PRP |
| ___ 7. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | "The Beast Within", Plant Hunger, by Dr. Charles Cole |
| ___ 8. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | "Designs Are a Wish Your Heart Makes", by Sandra Mims |

Saturday, June 7

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ___ 9. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | "Fantasy of a Perfect Violet", by Kent and Joyce Stork |
| ___ 10. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | "Beasts Among the Beauties", Pests and Diseases, by Dr. Charles Cole |

PAYMENT:

Please double check to insure all numbers are listed correctly.

Check one:

Total Registration	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa # _____
Total Meals	\$ _____	Expires _____
Total Tours	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard # _____
		Expires _____
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check or Money Order Enclosed

NOTE: Cancellations must be received

by May 5, 1997 to be entitled to a refund.

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

Signature (If using card)

Send payment and completed registration form to:

AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722 (409) 839-4725

HOSTS – HOSTESSES

If you would like to help at the Florida convention by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below by April 30, 1997, to: **John and Mina Menish, 121 Brentshire Drive, Brandon, FL 33511. Phone (813) 681-1910.**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

\$89.00 - Single/Double \$119.00 - Suite Single/Triple/Quad

Add \$15.00 for each additional person

Plus 11% 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 Cindy immediately.

All requests must be made by April 15, 1997, so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is April 30, 1997.

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

RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

Fort De Soto

Located 10 miles south of the hotel. Additional information, write: Barbara Matthews, 1206 Terra Mar Drive, Tampa, FL 33613 or contact her by E-mail at JAYMATTHWS@AOL.COM

KOA Campgrounds

Located 10 miles north of the hotel. For more information and reservation write: St. Petersburg/Madeira Beach KOA Campgrounds, 5400 95th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33708 or call (813) 392-2233.

American Airlines
in cooperation with The African Violet
Society of America, Inc.

offers

Discount Air Fares

to the 51st Annual Convention and Show
St. Petersburg Beach, Florida • June 1-8, 1997

Travel Dates: May 28-June 13, 1997

Discounts will range from 5% to 10% on
Continental U.S. and Canadian Fares

Call American Airlines Meeting Service desk at

1-800-433-1790

**with star code number S 0167MA for discount fares
or have your travel agent use the
same phone number and star code as above.**

There will be a drawing for two free (\$25.00 processing fee for each ticket) round trip tickets at American Airlines. To enter: obtain your ticket or tickets through the Meeting Service Desk using the star code number. Upon receipt

of your ticket, make a copy with your name and address on a 3x5 card, send it to Ann Miller at 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. The drawing will be held at the Annual AVSA Meeting on Saturday, June 7, 1997.

You must be present to win.

Continental Airlines

in cooperation with The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

offers **Discount Air Fares**

to the 51st Annual Convention and Show

St. Petersburg Beach, Florida • June 1-8, 1997 • Travel Dates: May 28-June 13, 1997

Discounts off are: 48 states/Alaska US to/from Canada

First Class 45% 30%

Coach 45% 15%

Coach Class 10% 10%

Other Published Fares 5% 5%

Call a special Continental agent at 1-800-468-7022

with Z code ZQZZ for discount and zone fares.

Call 7:30 am to 8:00 pm Monday-Friday or 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday and Sunday

Continental Airlines offers discounts on International flights, too. Call your local Continental agent with the above Z code. The meeting reference number is NQ4R55. Continental has connecting flights with American West Airlines and flights from Asia, Africa and Europe.

problem. Watch for the tip of outer leaves which can get stuck under or pushed against one of the plastic rings. Again, early detection and grooming can prevent a deformed leaf.

- 3) **Bloom stalk pushing a leaf.** When bloom stalks come up, they often push a leaf aside to reach the light. The end result may be a leaf turned at a different angle instead of laying flat. In other cases, smaller leaves can become caught in the bloom stalks and pushed upward into the crown of blooms, leaving a hole behind. Early grooming to arrange the bloom stalks between leaves is a must.

KEY 5: RULE OF THREE

Most African violet varieties produce new growth in a regular pattern of three new leaves at a time. The Rule of Three suggests grooming to preserve these groups of three. As the three leaves produce a triangle, symmetry is created when the triangles overlap. I groom for these groups of three from the time the baby plant is just beyond the primary leaves.

I repeat the process when a mature plant is broken down for repotting. This approach will produce triangular plants instead of circular at the time of repotting, but it works!

KEY 6: REMOVE A LEAF ON SOME PLANTS

If you enjoy the violets which have frilled leaves, you may have been plagued by the fact that these highly frilled leaves do not seem to lay flat for the best show results. In fact, they often get caught on the frills of the next leaf and turn at odd angles. The solution? Remove one leaf on the middle row. Sometimes you may need to remove two leaves, one on the outer row and one from the middle. Most frilled varieties can fill in the space and the remaining leaves will lay flat.

KEY 7: DISBUDDING

Disbudding refers to the practice of removing bloom stems before blooms open and continuing to remove them for a period of time. The result is heavier bloom when the plant is again allowed to bloom. Basically, the plant will then bloom all at once instead of an irregular pattern. Disbudding has great potential to increase the quantity of bloom for a show. The trick is to know when to stop disbudding so that the blooms are at their peak for the show. I have heard and read many suggestions ranging from six weeks to eight weeks to ten weeks and different schedules for singles, doubles, or variegated varieties. I have not found any schedule which fits all plants.

The simple answer to this is to disbud the plants you are considering for show, record the date, and then record how long it takes to come to full bloom. You can then repeat the process before the next show as you have the schedule for your plants and your conditions. There may be as much as a week or two of difference in this timing for different varieties.

The time of disbudding, when the plant is putting most of its energy into foliage, is the time to use the higher nitrogen fertilizer.

Most violet varieties respond well to disbudding. There are a few hybrids which seem to react negatively, usually by suckering badly. In this case, stop the disbudding or do not show that variety.

Disbudding has an extra benefit for grooming as well. Continued removal of bloom stalks for disbudding prevents some of the damage to leaves as mentioned above. Leaves will all be lying flat. When the buds begin to appear after the last disbudding, the final grooming takes place. Arrange the stems between the flat leaves into a tight circle to allow the new blooms to form the crown at the center.

KEY 8: RING AROUND THE POT

If you grow in a "soilless" soil mix, watch out for "Ring Around the Pot." When peat, which is a primary ingredient in most

such mixes, dries out, there is substantial contraction. Through accident or neglect, we all occasionally let a plant go dry. (Well, I'm not the only one, am I?)

When this happens, the contraction pulls the root ball away from the edge of the pot. The result is a small gap or "ring" around the pot. Even though you may resume watering, much of this gap remains. Water and fertilizer evaporate more quickly, escaping up the side of the pot. The plant is essentially able to use less of the root ball and is underpotted. To solve the problem, use a finger or blunt tool to break the soil loose and refill the gap and then top water gently.

KEY 9: REPOTTING

Plants have been started from leaves. Young plants are being groomed for the Rule of Three. From this point the potting schedule is important to consistent growth. Plants left too long in one pot, especially a small one, will usually produce a growth cycle. A growth cycle, a ring of smaller leaves after a ring of normal sized leaves, can easily ruin the shape of a show plant.

I recommend that young plants be potted up every two to three months until fully mature and show size. From then on repotting every four to six months is sufficient.

We often hear a "rule" about each violet being in a pot one-third the size of the plant. While this rule is true at show time, it is not true at repotting time! Remember that the plant will grow between potting and show. I re-pot into a pot about half the size of the plant to leave growing room.

If you are not convinced that this much repotting is useful, try an experiment as I did. Take two small plants of the same age and variety in small pots. Keeping all other conditions the same, pot one, every two months for six months. Leave the other in the same pot for six months. At the end, you will find the repotted one is larger and has larger leaves. Try it. It works!

KEY 10: ANOTHER TEXAS METHOD

For some time I considered the value of growing by the Texas method. Space does not permit a discussion of this method here, but it has been well documented in other articles and books. Simply put, the benefit of the method comes from using an extra layer in the bottom of the pot to increase contact between roots and the water/fertilizer solution. For most home growers, however, the method was messy and required a more exact schedule of watering than was feasible.

I grow using a modified Texas method. When repotting, I add a "Texas layer" to the bottom of the pot before adding the soil mix. This layer consists of a mix of one-half vermiculite and one-half perlite. The layer of approximately one-half inch in a three inch pot (more in a larger pot and less in a smaller pot) provides an essentially inert layer where there is more space for roots and for direct interchange between the root surface and the water/fertilizer solution.

The wick passes through the Texas layer and up into the soil ball. This layer is replaced each time when the plant is repotted and the lower portion of the root ball is cut away.

My ego is not big enough to tell everyone to try my way. But, I have had very good results. If you are pleased with your show results, don't change a thing. However, if you are looking for some improvement, or if you can't seem to ever win a Best of Show or a collection award, try these keys. As always, try a few plants first. Others have done so with excellent results.

FINALLY, KEY 11 COULD BE COURAGE...

...the courage to try and the courage to enter more plants. Let's get more standards in our shows! Good luck!

Every African Violet Society Should Be So LUCKY!

by Mary McFarland
Baton Rouge, LA

In September, 1994, the Sundowner's AVS of Baton Rouge was having its annual sale at the Merchant's Landing Flea Market. Although the day was pretty the traffic had not been good at the sale. The money raised at the sale helps offset costs of our annual AVSA show. We, the membership, figured to do well if our plant sales totaled \$150.00 on this particular day. Only a few people were present for our workshop on the care of African violets. In general, it was a most discouraging day.

Suddenly, a very ordinary-looking man walked up and began looking at our plants. He introduced himself as Elmer Godeny and told us he had a few plants on his kitchen window sill which needed help. He bought a few of our plants and some leaves. Because he expressed an interest in joining Sundowner's AVS, we invited him to our next meeting.

At our October meeting, Elmer showed a quick understanding of the business which we were discussing. He even made a few suggestions for our show. Our hostess was selling a FloraCart which Elmer bought immediately. That was the beginning! By

November, he was a member of Sundowner's AVS, AVSA and Dixie AVS. My mother, Lura Weathers, and I invited Elmer to our home to look at our plant collections. Looking at our plants, he made up his mind to "grow for show". We gave him leaves from all of our plants which appealed to him. Shortly thereafter, he had plantlets everywhere. I showed him how to separate the plantlets from the mother leaves (he only needed one lesson). When the plantlets needed to be stepped-up another lesson was given, and on it went.

All clubs need new members and Sundowner's AVS is no exception. As president, I try to encourage everyone to look for new members. Elmer knew a co-worker, Robert Truax, who once grew African violets. Robert joined our club in January, 1995.

Upon receiving his first catalog from Rob's Mini-o-lets, Elmer expressed an interest in the Streptocarpus plants. Since

members of our club had been unsuccessful in growing streps in the past, I explained to Elmer that streps did not grow well in the south because they were cool-loving plants. Well, he ordered a few streps and, not to be



Elmer Godeny with his award winning plants at the Sundowner's 1996 show "Violets do Parades".

outdone, I ordered a few for myself. He made a liar out of me and we are both now growing beautiful streps. With proper care, streps *do* grow well, here in Baton Rouge. Did he laugh at me? You better believe he did, and still does whenever we discuss our streps.

Since the Louisiana Council of African Violet Judges and Growers (LACO) was sponsoring the Dixie AVS convention in Baton Rouge, our club did not put on a show in the spring, 1995. After showing Elmer how to groom and classify plants for show, he entered five plants in the Dixie convention show, one of which was a strep. All five plants received blue ribbons. He was selected as Best Novice Grower at the 1995 Dixie convention. I was not only proud of him but happy for him also. Sundowner's AVS had found a good member and grower.

In March, 1995, Elmer bought an old house and found that growing conditions in that house were different than those in his previous home. He wanted to grow his plants on the sunporch. Keeping in mind the hot, Louisiana summer sun, I told him, "you can't do it, the porch is too hot!" The porch was enclosed and had windows on two sides. Elmer went to work and installed a ceiling fan, wooden venetian blinds on the windows, and an air duct from the central air conditioning into the sunporch. He now has a very nice room in which to grow African violets. I finally learned that telling Elmer he can't do something is like waving a red flag in front of an angry bull. He's going to do it, and be successful at it, or else! By May, 1995, Elmer had three FloraCarts in that room and had them filled with beautiful plants.

In the summer of 1995, Elmer had a business meeting in Austin, Texas. He rented a car and took the time to visit the Pittmans in San Antonio. He visited, learned a lot about growing African violets in the south and bought a few new hybrids. In July, 1996, Elmer went to New Jersey for a family gathering. Again, he rented a car and drove six hours to visit The Violet Barn in New York state where he purchased additional plants from Ralph Robinson.

In September, 1995, the Achafalaya AVS in Morgan City, LA was having a judge's school, taught by AVSA President L.T. Ozio. Since Elmer had his three blue ribbons from the Dixie convention, he wanted to take the school and become a judge. One year after beginning his hobby, Elmer was an AVSA student judge.

Around the same time, Sundowner's AVS was getting ready for its annual fall sale at the Merchant's Landing Flea Market. Elmer put one of our publicity flyers in the elevator of the building in which he works. Because of that flyer, Trudy Blanchard came to our sale and eventually became a

member of Sundowner's AVS. Elmer had brought us two additional members in one year!

In the spring of 1996, Sundowner's AVS put on its annual show "Violets do Parades". Elmer became very involved in the show. He was chair of the classification and awards committees and also served on the staging, schedule, placement, entries and publicity committees. When our show chairperson had to leave town due to a family illness, Elmer stepped in and took up the cause. He not only designed and printed the section, class and plant name cards for the show, he also designed, typed and printed our show schedule which, I believe, was one of the prettiest schedules our club has ever had. His understanding of the show schedule was well above average and he could explain it to any of our new members.

When setting up for our show, Elmer displayed an unending endurance. He opened the Garden Center each morning, worked at setting up the show all day, and was always the last one to leave (one morning at 2:00 a.m.). I cannot describe the appreciation I have for all of the help this man has provided. Without his help, we might not have been able to put on a show this year.

Elmer's hard work did not go unrewarded, however. He took the majority of the awards at the Sundowner's AVS 1996 show. He entered all three of our design classes and won three blue ribbons. He received 52 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon in the horticulture division. Elmer won Second Best Mini-Semiminiature AVSA Collection, Best Dixie Collection, Second Best Dixie Mini-Semiminiature Collection, Second Best in Show, Sweepstakes in both Horticulture and Design, Best Miniature, Best Semiminiature, Best Trailer, Best Species, Most Best-In-Class and various other club awards.

Currently, Elmer is a member of LACO and serves on the classification committee for the LACO fall show. He is also the editor of the LACO newsletter. He is Treasurer of Sundowner's AVS and has hosted many meetings in his home. He is show chairperson for the Sundowner's AVS 1997 show "Violets on Safari". I don't remember exactly when he expanded his growing capacity, but he now has five FloraCarts: three in the sunporch and two in his spare bedroom. All of his carts are overcrowded with plants. One cart is filled with streps, episcias and African violet species. He has come a long way in two years.

I wish our club could have a dozen more members like Elmer. However, I would be ecstatic to have only a few more members *half* as dedicated as he is. Every club should be so lucky to have at least one member like Elmer Godeny!

New Collections of the *Saintpaulia* Species

by Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306



Top left: *S. grotei* Protzen, from the Uppsala Collection, Iowa State University

Top right: *S. grotei* Protzen, from the Cornell University Collection

Bottom left: *S. grotei*, from Cape Cod Violetry

Bottom right: *S. grotei* Amazon, from Cape Cod Violetry



S. Br. Paddy

(showing pin wheel)

So labeled in the Mather Collection,
Iowa State University

Many growers who keep and show the African violet species have come to expect that all plants labeled *Saintpaulia shumensis* or *S. grotei* should look almost exactly alike. Some minor differences may exist between two plants because of cultural differences, but most growers

have assumed that there are little genetic differences between individuals of the same species. This belief has been reinforced because the source of the species for most growers has been John and Barbara Cook of the Cape Cod Violetry. The Cooks have been an important source of the

species plants for many years, but their plants are likely descendants from a single individual of each species. Because the plants are cuttings or clones from a single genetic source, there are few differences between the individuals. Therefore, all the plants of *S. shumensis* generally look alike in everyone's plant collection.

Human beings are all members of the same species, *Homo sapiens*. However, with humans, it is very easy to recognize genetic differences between individuals. Humans vary considerably in hair, eye and skin color, but are all members of the same species. Plants also vary genetically between individuals of the same species, but the differences are not always easily observed. If plants of the same species, but from several genetic sources were compared, differences between the individuals would be observed.

In order to observe differences between individuals of the same species in African violets, plants collected from different locations and sources would be needed. Until recently, collections of the species plants that were not from the Cape Cod Violetry collection were difficult to find. Over the last year, I have had the opportunity to grow and study African violet species from two new collections. These collections are the Mather collection and the Uppsala Botanical Garden collection. The purpose of this article is to discuss the history of these collections and to report on some of the differences observed in the species plants they contain. The differences between the individuals of the same species is considerable in some cases and may have an important impact in future hybridization programs.

The Mather collection is named after the person who gathered the plants, Mrs. Silva Mather of Nairobi, Kenya. Long time readers of the African Violet Magazine may recognize Mrs. Mather's name as she wrote numerous articles for the AVM including a serial "Hooked for Life". The plants in the Mather collection were either gathered personally by Mrs. Mather or were obtained from other collectors and growers in Africa. A few plants in the collection were obtained from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Mrs. Mather sent a number of plants to Kew for study as well as to Dr. B.L. Burtt at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. Dr. Burtt's monographs on the genus *Saintpaulia* still serves as the best authority on the species identification in the genus.

Mrs. Mather's goal was to maintain as complete a collection of the *Saintpaulia* species as possible. She was very aware of the conservation role that collections have and that the *Saintpaulia* species were in grave danger of

extinction due to encroaching cultivation of their native habitat. In a 1987 AVM article, she wrote about "the vital importance of keeping them going in 'captivity'" to prevent the wild species from being lost forever (March/April pp. 34) Mrs. Mather hoped that her collection would help in the conservation efforts for the African violet.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Mather was killed in a car crash in 1992. The plants in the Mather collection were kept alive by her gardener, Phyllis, and her daughter, Caroline Mather. The family offered specimens of the collection to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. Shortly after Mrs. Mather's death, her friend and fellow African violet grower Mrs. S.A. Robertson inventoried the Mather collection. Leaves from this collection were sent to Kew to replace specimens lost from material sent by Mrs. Mather in 1987. Mrs. Robertson made a number of voucher specimens (leaves and flowers) from the plants in the Mather collection and took additional leaves back to her home in Malindi, Kenya. Mrs. Robertson is a botanist with the National Museums of Kenya. She and colleague Quentin Luke collected the plant known as "Saintpaulia Robertson". This plant (not currently recognized as a new species) made its way to the United States from the Mather collection. Mrs. Robertson's inventory of the Mather collection in 1992 showed 77 items, some of which were confirmed to species while others were not.

In 1993, Mrs. Robertson sent plant material from the Mather collection to Dr. Jonathan Wendel and Pamela VanderWiel at Iowa State University for use in DNA study of the genus *Saintpaulia*. Although the study was never completed, a number of plants from Mrs. Mather's collection are still grown at the University.

The Uppsala Botanical Garden collection is from Uppsala University, Sweden, and contains *Saintpaulia* material collected during 1986-87 during the Usambara Rain Forest Research Project. This Swedish governmental aid project was an-attempt to study the preservation of the tropical rain forests in Tanzania. Collections were made in various locations and plant material was returned to Uppsala for conservation. The Uppsala collection also contains material collected in 1983-84 and a few more recent specimens were added in the early 1990's. The collection currently holds an estimated 18-20 specimens. Material from the Uppsala collection was sent to Iowa State University in 1992 and is still grown in the university greenhouses.

My study of the Mather and Uppsala collection
continued on page 47



1997 CONVENTION AWARDS ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA

Society Awards – Amateur Division

Best African Violet	Silver, Tri-Color Rosette
2nd Best African Violet	Award of Merit, Rosette and \$15
3rd Best African Violet	Honorable Mention, Rosette and \$10
Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Gold Rosette and \$50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Purple Rosette
Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Gold Rosette and \$50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Purple Rosette
Best Miniature	Rosette
Best Semiminiature	Rosette
Best Standard	Rosette
Best Trailer	Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	Rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	Medallion and Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Horticulture	Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet	Silver, Blue Rosette and \$50
Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Gold, Rosette and \$50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Purple Rosette
Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Gold, Rosette and \$50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Purple Rosette
Best New Cultivar	\$50

Society Awards – Design Division

Amateur and Commercial

Best Design	Silver and Tri-Color Rosette
2nd Best Design	Rosette
3rd Best Design	Rosette
Sweepstakes in Design	Medallion and Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design	Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Display Tables

Best Display Table	Silver, Blue Rosette and \$100
2nd Best Display Table	Silver, Red Rosette and \$75
3rd Best Display Table	Silver, White Rosette and \$50
4th Best Display Table	Honorable Mention Rosette and \$25
Best African Violet	Rosette and \$50
Best New Cultivar	Blue Rosette and \$50
2nd Best New Cultivar	Red Rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar	White Rosette
Best New Cultivar from Display Tables or Specimen Plants	Plaque

Society Awards – Affiliate Yearbooks

Top Four Yearbooks	Blue Rosette and \$50 (each)
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Society Awards – Affiliate Newsletter

Best Newsletter	Blue Rosette and \$50
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Society Awards – Affiliate Magazines (more than sixteen pages)

Best Magazine	Blue Rosette and \$50
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Special Awards - Amateur Division

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300 and Rosette
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200 and Rosette
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100 and Rosette
Best Miniature	\$25
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$50
Best Species	\$50
Best Species	Rosette

Holtkamp Greenhouses
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Holtkamp Greenhouses
St. Louis AV Judges Council
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Cape Cod Violetry
AV Society of Western New York

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Division

Dean's Sonata	\$10	Magic Knight AVS
Everdina	\$10	Hans and Everdina Inpijn
Irish Flirt	\$25 and Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Little Pro	\$10	Hortense and Ray Pittman
Mickey Mouse	\$10	Hans and Everdina Inpijn
Petite Jewel	\$10	Hortense and Ray Pittman
Pink Skies	\$10	Alice Grundy
Precious Pink	\$10	Hortense and Ray Pittman
Rob's Perfect Peach	\$25 and Rosette	Rob's Mini-O-Lets
Vintage Wine	\$25 and Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Other Awards - Amateur Division

\$100 Donated by

Lone Star AV Council
Missouri Valley AV Council

Tampa AV Society

\$20 Donated by

Aca's Violet Tree
Jim & Linda Golubski
Joan Halford
Lake AV Society

Suncoast AV Society
Palma Trapp
Union County Chapter AV Society

\$30 Donated by

AV Society of Minnesota

\$15 Donated by

Central Florida AV Society

Richmond AV Society

\$25 Donated by

AV Study Club
Elizabeth Belunke
Central Texas Judges Council
First AV Club of Spartanburg, SC
First Nighter AV Society
Bill & Paula Foster
Lakes Area Violet Growers
Nasa Area AV Society

Pat Richards
Josephine Schindler
Spring Branch AV Club
Mary Ann Switzer
The First AV Society of Dallas
Unpredictable AV Society
Ruth Wheeler

\$10 Donated by

AV Club of Morris County
Amethyst AV Club
First AV Society of Wichita Falls
First Austin AV Society
Gateway AV Club

Gulf AV Club
Sue Ramser
Fred S. Roth
Anne H. Stewart

Special Awards - Design Division

Specified Awards - Design Division

Sweepstakes in Design	\$50	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Best Dish Garden	\$25	Fran Russom
Best Natural Container	\$20	Jane Rexilius
Best Terrarium	\$15	Memorial Award for Ruth Longmire donated by Margaret Schmierer

Other Awards - Amateur Division

\$25 Donated by

Albuquerque AV Club

First AV Society of Spartanburg, SC

\$10 Donated by

Amethyst AV Club

Kathy Lahti

\$20 Donated by

Helen and Homer Blanton

Special Awards - Commercial Division

Specified Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Irish Flirt	\$25 and Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Specified Awards - Commercial Display Tables

Best Horticultural Perfection	Silver	New York State AV Society
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Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

A special award of \$50, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 1997, St. Pete Beach Convention to the individual, club or affiliate obtaining 25 or more new members during 1996.

To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Chairman, 1416 N.W. A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, by January 31, 1997.

A Basement Paradise

by Anne M. Gannett
Wooster, OH



Anne Gannett waters her African violets

In 1994, after the death of my husband, I had doubts as to whether I wanted to continue living in my home and caring for my hundreds of African violets. They had been my hobby, giving me pleasure for 32 years. After deciding to stay, and continue my hobby, I not only recaptured my love and deep interest in these plants, but expanded my collection.

I now have three basement rooms designated as Plant Room 1 (the original room), Plant Room 2 (my husband's former workshop), and Plant Room 3 (the Perfect room). This area had been my husband's "dark room". I now had available two long counters, a large stainless steel sink, complete with spray, and a four foot drain board. I added one more eight foot counter top, painted the entire room white, installed a ceiling fan and six 4-foot hanging light fixtures. The room already had many upper and lower cabinets with by-pass doors that offered great storage space.

In the former workshop, I built just one nine foot counter over which I hung two fixtures. Here, too, I needed a ceiling fan. Soon all the necessary work was finished and by spring of 1995, the violets had new homes and ample growing space. I hoped that now the plants would not need to be crowded and that this would help solve my powdery mildew problem to some extent.

Beneath forty Gro-Lux fluorescent tubes they have really flourished. An Akron, Ohio photographer and reporter visited my home in June of 1995 to view my light garden of African violets. The photographer was intrigued by the former dark room that was now a lovely big plant room. He sent me the above picture of the room with the Flora Carts and the many blossoming violets.

I have begun once again to add Epicias and Streptocarpuses, but violets are still my first love.

WHAT NEXT- APHIDS IN JANUARY!!!!

by *Barbara Pershing*
Cedar Falls, Iowa

My daughter brought her houseplants home for me to care for while she's moving. They arrived right at Christmas when everything was hectic. They sat inside the house for two days before I had time to check them and spray them all with Orthene just in case they carried some unwanted hitchhikers! Three weeks later I noticed some white funny looking flecks on the leaves of a couple of my violets. Quick, get the microscope! Those white specks looked like the shells of an insect. Also, there were tiny green critters quietly sucking the sap out of buds and blossom stems and leaving a bit of sticky honeydew behind. I knew they were aphids. Who hasn't seen them on outdoor plants, especially roses in the summer? I'd never seen aphids on violets before, but I didn't panic! Instead, I went to my library of books and articles to find out about aphids on African violets and also to read the labels on several products on my shelf.

It's important to know a bit about aphids and their lifecycle in order to understand how the various products work and how to safely use them. Aphids are tiny (1/8") nonwinged, green soft-bodied sucking insects. They have long legs, long antennae, and cornicles - tubelike structures on each side of the body, near the posterior end, which look like twin tailpipes. They cluster on the buds, young stems, and leaves. Aphids do little damage in small numbers, however, they are extremely prolific and populations can rapidly build up to damaging numbers on houseplants. Damage occurs when the aphid sucks the juice from the leaves. They are not able to digest all the sugar in the plant sap and excrete a sticky fluid called honeydew.

There are many aphid species, only a few which attack African violets. Those that do, are usually very small and green, so they can easily escape detection until you see the tiny white specks of the cast skins. They multiply rapidly in

their short but unusual life cycle. These aphids are all unmated wingless females which are able to produce all-female wingless broods. If the infestation becomes very heavy and the food source becomes scarce, a few winged females and winged males are born. These fly to another area, mate and lay eggs, which after some time hatch into wingless females and the cycle is repeated. These late-hatching eggs can catch you off guard, because just when you think you have them eradicated, they reappear.

Once you are certain that you have aphids, the remedy is to select insecticides, both contact and systemic, which will destroy them. A contact insecticide, such as Safers insecticidal soap, has the advantage of getting rid of the aphids that have already hatched. Spraying the affected plants with Orthene is another option, but I don't like to use this in the house and you can't very well take your violets outside at this time of year. The best alternative is to mix 1 tsp. of insecticidal soap with one quart of warm water, and thoroughly spray the affected plants - tops and bottoms of leaves, all blossom stalks and buds after removing all open blossoms. A better option is to dip the whole plant in the insecticidal soap solution, but this is a messy task. Either way, it is necessary to reapply this soap solution at 2 or 3 day intervals until you are sure you have eradicated the invaders. After a couple of weeks, if no more aphids are found, you can be relatively sure you have destroyed them all.

Along with the soap treatment, the addition of systemic insecticidal granules (Disulfoton is the active ingredient) to the soil is a longer range solution, but the effectiveness is only good for six to eight weeks (perhaps up to three months). I believe that this saved the other plants on my stand from a total invasion. I had applied systemic when I repotted most of the other plants on the trays in October and the affected ones had not had systemic since August. (I always write the date of last repotting on the label.)

When using any chemical product, it is extremely important to read labels. Do not breathe in the dust or spray when you are applying any of these products. A surgical mask and vinyl or plastic gloves are safeguards, especially when handling systemics.

Vigilance, and isolating new plants, will protect your collection from invasions such as I had to deal with, but this is not a guarantee. It is important to remember that pests can hitchhike on any plant brought in from outside as well as on cut flowers. They can come in on clothing, or even pets. Look carefully at your plants on a regular basis so that problems can be identified and treated before they get out of control or destroy a whole collection.

*Reprinted with permission from "The Bloomin Violet"
publication of the Cedar Valley, Iowa AVC*

long, then about one inch of roots will need to be cut away.

Do not disturb the roots otherwise!!! It is not necessary to cut into the roots to relieve binding as might be done with shrubs and other outdoor plants. It is also not usually necessary to work old soil away from the roots. Excess stress on the roots during repotting can cause a distinct "growth break" in the foliage. That is to say that the leaves will change their rate of growth, and many weeks later it may be possible to identify which leaves were just emerging when you repotted because of their differing size.

If the neck is long (due to procrastination), it may be necessary to cut away the entire root system. If so, cut away all but about one inch of the neck. There is no advantage in having more stem in the soil.

It is usually wise to remove any buds or blossoms. Very simple transplants with minimal root stress may allow blossoms to continue, but in most cases, the blossoms will fade rapidly. The nutrients that supported the flowers will be needed to support new root growth, and a wise grower will accept a temporary lack of color. Normally, buds form very rapidly once root growth has taken place.

Finally, place the plant into the pot and fill in with fresh damp soil. (If you have only a neck to plant, fill the pot with soil first and gently set the stem into the center of the pot). Be sure the plant is in the center! Plants that are off-center in the pot will often grow less symmetrically. Do not pack the soil! The air space is especially important for newly forming roots. More soil can be added later if it begins to sink.

Water the plant using water that is no more than ten degrees (Fahrenheit) warmer or colder than the air. Some growers like to use a mild fertilizer at this time although it is not absolutely necessary. Pour away any run-off. At this point, we would insert a wick into the pot so that the plant could be wick-watered. This is done by pulling an eight- to ten-inch length of damp acrylic yarn through the soil ball

with a wire hook. Some growers prefer to insert a wick before putting soil into the pot. Every grower seems to develop a technique that works best in his own situation.

For insurance, place the newly repotted plant into a closed environment, like a clear plastic bag. This will provide slightly warmer temperatures which will promote quicker root development. It also provides humidity to keep the leaves fully hydrated while the roots are temporarily unable to supply adequate water. This proves especially helpful if the root system was removed or severely stressed. Within a month, there should be clear evidence of new leaf growth, at which time the plant can be moved back into its usual area.

Practice good hygiene before going on to the next plant. If the previous plant showed any suspicious signs of disease or the presence of insects, clean the work area to avoid exposing the next violet. And wash your hands. If you wish to be truly fastidious, use Physan 20 or chlorine bleach to clean tools. (Now would be a great time to get something to eat too!)

To delay is to lose control

Procrastination of repotting can make the task much worse, both for you and for your violets. Keeping up with transplanting can vastly improve the looks of your collection. We've heard of growers who meet once each spring with a friend to repot their violets together. Some growers put it on the calendar and cancel other engagements in favor of repotting. Some growers wait until plants are toppling off of shelves, begging for some attention.

It is truly rewarding to view rejuvenated African violets. Transplanting is a veritable Fountain of Youth to our favorite plant. Without it, they age and die. But, with repotting, they are forever young again.

Have a heart! Repot your violets soon. You'll both enjoy the day.

"Thinking Small" continued from page 15

You'd be surprised how this can help you spot suckers that might otherwise go unnoticed and see dirt on petioles as well! At this point we're talking Best in Show material; detail such as this is not recommended for all exhibits, nor for all exhibitors.

A SPECIAL TREAT

The March column will be guest-written by Mr. Darryl

Hoover. I met Darryl on-line, and was instantly impressed with his knowledge and expertise. It is apparent he is an outstanding showman and because he uses different growing techniques than I do, all of us could learn from him. So next time, Darryl will discuss his thoughts on growing small ones for show. In the meantime, begin making plans to head to Florida in June. Take care!

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin

Vintage Violets Committee

2855 Gayle Lane

Auburn, CA 95602-9674

Last night, September 26, 1996, we had a lunar eclipse.

As my husband and I sat on the back deck (it faces south) watching this spectacular event, I realized there will not be another lunar eclipse until the year 2000, four years away. How many Vintage Violets will slip into oblivion by then? What new ones will be introduced? Violet lovers are always excited about the new varieties. Fortunately a lot of us "Lunar-ticks" (ouch) are excited about the older ones as well.

The list of the WANTEDS as well as the HAVES has grown each month. There is room for more in both columns. If you haven't listed your treasures with me yet, please do it right now.

Please remember when asking for a plant through me always send a self addressed and stamped envelope for my reply. If someone sends you something by mail, please return the postage.

See you in St. Petersburg.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED LIST

Aca's Margaret	Colibre	Fireworks	Lady Mountbatten	Orchid Ripples	Snow Queen
Adeline Krogman	Columbella	Fisher's Anne Marie	Lavender Love	Pamela	Snow Trailer
Africa	Coon Valley	Fox Run (or Fun)	LeBon Creole	Park Avenue	Spangles
Aglitter	Confessions	Fredette's Strawberry Ripples	Legacy	Paul's Pizazz	Spiced Peach
Alice Marie	Copper Tips	Fredette's Sugar Blues	Lilith Lassie	Peepers	Spish Splash
American	Copy Cat	Fredette's Sweet Jenny	Little Dee	Penguin	Sport of Crimson Frost
Anne Slocomb	Coral Cascade	Frosted Redhead	Little Doe	Peppermint	Star Sapphire
Arabesque	Coral Reef	Frosty	Little Lou	Peppermint Fog	Star Sparkler
Aunt Jemima	Coral Tips	Fun Run	Little Maroon	Pigmy or Pygmy	Star Trailer
Autumn Russet	Cordelia	Galactic Star	Little Rascal	Pink Beauty	Stormy Night
Autumn's Stormy Weather	Cotton Bowl	Geneva Rose	Little Red Wagon	Pink Dresden	Stormy Pink Giant
Baker's Hot Lips	Crazy Quilt	GiGi	Lora Lou	Pink Girl	Suncoast Wedgewood
Ballet Candy	Creole Royal	Glacier Point	Lucky Duck	Pink Geneva	Sunday Morning
Ballet Dolly	Crimsonny	Glow Baby	Lucky Stripe	Pink Time	Sun Valley
Bee Tee Lee	Crystal	Gorgeous One	Luxury	Pioneer Trail	Sweet Honesty
Betty's Cindy Darlene	Curley Q	Gosh	Lyndy Lou	Pistachio	Sweet Lady
Big Bird	Cyndy	Granger's Blue Fashionaire	Lynn	Pretty Please	Sweet Lime
Black Waves	Dainty Doll	Granger's Blue Tempest	Manhattan	Purple Crest	Targeteer
Blazing	Daisy Doll	Granger's Jim Dandy	Maroon Frost	Purple Star	Tassy
Blueberry Muffin	Dallas Pride	Granger's Venetian Lace	Mary	Rainbow's Bantam Neon Glo	Teen Wonder
Blue Bouquet	Darth Vader	Great Find	Mary Ann	Ravishing Ruffles	The Parson's Ruffles
Blue Nymph	Date's Fanfare	Great Scott	Mary Lou	Reverie	The Parson's Wife
Blue Reverie	Deep Sea Treasure	Gypsy Charm	May Dance	Rhapsodie Elfede	Tidecrest
Blue Velvet	Delphina	Half & Half	Meg	Rhapsodie Vanessa	Timber Top
Bobby	Diana Ross	Handkerchief	Melly	Red Carnation	Tinted Snow
Brass Band	Dib's Thrill	Hawley's Katy Did	Melodie Frances	Rhinestone Cowboy	Top Notch
Bryte Glitter	Dingbat	Heavenly Halo	Merry Christmas	Rippled Romance	Tribute
Bryte Tips	Dippity Doo	Highbrow	Mighty Honda	Risque	Triple Threat
Bryte Sensation	Dorothy Gray	Holly Dolly	Mighty Mini	Rob's Dipsy Doodle	Tye Dyed (Dates)
Bubblin' Over	Do's Jean	Holly Go Lightly	Millie Blair	Rosalyn Carter	Unpredictable
Bulls Eye	Double Blue Boy	Holly Peach	Minako	Rosie Lou	Valera
Bunny Hop	Double Bountiful	Hot Lips	Miss Liberty	Rowena	Velvet Dawn
Buttercup	Double Duchess	Hot Touch	Modern Jewel	Sailor's Dream	Victoria
Butterflies	Double Mini Orchid	Ice Fantasy	Mohawk Trail	Salad Bowl	Viva
Butterfly White	Double Pink Cloud	Illini Gem	Moonlight Mural	Sarava	Vulcan's Treasure
California Cascade	Double Seafoam	Indian Summer	Moon Moths	Sea Grape	Whirlaway Sport
Candy Dandy	Dresden China	Interlude	Morning Thunder	Seagull	White Pride Supreme
Candy Lips Improved	Dutchman	Ivory Venus	Mountain Blue Boy	Sea Queen	Wrangler's Gaudy Lady
Caribbean Ice	Edge of Elegance	Jealous Pink	Ms Frizz	Sea Shell	Wrangler's Ghost Rider
Carousel Lady	Eileen	Jennefer	Neon Rainbow	Sequoia	Wrangler's High Country
Catherine	Eleanor	Jimmy Carter	Odyssey	Silver Anniversary	Wrangler's Painted Desert
Cherokee Rose	Elsie	Joy Pink	Old Blue Eyes	Silver Crest	Wrangler's Southfork
Cinderella's Slipper	Emma Lahr	Kay Russell	Opti. Cherokee Girl	Silver Flute	Wrangler's Wanderin' Star
Cinnamon Twist	Emperor Wilhelm	Krisie Lynn	Opti. Nebraska	Silver Lining	Zippy
Circus Circus	Fairy Queen	Lady Catherine	Orchid Beauty	Snow Drops	Zun
Circus Clown	Fairy image	Lady Luck		Snow Flake	
Clackamas Surprise	Fantasy Lou			Snow Prince	

LOVE, VI

by Robert Berkenbush
Tappan, NY

Love, Vi. That's how she signed her Christmas cards (always the first to arrive). Even her name, Violet, spoke of her love of flowers and African violets especially. Mrs. Violet C. Gifford.

Though I have many early recollections of her, my clearest early memories center around my Confirmation class, where she was my teacher. I was twelve years old, trying my best to be serious and mature, at a time when rebellion and questioning authority were requirements of youth - 1966. She was my teacher, but more so, a truly unique individual.

She was rail thin, animated, even dramatic. She always wore satin cocktail-type dresses, popular in the 40's, with spike heel shoes. Pants were heretical; she was not a Ms. by any means. Yet, she was certainly her own woman. Divorced, she lived alone with all manner of stray cats and dogs.

Being true to her name, she grew African violets, tables and tables of them. Sure, there were an assortment of other house plants, and she had a small flower bed in her tiny back yard. But, her passion was the *Saintpaulia*. She grew them, propagated them, and donated the surplus to the church fair to sell. I remember her, sitting behind the "plant table" with an assortment of baby violets for sale. "Blue Boy", "Blue Girl", and other early varieties populated the table. I bought a "Delft Blue Imperial" in 1968, and I still have her, or actually her great-grandchild.

Since I already inherited an intense affection for gardening and house plants from both grandmothers and my father, I was not immune to her enthusiasm about African violets. After my first few violets, I "got the bug" and was hooked. And

Mrs. Gifford (as I will always think of her), recognized my talents and continued to introduce me to new varieties and differing methods of cultivation.

On one visit to her home, she showed me her collection of African Violet Magazines. She was a charter subscriber/member, and still had every edition, most in excellent condition. Since she was packing her belongings for a tentative move, she gave me the entire collection. I read each and every one of them. I learned about cultivation, new varieties and so much more. And, I read about the founders and early members of the African Violet Society.

As I grew up, other interests integrated themselves into my life, but I retained my love of growing things, especially African violets. I always had at least 20 or so on a table in a brightly lit window or under a few banks of fluorescent lights. And, I realized that, in many ways, I owed more than just an interest in violets to Mrs. Gifford. In a very small way, I preserved a part of her uniqueness in me. I believe we are, in large part, a summary of people that we have admired. I like to think that maybe I am a little eccentric and "different".

And for that, I am eternally grateful to Mrs. Gifford. Even though she's gone now, I think of her often, and I'm always reminded of her when I pass my table of African violets. I became a member myself, ironically, on the 50th Anniversary of the Society's founding. A founding, 50 years ago, of which my friend Violet Gifford was a member.

Thanks, Vi, for everything. Love, Bob.

In Memory

ESTHER M. HOPPER

Esther M. Hopper passed away in August, 1996. She was a long time member of Capitol District AVS, having served a term as President. She was also an active member of the AVS of Albany, New York State AVS and AVSA. Esther was editor of the Empire Violet Magazine for many years and was an AVSA Judge and enjoyed attending the AVSA conventions.

BLANCHE ROBINSON

The Columbia AVC of South Carolina was saddened by the death of long time member, Blanche Robinson. Blanche had been a member for over thirty-seven years, serving this year, and several other terms, as President. She will be remembered for her dedication to the Columbia AVC and her love of African violets.

RUTH LONGMIRE

Ruth Longmire of Albuquerque, NM passed away in August, 1996. A devoted and caring member of the Albuquerque AV Club for over twenty-seven years, Ruth was currently serving her third term as President. Ruth was also a dedicated AVSA Judge and attended many conventions, believing that the convention experience was made more exciting by entering show categories.

ANNIE HEBERT

Annie Hebert, member of the Four Seasons African Violet Club of Port Arthur, Texas, passed away September, 1996. A devoted member, Annie was proud of her duties as the club's "telephone committee." Loved and respected, she will be sadly missed by all members of the Four Seasons.

SEND YOUR CHOICES

Floyd Lawson • 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

Every year our best growers and hybridizers advise beginning and even experienced growers to check the Best Varieties List for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections. The advice is good, because the Best Variety List is the compilation of those varieties which have performed across the nation, in the many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. The Best Variety List is YOUR list of those plants which have done the best for YOU.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage others to buy and grow?

Between now and May 1, 1997, every member of AVSA should take time to sit down and make a list of 25 of your favorite plants. We would like to have every member's opinion. The lists may be sent singly, or as a part of an affiliate's summary.

If you do decide to make only one list for the club, list all plants voted on and how many votes each received.

Also, enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate.

Please send your list to:

Floyd Lawson
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

Affiliate Publications for the St. Petersburg Convention

Affiliate Publications to be entered for judging must be the same as distributed to the affiliate's members. Entries will be judged according to AVSA rules and considerations. **Entries shall be postmarked no later than February 15, 1997.**

Please send three (3) copies of the Yearbook to judges chairman:

Mr. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 10957

To enter magazines and newsletters, a complete year of issues between January and December 1996 in duplicate send to:

Mary A. Boland, Chairman
6415 Wilcox Court
Alexandria, VA 22310

Coming Events



January 17 - 19 - MISSOURI

7th Annual St. Louis Flower Show
America's Center, downtown St. Louis
Info: Barb Kemery (314) 569-3117

February 7 - 8 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Plant Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City, LA
Feb. 7 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Feb. 8 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. or until sold
Info: Flora Nugent (518) 929-7749

February 8 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Plant Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills & Main St.
Ventura, CA
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983-3522

February 20 - 23 - RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Flower Show
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI
Info: (800) 766-1670

February - 21 & 22 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Beardall Senior Center
800 Delaney Ave., Orlando, FL
Feb. 21 - noon - 4 p.m.
Feb. 22 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Info: Mary Juby (407) 322-3675
Evelyn Briggs (407) 322-1409

February 21 - 23 - FLORIDA

Palm Beach Tropical Flower Show
along the waterfront on Flagler Dr.
Palm Beach, FL
all days: 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Info: (561) 655-5522

February 21 - 23 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVS 22nd Annual AVSA
Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall
5701 East Hillsborough Ave., Tampa, FL
Feb. 21 - noon - 9 p.m.
Feb. 22 - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Feb. 23 - noon - 5 p.m.
Info: Diane Heras (813) 973-8611

February 28 - March 1 - TEXAS

Magic Knight AVS Annual Show / Sale
Central Park Mall, San Antonio, TX
Feb. 28 - 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
March 1 - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Info: Bill Johnson (210) 342-6412

March 1 & 2 0 - LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge AVS 28th Annual Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA
March 1 - 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
March 2 - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Info: Sallie Barlow (504) 665-7958

March 1 & 2 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa 21st Annual Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 South Peoria
March 1 - Sale: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Show: noon 5 p.m.
March 2 - Show & Sale noon - 5 p.m.
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627-7395

March 5 - 9 - OHIO

Floralscape '97
Cleveland Convention Center
500 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, OH
Info: (216) 721-1695, Fax: (216) 721-1694

March 7 & 8 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Show/Sale
Ft. Myers/Lec County Garden Council Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542-9193

March 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS
25th Annual Spring Show/Sale
Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave.
Shreveport, LA
March 7 - 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
March 8 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Info: Flora Nugent (518) 929-7749

March 7 - 9 - FLORIDA

Violet Patch of South Florida
15th Annual Judged Show
Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 N. Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Info: Allan & Janis Mink (954) 587-0392

March 8 & 9 - LOUISIANA

Atchafalaya AVS Show/Sale
Morgan City Municipal Auditorium
Myrtle St., Morgan City, LA
March 8 - 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
March 9 - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Info: Donnie Clement (504) 384-6852

March 8 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Show/Sale
Spring Hill Regional Hospital Enrichment
Center, 1244 Mariner Blvd., Spring Hill, FL
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799-0973

March 8 & 9 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS of Redondo Beach, CA
Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw
Blvd., Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
March 8 - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
March 9 - 9:30 - 4 p.m.
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373-5697

March 15 & 16 - LOUISIANA

Jefferson AVA Annual Show/Sale
Lakeside Shopping Center
Veterans & Causeway Blvd., Metairie, LA
March 15 - 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
March 16 - noon - 6 p.m.
Info: Audrey Voorhees (504) 282-6492

March 15 & 16 - CALIFORNIA

San Joaquin AVS Annual Show/Sale
Sherwood Mall, 5308 Pacific Ave.
Stockton, CA.
March 15 - 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
March 16 - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Info: (209) 524-2169

March 15 & 16 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept., Montauk Hwy.
March 15 - 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
March 16 - noon - 5 p.m.
Info: 473-8726

March 19 - 22 - VIRGINIA

Dixie AVS Show/Sale
Holiday Inn Koger Center
(Midlothian Turnpike)
Richmond, VA
Info: Cathy Akers (540) 786-9587

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS

First AVS Show/Sale
North Star Mall, San Antonio, TX
Both Days: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Info: J. Blount (210) 824-2921

March 22 & 23 - NEW YORK

Capitol District AVS Annual Show/Sale
Knights of Columbus Hall
Ontario St., Albany, NY
March 22 - 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
March 23 - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Info: Ester Mason (518) 482-7851

March 29 & 30 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Spring Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
March 29 - 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
March 30 - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345-9053

April 5 - LOUISIANA

Sundowners AVS Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA
Hours: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Info: Mary McFarland (504) 923-3337

May 1 - 3 - CANADA

AVS of Canada
30th Annual Convention & Show
Toronto, Canada
Info: Betty Tapping (416) 621-1549
Doris Brownlie (905) 270-6776

materials comes from leaf cuttings of the Iowa State University holdings. The Mather collection has already produced two plants of interest to African violet growers; Saintpaulia Robertson and Saintpaulia white ionantha. While neither has been recognized as a new species, there has been considerable interest in both plants since their commercial introduction in 1993. Other plants under study from the Mather collection include an unknown trailing species which has leathery leaves with red backing; a plant collected by Brother Paddy MacNamara that resembles *S. shumensis*, but grows three times larger; a trailing plant labeled as *S. grandifolia*; and a new clone of *S. maqunqensis* var. *occidentalis*. The last plant bloomed and was exhibited at the AVSA convention at Atlanta. Also shown at a workshop in Atlanta was another plant collected by Brother MacNamara. This plant resembles *S. diplotricha* but produces blue flowers with a purple pinwheel stripe. The stripe is likely cultural rather than genetic, but it does suggest an interesting potential for hybridization efforts.

Interesting plants from the Uppsala collection includes a plant labeled as *S. maqunqensis* var. *minima*. This plant appears, however, to be a new clone of *S. Pendula* var. *Pendula*. The plant has longer stems and is a much better trailer than the current *S. Pendula* var. *Pendula* clone. It also appears to be more freeflowering and grows well under artificial lights. Another Uppsala collection plant, *S. grotei* Protzen, has large light green leaves and pale blue flowers. This plant is an excellent trailer and is reminiscent

of the horticultural plant, Swedish Ivy, (*Plectranthus oertendahlii*) in its leaves and growth form. Both of these plants offer interesting genetic material for the future hybridization of trailers.

In conclusion, because of the limited availability of sources for the African violet species, we have become accustomed to plants that look virtually identical to each other. As new plant material such as that from the Mather and Uppsala collections becomes available and distributed, we will have to re-examine our ideas of the *Saintpaulia* species. The descriptions in the AVSA Master Variety List must be expanded to include the variations observed between different genetic individuals of a species. If cultivated plants are to be of vital importance in keeping the species going in 'captivity' and to prevent the wild species from being lost, then each and every genetic individual of the species must be cherished and maintained. New collections should be made and current collections, such as the Mather and Uppsala collections, must be thoroughly studied. The current diversity in African violet cultivars is a result of hybridization programs that only used a small number of the wild species. What might the future give us if we carefully collected, maintained, and studied additional species material?

Acknowledgements - Thanks to Mrs. Robertson for the information relating to the Mather collection, Dr. Mattias Iwarsson for information on the Uppsala Botanical Gardens collection, and Dr. Jonathan Wendel for sharing the plant material from the Iowa State University holdings.



More Members For AVSA

by Jack Wilson
Manassas, Virginia

Do you want to see more articles on how to grow bigger, more beautiful African violets in the AVM? How about more color pictures of the unique new plants our hybridizers are developing? Think how much more fun our annual conventions would be if we had 2 or even 3 times as many people in attendance. More members can make both of these wishes come true. More members will result in more attendance at conventions and provide revenues for more pages in the magazine plus funding for more color photographs.

An easy way to double our membership over the next year is for each of us to give someone a gift membership.

All of us know someone in the family or even a dear friend who grows African violets or likes to grow plants in general. They would be thrilled to receive a magazine that contains articles on how to grow the most popular house plant in the world. As we all know very well, once you have success with African violets, you're hooked for life! Providing a gift subscription to AVSA and its informative magazine, is an easy way to provide someone with a gift they will cherish. Remember six times each year they will receive the informative AVM and be reminded of your thoughtfulness. What a terrific way to be remembered!

"And the winners are..."

Ruth Goeke
4851 Pieper Road
Brenham, TX 77833

NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Arizona, Sapphire Halo, Blue Boy; Best in Show/Best Standard: Blue Boy, **Ann W. Butler**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Ness' Candy Pink, Bud's Melanie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ramblin' Starlight, Ramblin' Magic, Champagne Pink; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Lynn Wallach**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Anne Ostrosky**. Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Early Bird'; Best Design; Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**.

TRI STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Mary, Suncoast Paisley Print, Tomahawk; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Jee Jim; Best in Show: Rhapsodie Mary; Best Miniature: Pink Dove; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sunspot; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Wooloomooloo; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Super Orange' **Karyn Cichocki**. Best Design: **Jan Murasko**. Design Sweepstakes: **Dale Jasaitis**.

CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Kiwi Dazzler, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best in Show/Best Standard: Favorite Child, **Nancy Price**. Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl, **Catherine Thompson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Wagga Wagga, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx grandifolia*, **Catherine Thompson**.

AVS OF NORTH JERSEY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Ness' Forever Blue, Picotee Petticoat; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Cloud Nine, Ness' Mini Sota, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Gehr's Forget-Me-Not; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cloud Nine; Best species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Debi Powell**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Ariadne'; Best in Design, **Emilia Rykowski**.

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Wrangler's Luv Texas, Lady Blue; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Little Katherine, Rob's Heebie Jeebie; Best in Show/Best Standard: The Alps; Best Miniature: Ness Angel Blush; Sweepstakes Horticulture, **Phyllis King**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sweet Pea, Little Pro, Rob's April Storm, **Diane Heras**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Rita Hilton**. Best Trailer: Wood Trail, **Marvin Nester**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Lois Sprayberry**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Carolee Carter**. Best in Design; Sweepstakes Design, **Mary Lou Harden**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jean-Pierre Croteau, Love Spots, Tomahawk, **Eric West**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Teen Surprise, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Bruns**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**. Best species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Bill Grider**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus evrardii*, **Mae Mueller**.

NEW YORK STATE AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Happy Cricket, The Alps; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Red Bandito, Ness' Sno Fun, Little Pro; Best in Show/Best Standard: The Alps; Best Semiminiature Variegated Foliage: Wee Be; Best Miniature Green Foliage: Rob's Magnetic Field; Best Miniature Variegated Foliage: Petite Jewel, **Doug Burdick**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Patti, Harbor Blue, Magnolia, **Annabelle Hart**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whodunit, Rob's Scooter, Rob's Perfect Peach; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Semiminiature Green Foliage: Rob's Perfect Peach, **Ralph Robinson**. Best species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. Best Gesneriad: *Coltricantha* 'Midget'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sidney Sorano**. Best Design: **Karen Cichocki**. Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**.

THE AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Emperor, Lela Marie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rodeo Country; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Hall**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: This Bud's Mine, Tomahawk, Lela Marie, **Roy Hall**. Best Miniature: Ballet Snowcone; Best Semiminiature, Lively Scott, **Laura Liggett**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Pink Surprise', **Gerri Goins**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

NCC AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Maas' Mary Lou, Suncoast Paisley Print, Grandmother's Halo; Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Wee Be, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail; Best Semiminiature: Wee Be; Best Miniature: Midget Silver Fox; Best species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Cathy Cornibe**; 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection, Optimara Harlequin, Rapid Transit, Coral Glo, **Irene Boro**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little James, Cathy's Fireworks, School Bells, **Al Cornibe**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Leong Tuck-Luck', **Anne Jantzen**.

AVS OF DENVER, Chapter 1, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Melodie Kimi, Spiced Burgundy; Best in Show: The Alps, **Becky Shoun**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Charlotte King, Optimara Rose Quartz, Cutie; Best Miniature: Charlotte King; Best Trailer: Lil Runaround; Best species, *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Schooner'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**.

VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, RY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cinnamon Spice, Coral Crunch, Medicine Man; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Rob's Megan Lynn, Blue Smoke; Best Miniature: Mac's Mini Firebird; Best Trailer: Glitter Fountain; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George McDonald**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Macho Devil, Heritage Frolic, Ethel Twiford; Best in Show: Optimara Crater Lake; Best Semiminiature: Ethel Twiford, **Brenda Brasfield**. Best species, *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Fair**. Best Gesneriad: *Achimenes* 'Desiree', **Marian Zoller**. Best Design, **Peggy Adamson**.

OHIO STATE AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Evangeline, Lela Marie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Florence Barton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Powwow, **Janice Carr**. Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Scooter, Rob's Heebie Jeebie; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter, **Ralph Robinson**. Best in Show: Jungle Print, **Sharon Holtzman**. Best Design: **Betty Bartley**. Design Sweepstakes, **Cathy Black**.

GATEWAY AVC, IL; - Winners: Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best species, *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Dunlap**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Teen Surprise, Snuggles; Best in Show: Lady Love; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Design, **Fran Russom**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Baby Brad, Pink Skies, Spin-Out, **Sandie Helfrich**. Best Trailer: Champagne Pink, **Ardathe Miller**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade' Design Sweepstakes, **Patty Smith**.

DELTA GESNERIAD & AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Sunrise, Tomahawk, Roseberry; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Leona Faoro**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Sonoma Grandma Rose; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Don Thornburg**. Best Miniature: Frosted Denim, **Jean Hatfield**. Best Trailer: Caidan; Best Design, Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CA: Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Little Pro, **Marianne Kodahata**; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gini McCanne**; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha*, **Sandy Purins**; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Panther', **Hans Inpijn**; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dee Probert**.

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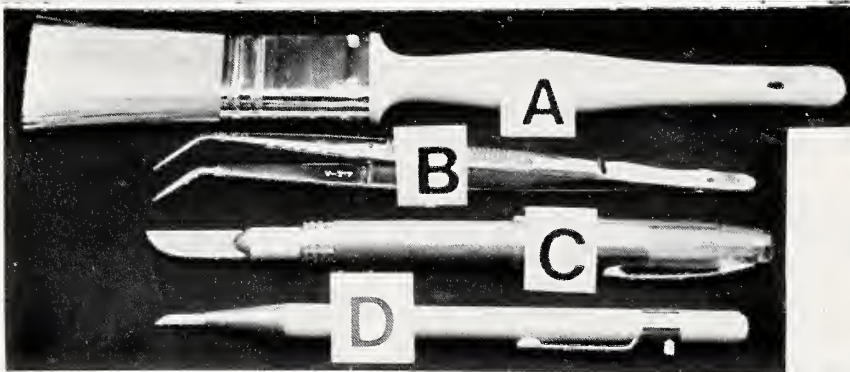


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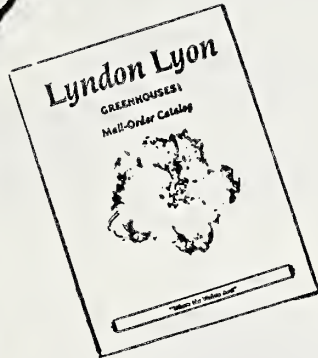
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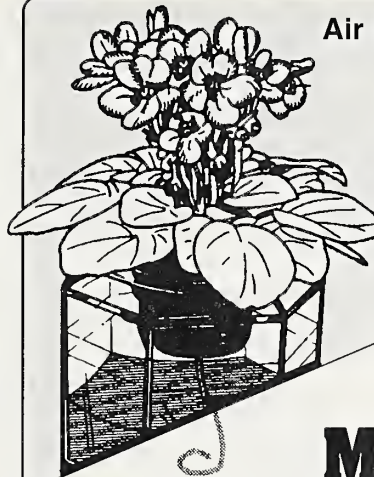
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1996 INDEX OF AUTHORS

- Albrecht, Georgene A Family Portrait, Jan p 18; Mar p 6; May p 10; Jul p 12; Sep p 8; Nov p 6
- Allerton, Eugene Growing African Violets in Rock Wool, Nov p 26
- Anderson, Dorothy Save Those Suckers, Nov p 7
- Bandy, Janet Thrips are IN!, Jan p 21; The Control of Fungus Gnats, Mar p 17; Aphids Are Everywhere!, Jul p 31
- Barnett, Judy Good Grooming = Good Blooming, May p 36; Gesneriads are Great (Poem), May p 37; A Florida Fantasy Awaits You (Poem), Jul p 50
- Becker, Gus Fond Memories of Grace Foote, May p 35
- Beckerman, Bill & Ellen What is the Internet & Why Should I Care?, Nov p 44
- Beckerman, Ellen Snapshots from our First Convention, Sep p 18
- Black, Cathy Leaves, Jan p 22
- Bliss, Susan W. How my African Violets Survived the Perils of my New Home (Will Yours?), Sep p 34
- Brackin, Alec I Grow for Pleasure, Sep p 40
- Bradford, Edward Worth Repeating: The Ten Proper Environmental Factors, Jul p 52
- Breden, Antoinette Flower Arrangement & Design, Part II, Jan p 28
- Bruns, Joe Photographing African Violets, Nov p 40
- Buck, Marlene Boyce Edens Research Fund, Jan p 13; Mar p 35; May p 45; Jul p 27; Sep p 35; Nov p 13
- Buttram, David The African Violet Marketplace, Mar p 26; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look (Hill Country African Violets & Nursery), May p 22
- Carter, Carolee Keeping Records, Mar p 46; Dazed by Design, Jul p 38
- Cass, Margaret Donations to BERF (Poem), Sep p 35
- Chatelain, Cindy Memo, Jan p 5; May p 5; Jul p 5; Sep p 5; Nov p 5
- Coleman, Kyle Open Your Own Violet Factory, Part 2, Jan p 26; Effective Club Programs, Mar p 38; Project Violet: Magazine Articles, May p 33; Variegation Tip, Sep p 39; Creative and Functional Yearbooks, Nov p 27
- Cornibe, Al and Cathy "And The Winners Are...", Jan p 42; Mar p 34; May p 24; Jul p 41; Sep p 41
- Cornibe, Cathy Judging Your Own Terrarium, Nov p 20; Constructing and Judging Dish Gardens, Nov p 52
- Cox, Leslie Where's the HEAT?, Jan p 19; How High (low) Can You Go?, May p 27
- Criswell, Judy A Successful Solution, Nov p 20
- Cusce, Dorothy Thrips-Free, At Last!, Nov p 41
- Donsworth, Beverly Rejuvenation, May p 52
- du Toit, Deon "American" violets seen through African Eyes, Sep p 28
- Eberhard, Charlotte C. Raising African Violets...In The Desert, Nov p 54
- Elkin, Barbara Vintage Violets, Jan p 17; May p 20; Jul p 47; Sep p 13; Nov p 15
- Foster, Bill Shows & Judges, Jan p 16; May p 21; Sep p 22
- Geiss, Don The Case of the Missing African Violet, Mar p 24; The Pleasure of a Smile, Jul p 44; Tales of the Violet Repairman, Nov p 30
- Goeke, Ruth How Do You Prepare For Show?, Jan p 23; "And the winners are...", Nov p 22
- Golubski, Linda Take the Plunge, Mar p 31; Design made Interesting, Sep p 38; Spare Cash, Sep p 45; Judging Other Gesneriads, Nov p 39; What is the Hudson Memorial Award For Affiliate Leadership?, Sep p 31
- Gonzales, John That's Not a Weed, It's a Nautilocalyx pemphidius!!, Mar p 45
- Goodsell, Barbara Name That Plant!, Jul p 46
- Green, Bob L. Eye on Design, Mar p 36
- Grunder, Johan J. My Green Monster, Nov p 53
- Hall, Meredith Commercial Winners - Atlanta Convention, Sep p 30
- Hancock, Pat About Sports, Jan p 30; Create Your Own Beautiful Violets from Seed, Jul p 36
- Hedgepeth, Kitty Mizz Kitty's Blues (Poem), Mar p 45; Miss Kitty's Blues, Too... (Poem), Sep p 46
- Hodges, Sue Your Plants and the Changing Seasons, Sep p 9
- Holtzman, Sharon E. Pressing AV Blossoms, Mar p 41
- Honkoshi, Kazuo Honeymoon With Violets, Nov p 18
- Hubble, Dora Warning! Raising African Violets Could Be Contagious!, Mar p 44
- Johnson, Adelle Tools of the Trade, Jan p 35; Feeding African Violets, Jan p 39; Growing Variegated African Violets, May p 13
- Johnson, Sharon E. Shows and Show Schedules - What is it all about?, Mar p 7
- Jolley, Doris Ann Growing AV's with Wick Method & Natural Light, May p 26
- Jones, Jackie Annual Library Message, Jul p 10; AVSA Library, Sep p 14
- Keating, Iris Registration Report, Jan p 20; Mar p 11; May p 16; Jul p 16; Sep p 26; Nov p 14; How Are Your Plants Doing?, Mar p 39
- Knorr, Mildred Found: A Solution to a Problem, May p 39
- Landgren, Anna Jean Tally Time - 1995, Mar p 18
- Lawson, Floyd Send Your Choices, Jan p 9; AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets, Jul p 51
- Lovett, Dr., Jon C. African Violets and the Incredible Journey, Mar p 28; African Violets and the Winds of Change, May p 30
- Lyons, Bill AVSA Booster Fund, Jan p 11; Mar p 35; May p 45; Jul p 13; Sep p 21; Nov p 13
- Martens, Dale Intergenerics, May p 44
- Martin, Frank Unorthodox Procedures, Jan p 34; Pilgrim Violets, May p 34; Colorful Language, Jul p 29
- Matthews, Barbara Florida! Everybody's Fantasy, Jul p 45; From Fantasy to Love Affair, Sep p 27; Where The Breezes Blow, Nov p 24
- McAllen, Carolyn Anything but That!, Sep p 36
- McCain, Dr., Hal Two Hundred, All to Give Away, Nov p 19
- McCormick, Elmer Would-Be Plant Groomers, Sep p 52
- Miller, Ann Atlanta Convention Updates, May p 18
- Möhlen, Andre "American" violets seen through African Eyes, Sep p 28
- Naroznick, Brenda Water Woes: pH & African Violets, May p 51
- Nastoff, Alecia Further Investigation of the Leaf Pigments in African Violets, Nov p 42
- Otto, Norah Once a winner, Always a winner!, May p 46
- Ozio, Jr., L.T. President's Message, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3; Nov p 3
- Paaue, Bill 1995 Annual Index, Jan p 60
- Paaue, Bill & Kathryn Looking for a New Shepherd, Nov p 7
- Pershing, Barbara Summer is Favorite Time for Those Pesky 'Mites', May p 49; What's In A Name?, Nov p 35; Crossword Your Knowledge of Violet Growing, Nov p 46
- Promersberger, Bev Greetings To All Affiliates, Jan p 17; Moving is Murder in More Ways Than One, Jul p 30
- Richards, Pat Thinking Small, Jan p 12; Mar p 12; May p 8; Jul p 24; Sep p 16; Nov p 8; Some Thoughts on Lights, Jan p 24; Some Thoughts on After-Show Plant Care, Jul p 43
- Richardson, Diane Guidelines for Advertisers, Mar p 52
- Robinson, Ralph Question Box, Jan p 14; May p 6; Sep p 6
- Rossi, Lola Try Something Different, May p 32; Violet Success - the basics., Nov p 33
- Rourke, Edna Interpretive Flower Arrangements, Nov p 38
- Rumsey, Ruth Editor's Notes, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4
- Sale, Eva M. 'Twas the Night Before Show Time (Poem), Nov p 18
- Schulz, Joseph Have You Checked Your Pot Lately?, Mar p 50

Skinner, Caitlin	Further Investigation of the Leaf Pigments in African Violets, Nov p 42	Stukacz, Marina	A Few Too Many?, Jul p 34
Smith, Dr., Jeff	In Search of New Violets, Jan p 10; Mar p 16; May p 12; Jul p 8; Sep p 20; Nov p 12; Observations on Growing and Breeding the Yellows, Jan p 36; Growing the "Cool" Species, Mar p 22; Growing the "Warm" Species, May p 41; The History of Two Possible New Species, Jul p 48; Further Investigation of the Leaf Pigments in African Violets, Nov p 42	Switzer, Mary Ann	Wick Watering, Jan p 35
Smith, James	Question Box, Mar p 14; Jul p 14; Nov p 10	Tapping, Betty	Soil, Dirt, Growing Medium, Whatever!, Nov p 36
Sneed, Nancy	Hessel, Jul p 28	Thomson, Barbara W.	"I Would Never Have Suspected...", Mar p 27
Stallings, Mary	Hanging Designs, May p 38	Thornburg, Don	Packaged Potting Soils...Can We Trust Them?, Mar p 42
Stenger, Joyce	Utilizing Natural Dried Material, Nov p 48	Tinari, Anne	Where Have The Golden Years Gone?, Mar p 20; Will You Be The Lucky Winner?, May p 31; Endearing Foote Petals Remembered, May p 35; Will You Help Us Top This!, Sep p 13; Do Not Withhold the Secret!, Nov p 15
Stork, Kent and Joyce	For Beginners, Jan p 6; Mar p 8; May p 14; Jul p 6; Sep p 10; Nov p 16	Warren, Ruth	AVSA Building Maintenance Fund, Jan p 11; Mar p 43; May p 47; Jul p 10; Sep p 7
		Wilder, Alice	African Violet Crafts, Nov p 50
		Wilson, Jack	From Schools to Clubs, Nov p 31
		Worrell, Andrea L.	Over The Edge, Jan p 38

TITLES AND SUBJECTS

- ABOUT SPORTS, Hancock, Pat, Jan p 30
 Achimenes 'Ambrose Verschaftelt', May p 10
 ADDITIONAL AWARDS FOR ATLANTA CONVENTION, May p 19
 AFFILIATE CLUB SHOW THEMES, Sep p 37
 Affiliate Liability Insurance, Jan p 5; Sep p 5
 AFRICAN VIOLET CRAFTS, Wilder, Alice, Nov p 50
 AFRICAN VIOLET MARKETPLACE, THE, Buttram, David, Mar p 26
 AFRICAN VIOLETS AND THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY, Lovett, Dr., Jon C., Mar p 28
 AFRICAN VIOLETS AND THE WINDS OF CHANGE, Lovett, Dr., Jon C., May p 30
 Algae, Mar p 9
 "AMERICAN" VIOLETS SEEN THROUGH AFRICAN EYES, du Toit, Deon and Möhlen, Andre, Sep p 28
 "AND THE WINNERS ARE...", Cornibe, Al and Cathy, Jan p 42; Mar p 34; May p 24; Jul p 41; Sep p 41; "AND THE WINNERS ARE...", Goeke, Ruth, Nov p 22
 ANNUAL INDEX, 1995, Paauwe, Bill, Jan p 60
 ANNUAL LIBRARY MESSAGE, Jones, Jackie, Jul p 10
 ANYTHING BUT THAT!, McAllen, Carolyn, Sep p 36
 APHIDS ARE EVERYWHERE!, Bandy, Janet, Jul p 31
 ATLANTA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS, May p 19
 ATLANTA CONVENTION UPDATES, Miller, Ann, May p 18
 ATTENTION AFFILIATES: NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP AWARD, Jul p 46
 AVS OF PHILADELPHIA SALUTES THE TINARIS, Jul p 11
 AVSA 1996 NATIONAL SHOW WINNERS, Jul p 21
 AVSA 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK, Sep p 3
 AVSA AWARDS, 1996, Jul p 19
 AVSA BOOSTER FUND, Lyons, Bill, Jan p 11; Mar p 35; May p 45; Jul p 13; Sep p 21; Nov p 13
 AVSA BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND, Warren, Ruth, Jan p 11; Mar p 43; May p 47; Jul p 10; Sep p 7
 AVSA COMMERCIALS - A CLOSER LOOK (HILL COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLETS & NURSERY), Buttram, David, May p 22
 AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE, Jan Sup, p A-1; May p 19
 AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Lawson, Floyd, Jul p 51
 AVSA JUDGES, AFFILIATES & COMMERCIAL MEMBERS - 1996, Sep Sup, p A-1; Nov p 5
 AVSA LIBRARY, Jones, Jackie, Sep p 14
 AVSA Library Offers New Video, Mar p 5
 AVSA MEMBERS (Pictures), May p 48; Jul 23; Sep p 49
 AWARDS (\$\$) NEEDED FOR ST. PETERSBURG CONVENTION, Jul p 33
 Beneficial insects, Jan p 21; Jul p 31
 BEST VARIETIES, 1996, Lawson, Floyd, Nov p 47
 BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND, Buck, Marlene, Jan p 13; Mar p 35; May p 45; Jul p 27; Sep p 35; Nov p 5; Nov p 13
 Bylaw Amendment, Mar p 5; Sep p 48
 Capillary matting, Mar p 9
 CASE OF THE MISSING AFRICAN VIOLET, THE, Geiss, Don, Mar p 24
 Chemical Damage, Jul p 7
 Chirita subrhomboidea, Sep p 8
 Cleanliness, May p 14; May p 37
 COLORFUL LANGUAGE, Martin, Frank, Jul p 29
 COME JOIN US AT THE BEACH!, Sep p 38
 COMING EVENTS, Jan p 44; Mar p 47; May p 50; Jul p 50; Sep p 50; Nov p 11
 COMMERCIAL WINNERS - ATLANTA CONVENTION, Hall, Meredith, Sep p 30
 CONSTRUCTING AND JUDGING DISH GARDENS, Cornibe, Cathy, Nov p 52
 CONTROL OF FUNGUS GNATS, THE, Bandy, Janet, Mar p 17
 CONVENTION AWARDS, 1996, Jan p 45; May p 19
 Convention Presentations, 1996, Jan Sup, p A-11
 Convention Tours, 1996, Jan Sup, p A-5
 CREATE YOUR OWN BEAUTIFUL VIOLETS FROM SEED, Hancock, Pat, Jul p 36
 CREATIVE AND FUNCTIONAL YEARBOOKS, Coleman, Kyle, Nov p 27
 CROSSWORD YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF VIOLET GROWING, Pershing, Barbara, Nov p 46
 DAZED BY DESIGN, Carter, Carolee, Jul p 38
 DESIGN MADE INTERESTING, Golubski, Linda, Sep p 38
 Disbudding, Jan p 6
 Dish Gardens, Nov p 52
 DO NOT WITHHOLD THE SECRET!, Tinari, Anne, Nov p 15
 Dog Show, May p 46
 DONATIONS TO BERF (Poem), Cass, Margaret, Sep p 35
 DuraGuard, Mar p 26
 E-Mail Address, May p 5; Sep p 5; Nov p 4
 EDITOR'S NOTES, Rumsey, Ruth, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4
 EFFECTIVE CLUB PROGRAMS, Coleman, Kyle, Mar p 38
 ENDEARING FOOTE PETALS REMEMBERED, Tinari, Anne, May p 35
 EVEN PARADISE ISN'T VIOLET-PERFECT!, Nov p 16
 EYE ON DESIGN, Green, Bob L., Mar p 36
 FAMILY PORTRAIT, A, Albrecht, Georgene, Jan p 18; Mar p 6; May p 10; Jul p 12; Sep p 8; Nov p 6
 Feeding, Jul p 53; Sep p 6
 FEEDING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Johnson, Adelle, Jan p 39
 Fertilizing (Minis & Semis), Mar p 13
 FEW TOO MANY?, A, Stukacz, Marina, Jul p 32
 FIRST CLASS COMPUTER PROGRAM, A, Sep p 39
 FLORIDA! EVERYBODY'S FANTASY, Matthews, Barbara, Jul p 45
 FLORIDA FANTASY AWAITS YOU, A, (Poem), Barnett, Judy, Jul p 50
 FLOWER ARRANGEMENT & DESIGN, PART II, Breden, Antoinette, Jan p 28
 Foliar feeding, Mar p 12
 FOND MEMORIES OF GRACE FOOTE, Becker, Gus, May p 35
 FOR BEGINNERS, Stork, Kent & Joyce, Jan p 6; Mar p 8; May p 14; Jul p 6; Sep p 10; Nov p 16
 FOUND: A SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM, Knorr, Mildred, May p 39
 FROM FANTASY TO LOVE AFFAIR, Matthews, Barbara, Sep p 27
 FROM SCHOOLS TO CLUBS, Wilson, Jack, Nov p 31
 FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE LEAF PIGMENTS IN AFRICAN VIOLETS, Nastoff, Alecia, Skinner, Caitlin, and Smith, Dr., Jeff, Nov p 42
 GELATIN AS FERTILIZER, Nov p 19

GESNERIADS ARE GREAT (POEM), Barnett, Judy, May p 37
 GOOD GROOMING = GOOD BLOOMING, Barnett, Judy, May p 36
 Good Housekeeping, May p 14
 GREETINGS TO ALL AFFILIATES, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 17
 Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum lamps, Jan p 24
 GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN ROCK WOOL, Allerton, Eugene, Nov p 26
 GROWING AV'S WITH WICK METHOD & NATURAL LIGHT, Jolley, Doris Ann, May p 26
 GROWING THE "COOL" SPECIES, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Mar p 22
 GROWING THE "WARM" SPECIES, Smith, Dr., Jeff, May p 41
 GROWING VARIEGATED AFRICAN VIOLETS, Johnson, Adelle, May p 13
 GUIDELINES FOR ADVERTISERS, Richardson, Diane, Mar p 52
 HALL OF FAME AWARD - MARY BOLAND, Jul p 19
 HANGING DESIGNS, Stallings, Mary, May p 38
 HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR POT LATELY?, Schulz, Joseph, Mar p 50
 HAVE YOU TRIED THIS? - AV TIPS FROM AV GROWERS, Jan p 27; Nov p 46
 Hawaii, Nov p 16
 HESSEL, Sneed, Nancy, Jul p 28
 History, May p 30; May p 34
 HISTORY OF TWO POSSIBLE NEW SPECIES, THE, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jul p 48
 HONEYMOON WITH VIOLETS, Horikoshi, Kazuo, Nov p 18
 HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD - JANET RIEMER, Jul p 19
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - ELLEN & BILL BECKERMAN, Jul p 20
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - FRAN RUSSOM, Jul p 20
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - FRANCES KING, Jul p 20
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - JIM OWENS, Jul p 20
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - MARILYN EVENSEN, Jul p 20
 House of Amani, May p 43
 HOW ARE YOUR PLANTS DOING?, Keating, Iris, Mar p 39
 HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR SHOW?, Goeke, Ruth, Jan p 23
 HOW HIGH (LOW) CAN YOU GO?, Cox, Leslie, May p 27
 HOW MY AFRICAN VIOLETS SURVIVED THE PERILS OF MY NEW HOME (WILL YOURS?), Bliss, Susan W., Sep p 34
 How to Grow HUGE African Violets, Jan p 6
 HOW TO PLANT A LEAF, Jan p 20
 Hudson Memorial Award, Sep p 31
 HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD - BILL LYONS, Jul p 19
 Humidity, Mar p 10; May p 6; Jul p 26; Jul p 53
 Hybridizing, Jul p 36
 I GROW FOR PLEASURE, Brackin, Alec, Sep p 40
 "I WOULD NEVER HAVE SUSPECTED...", Thomson, Barbara W., Mar p 27
 IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES, May p 24
 IN MEMORY - ARMIDA WALLER, Jan p 34
 IN MEMORY - BETTY MOSS, Mar p 21
 IN MEMORY - BILLIE (MRS. WALTER) VOLKMANN, Mar p 21
 IN MEMORY - CATHERINE HAWLEY, Jan p 34
 IN MEMORY - DEE STRZELECKI, Jan p 34
 IN MEMORY - DELY UYTANA, Mar p 21
 IN MEMORY - GRACE FIELDS, Mar p 21
 IN MEMORY - HATTIE LARSON, Sep p 47
 IN MEMORY - HELEN SHORE, Sep p 47
 IN MEMORY - LEWIS COOK, Sep p 47
 IN MEMORY - MARY JANE HOPPER, Sep p 47
 IN MEMORY - PEGGY RIOS, Sep p 47
 IN MEMORY - SYBIL BEHRENS, Mar p 21
 IN SEARCH OF NEW VIOLETS, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jan p 10; Mar p 16; May p 12; Jul p 8; Sep p 20; Nov p 12
 INTERGENERICS, Martens, Dale, May p 44
 Internet, Nov p 44
 INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS, Rourke, Edna, Nov p 38
 INTRODUCING YOUR 1996 NOMINEES TO THE AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Jan p 8
 Isolation, Jul p 15
 Judges Handbook changes, May p 4; Sep p 22
 JUDGING OTHER GESNERIADS, Golubski, Linda, Nov p 39
 JUDGING YOUR OWN TERRARIUM, Cornibe, Cathy, Nov p 20
 KEEPING RECORDS, Carter, Carolee, Mar p 46
 Leaf propagation, Jan p 20; Mar p 15; Jul p 14
 LEAVES, Black, Cathy, Jan p 22
 Lights, Jan p 24; Jul p 24; Jul p 52
 LIZETA HAMILTON - HALL OF FAME MEMBER, DECEASED, Sep p 47
 LONG NECKS FOR BEGINNERS, Nov p 34
 LOOKING FOR A NEW SHEPHERD, Paauwe, Bill and Kathryn, Nov p 7
 MASTER LIST OF SPECIES AND CULTIVARS, 1996, Nov Sup, p A-1
 MEMO, Chatelain, Cindy, Jan p 5; May p 5; Jul p 5; Sep p 5; Nov p 5
 Minutes, Sep p 48
 MISS KITTY'S BLUES, TOO... (Poem), Hedgepeth, Kitty, Sep p 46
 Mites, May p 49
 MIZZ KITTY'S BLUES (Poem), Hedgepeth, Kitty, Mar p 45
 MOVING IS MURDER IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, Promersberger, Bev, Jul p 30
 MVL SEVENTH EDITION AVAILABLE IN NOVEMBER, Nov p 21
 MY GREEN MONSTER, Grunder, Johan J., Nov p 53
 NAME THAT PLANT!, Goodsell, Barbara, Jul p 46
 Natural light, May p 26; Jul p 52; Sep p 6
 Nature's Miracle, Jul p 13
 Nautilocalyx pemphidius, Mar p 45
 Necks, May p 36
 Neem, Jan p 18
 OBSERVATIONS ON GROWING AND BREEDING THE YELLOWS, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jan p 36
 ONCE A WINNER, ALWAYS A WINNER!, Otto, Norah, May p 46
 OPEN YOUR OWN VIOLET FACTORY, PART 2, Coleman, Kyle, Jan p 26
 OVER THE EDGE, Worrell, Andrea L., Jan p 38
 PACKAGED POTTING SOILS...CAN WE TRUST THEM?, Thomburg, Don, Mar p 42
 PESTS AND DISEASES, Nov p 40
 pH, May p 51
 PHOTOGRAPHING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Bruns, Joe, Nov p 40
 Physan 20, Mar p 9
 PILGRIM VIOLETS, Martin, Frank, May p 34
 PLEASURE OF A SMILE, THE, Geiss, Don, Jul p 44
 Polypoids, Mar p 17
 Pots, Jul p PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Ozio, Jr., L. T., Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3; Nov p 3
 PRESSING AV BLOSSOMS, Holtzman, Sharon E., Mar p 41
 PROJECT VIOLET: MAGAZINE ARTICLES, Coleman, Kyle, May p 33
 QUESTION BOX, Smith, James, Mar p 14; Jul p 14; Nov p 10; Robinson, Ralph, Jan p 14; May p 6; Sep p 6
 RAISING AFRICAN VIOLETS...IN THE DESERT, Eberhard, Charlotte C., Nov p 54
 REGISTRATION REPORT, Keating, Iris, Jan p 20; Mar p 11; May p 16; Jul p 16; Sep p 26; Nov p 14
 REJUVENATION, Donsworth, Beverly, May p 52
 Repotting, Mar p 14; Mar p 39; May p 7; May p 36; May p 52; Jul p 26; Sep p 7; Nov p 8
 Room Sharing (Convention), Jan Sup, p A-16
 ROOTS: YOUR PLANT'S ANCHOR, Jan p 41
 S. goetzeana, Mar p 22
 S. grandifolia, May p 41
 S. ionantha, May p 41
 S. magungensis var. magungensis, May p 42
 S. magungensis var. occidentalis, Mar p 23
 S. magungensis var. minima, May p 42
 S. nitida, Mar p 23
 S. Robertson, May p 43; Jul p 48
 S. rupicola, May p 42
 S. teitensis, Mar p 22
 S. tongwensis, May p 42
 S. velutina 'Amazon', Mar p 17; Mar p 23
 S. velutina 'Light', Mar p 23
 S. white ionantha, May p 42; Jul p 48
 Saintpaulia 'Centennial Salute', Mar p 6
 Saintpaulia Species, Jan p 4; Mar p 28; Sep p 6
 SAVE THOSE SUCKERS, Anderson, Dorothy, Nov p 7
 Seed Germination, Mar p 16; May p 12
 SEND YOUR CHOICES, Lawson, Floyd, Jan p 9

- SHOWS & JUDGES, Foster, Bill, Jan p 16; May p 21; Sep p 22
 SHOWS AND SHOW SCHEDULES - WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?, Johnson,
 Sharon E., Mar p 7
 Sigi Falls, May p 43
 Sinningia "Carbo Frio", Nov p 6
 Sinningia 'Best Pink', Jul p 12
 Skin Coat, Mar p 26
 Small Arrangements (design), Mar p 36
 SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR FIRST CONVENTION, Beckerman, Ellen, Sep p 18
 Soil, Jul p 53
 Soil Mealy Bugs, Mar p 50
 SOIL, DIRT, GROWING MEDIUM, WHATEVER!, Tapping, Betty, Nov p 36
 SOME THOUGHTS ON AFTER-SHOW PLANT CARE, Richards, Pat, Jul p 43
 SOME THOUGHTS ON LIGHTS, Richards, Pat, Jan p 24
 SOUTH AFRICAN GROWER SALUTES AVSA'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, Jul
 p 9
 SPARE CASH, Golubski, Linda, Sep p 45
 SPECIAL CITATION FOR CONTINUING SERVICE - ESTHER EDWARDS
 WELLS, Jul p 19
 SPRINGTIME IN ATLANTA, May p 18
 STATEMENT OF CONDITION, AVSA, Sep p 48
 STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION, Nov
 p 49
 Steinemema feltiae, Mar p 17
 Streptocarpus cyanandrus, Jan p 18
 SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION, A, Criswell, Judy, Nov p 20
 Suckers, May p 36
 SUMMER IS FAVORITE TIME FOR THOSE PESKY 'MITES', Pershing,
 Barbara, May p 49
 Surprise Disasters, Jul p 6
 Symmetry, May p 37
 TAKE THE PLUNGE, Golubski, Linda, Mar p 31
 TALES OF THE VIOLET REPAIRMAN, Geiss, Don, Nov p 30
 TALLY TIME - 1995, Landgren, Anna Jean, Mar p 18
 Tanzania Wildlife Fund, Jan p 4
 Temperature problems, Jul p 6; Jul p 53
 TEN PROPER ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, THE, (Worth Repeating),
 Bradford, Edward, Jul p 52
 Terrariums, Nov p 20
 Texas-style potting, Mar p 9
 THAT'S NOT A WEED, IT'S A NAULOCALYX PEMPHIDIUS!, Gonzales,
 John, Mar p 45
 THINKING SMALL, Richards, Pat, Jan p 12; Mar p 12; May p 8; Jul p 24; Sep
 p 16; Nov p 8
 THRIPS ARE IN!, Bandy, Janet, Jan p 21
 THRIPS-FREE, AT LAST!, Cusce, Dorothy, Nov p 41
 TINARI GREENHOUSES MEMBERSHIP AWARD - AVS OF MINNESOTA,
 Jul p 20
 TOOLS OF THE TRADE, Johnson, Adelle, Jan p 35
 Trailer Repotting, Jul p 15
 TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT, Rossi, Lola, May p 32
 'T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE SHOW TIME, Sale, Eva M., Nov p 18
 TWO HUNDRED, ALL TO GIVE AWAY, McCain, Dr., Hal, Nov p 19
 Underwater design, Mar p 31
 UNORTHODOX PROCEDURES, Martin, Frank, Jan p 34
 UTILIZING NATURAL DRIED MATERIAL, Stenger, Joyce, Nov p 48
 VARIEGATION TIP, Coleman, Kyle, Sep p 39
 Variegation types, May p 13
 Verilux lamps, Jan p 24
 Video, Mar p 5
 VINTAGE VIOLETS, Elkin, Barbara, Jan p 17; May p 20; Jul p 47; Sep p 13;
 Nov p 15
 Violet Inventory Sheet, Mar p 46
 VIOLET SUCCESS - THE BASICS., Rossi, Lola, Nov p 33
 WARNING! RAISING AFRICAN VIOLETS COULD BE CONTAGIOUS!, Hubble,
 Dora, Mar p 44
 Water, Mar p 8
 Water quality, Mar p 10
 WATER WOES: pH & AFRICAN VIOLETS, Naroznick, Brenda, May p 51
 Watering, Jul p 53
 Web Site, Jul p 5; Sep p 5; Nov p 5; Nov p 44
 WELCOME TO CANADA'S CAPITAL, Jan p 9
 WHAT IS THE HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR AFFILIATE
 LEADERSHIP?, Golubski, Linda L., Sep p 31
 WHAT IS THE INTERNET & WHY SHOULD I CARE?, Beckerman, Bill and
 Ellen, Nov p 44
 WHAT'S IN A NAME?, Pershing, Barbara, Nov p 35
 WHERE HAVE THE GOLDEN YEARS GONE?, Tinari, Anne, Mar p 20
 WHERE THE BREEZES BLOW, Matthews, Barbara, Nov p 24
 WHERE'S THE HEAT?, Cox, Leslie, Jan p 19
 WICK WATERING, Switzer, Mary Ann, Jan p 35
 Wick-watering, Mar p 8
 Wick-Watering (Minis & Semis), Jan p 12
 WILL YOU BE THE LUCKY WINNER?, Tinari, Anne, May p 31
 WILL YOU HELP US TOP THIS!, Sep p 13
 WOULD-BE PLANT GROOMERS, McCormick, Elmer, Sep p 52
 xPhinastema 'California Dreaming', May p 44
 Yearbooks, Nov p 27
 Yellow Violets, Jan p 36
 YOUR PLANTS AND THE CHANGING SEASONS, Hodges, Sue, Sep p 9

1996 INDEX OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

- ACA'S CANADIAN WONDER - (Brownlie), Jan cover
 AESCHYNANTHUS SPECIOSA - Jul p 33
 ALAMO GOLD RUSH - (Pittman), Nov p 29
 ALAMO MIDNIGHT - (Pittman), Mar cover
 BEGINNER'S LUCK - (Pitchet), Jul cover
 BRAZOS STORMY SKIES - (Scott), Mar p 32
 BURMESE - (Boone), Jul p 32
 CHIRITA SUBRHOMBOIDES - Nov p 29
 DEAN'S SONATA - (Hobbs), Sep cover
 DECELLES' DEFI - (Decelles), Nov cover
 DEFINITELY DARRYL - (Pittman), Jul cover
 FANTASY BELLS - (Pittman), Mar p 33
 FLASHY LOVETTA - (Davis), Sep p 40
 GRANDMOTHER'S HALO - (Domiano), Sep p 40
 IVORY SHADOWS - (Sorano), Sep p 32
 LOVELY DIANE - (Davis), Sep p 40
 MAGNOLIA - (Burns/Nadeau), Nov p 32
 MAJESTY - (Blansit), Sep p 40
 MERRY CHRISTMAS - (Volkman), Jan p 33
 MILKY WAY TRAIL - (Stahl), Mar p 40
 NESS' BUSY BEE - (Ness), Nov p 28
 NESS' PEPPERMINT STICK - (Ness), May p 28
 NESS' STARBURST - (Ness), Jul p 32
 NESS' STARBURST - (Ness), Sep p 32
 NESS' VIKING FROST - (Ness), Mar p 32
 OPTIMARA LEONARDO DA VINCI - (Holtkamp), Jan p 32
 ORCHARD'S PURPLE HAZE - (R. Wilson), Jan p 32
 QUIET EXPRESSION - (Elkin), Mar p 33
 RHAPSODIE CLEMENTINE - (Holtkamp), May p 28
 RHAPSODIE ROSALIE - (Holtkamp), May cover
 ROB'S ANTIQUE ROSE - (Robinson), Sep cover
 ROB'S BLUEBERRY PATCHES - (Robinson), Sep cover
 ROB'S SARPARRILLA - (Robinson), Nov p 28
 ROB'S SEDUCTION - (Robinson), May p 29
 ROB'S STICKY WICKET - (Robinson), Sep p 33
 ROB'S SUGAR CUBE - (Robinson), May p 29
 SAINTPAULIA GOETZEANA - Mar p 28
 SAINTPAULIA IONANTHA - Mar p 29
 SAINTPAULIA PUSILLA - Mar p 29
 SINNINGIA CALIFORNIA SUNSET - Jan p 40
 STREPTOCARPUS DIANA - Jan p 40
 STREPTOCARPUS SUSIE - Jan p 40
 SUGAR BEAR BLUES - (Ness), Jul cover

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2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
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FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 3.5" W x 3 1/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00	4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.00	2 oz./\$4.00	4 oz./\$6.50

PETERS FERTILIZER

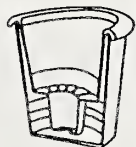
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	12 oz.	\$4.50
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	8 oz.	\$3.50
	Concentrate	8 oz. \$5.00
KNOX-OUT PT1500A - Aerosol spray	16 oz.	\$7.75

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

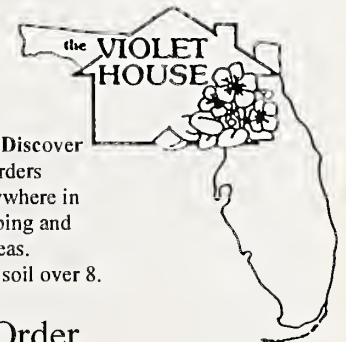


MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.00	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$60.00

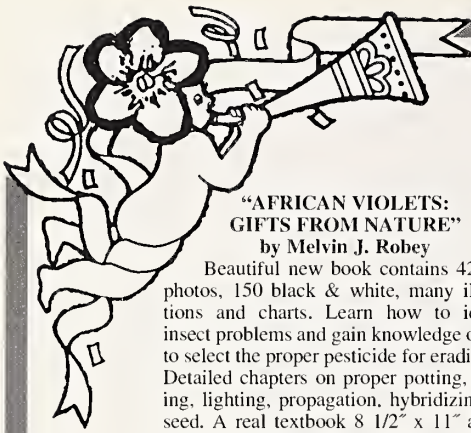
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THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
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Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

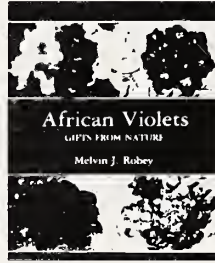


To violet friends both far and near,
 A New Year wish to last all year.
 The warmth of friendship, the spirit of love,
 Bestowing blessings from above.

AFRICAN VIOLET ACCESSORIES SHIPPED PROMPTLY THE YEAR ROUND BY UPS

**"AFRICAN VIOLETS:
 GIFTS FROM NATURE"**
 by Melvin J. Robey

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**Insect and Mite
 Pests of
 African Violets**



**"INSECT & MITE PESTS
 OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"**

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included. \$12.00 with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.

**"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN
 SOUTHERN AFRICA"**
 by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed. Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements. An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success. \$15.95 postpaid



TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

- MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length.....\$65.95 ppd.
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4-TRAY LITE STAND...Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid. 3" wheels included.

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- 4-Tray Lite Stand...Brown finish...\$339.00 ppd.



DANDY POTS - Reservoir Wick Planters available in blue, pink, violet, and white. Made of fade resistant plastics, simple-to-use wick watering system, easy-to-fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning.
Mini Dandy - 2 1/4" pot, 4 oz. transparent reservoir \$3.99 each with any order, specify color desired.
Dandy Pot...4" pot, 16 oz. transparent reservoir \$5.99 each with any order, specify color desired.



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- 12 Quart poly bag.....zone 0-1-2\$11.95 ppd.
 - 12 Quart poly bag.....zone 3-4-5\$12.95 ppd.
 - 12 Quart poly bag.....zone 6-7-8-9.....\$13.95 ppd.
- (First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT



- STYLE CSW-1**
 Height.....4-1/2" overall
 Width.....7" overall
 Pot Size.....For 3" or 4" pots
 Price\$14.95 postpaid
- STYLE CSW-2**
 Height.....3-1/4" overall
 Width.....5-1/2" overall
 Pot Size.....For 2-1/4" or 3" pots
 Price.....\$10.95 postpaid
- STYLE CSW-MINI**
 (for miniatures & semiminiatures)
 Height.....3-1/4" overall
 Width.....4-3/4" overall
 Pot Size.....Minis
 Price.....\$8.95 postpaid
- STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini)**
 NEW - especially for Microminis
 Height.....2-1/4"
 Width.....3-1/2" overall
 Price.....\$6.95 postpaid

2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 9 sparkling colors in lavender, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, lemon yellow, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter, 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay...soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white.



\$14.95 postpaid.

CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POT — 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets\$5.95 with any order.

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- 3 white plastic trays with frame constructed of aluminum, for use on double hung windows. 15" wide, length is adjustable from 13" to 24". WP153 - tray size 15" x 2" x 3" \$17.95 PPD
- WP156 - tray size 15" x 2" x 6" \$22.95 PPD

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle...\$3.49 each ppd.



"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties...\$4.95 each ppd.



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African Violet

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

March • April 1997

Volume 50

Number 2



SMITHSONIAN
MAY 16 1997
LIBRARIES

AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

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AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, 407-631-1106.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, 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. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail offmgr@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, 99 Hancock #254, Tiverton, RI 02878.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: St. Petersburg, FL - June 1-8, 1997. Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

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

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail editor@avsa.org or rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

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

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Oct. 15; Mar. issue - Dec. 15; May issue - Feb. 15; July issue - Apr. 15; Sept. issue - June 15; Nov. issue Aug. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send to Ruth Goeke, 4851 Pieper Rd., Brenham, TX 77833.

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

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

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith, 1449 Paloma Ln., Dunedin, FL 34698 and Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL NUMBER 7 - Now available for \$15.00 each. Describes all varieties to Dec. 31, 1996.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

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

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Richard Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

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

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - \$10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook prior to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is \$4.25.

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Second class postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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African Violet

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

March • April

Volume 50

Number 2

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| How Design Entries Are Judged - Edna Rourke | 5 | Memories With African Violets - Anne Herbatuk | 37 |
| Virginia Is For Violet Lovers | 10 | Permanent Marker | |
| Potting Tips - Catherine Thompson | 13 | On Your Pots? - Elizabeth Frigstad | 37 |
| The "Facts of Light" For AV's - Carla Ryan | 22 | Some Thoughts On Getting | |
| Recycling and African Violets - Evelyn M. Heyl | 23 | From Here To There - Pat Richards | 38 |
| Does Your Club | | Good Ideas From California - Sue Haffner | 39 |
| Need a Transfusion? - Linda Golubski | 24 | Hooked On Gesneriads - Peggy Payne | 40 |
| Browsing the Web - Ellen Beckerman | 26 | Poem: Violet Psalm - Unknown | 46 |
| Repeat of Photos: New Collections of the | | Poem: Thrips Family Robbingsome - Brenda Naroznick | 46 |
| <i>Saintpaulia</i> Species - Dr. Jeff Smith | 28 | Violet Obsession - Kyle Coleman | 46 |
| African Violets and | | Dear Editor - Ernie Ziegler | 47 |
| Pest Control - Kathleen C. Arceneaux, Ph.D. | 29 | Rooting Methods - Iris Keating | 48 |
| A Wicked Situation - Don Geiss | 34 | Why Is My Plant Not Flowering? - Sue Gardner | 49 |
| Isolation - An Ounce of Prevention - Montie Watler | 35 | Getting Ready For Show - Marilee Beam | 50 |
| Color Photo: Optimara Little Crystal | 36 | Growing & Grooming Tips From Australia | 52 |

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| Index of Advertisers | 2 | Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck | 24 |
| Officers and Staff | 2 | Showcase | 32 |
| President's Message - L. T. Ozio | 3 | In Memory | 39 |
| Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey | 4 | "And the Winners Are ..." - Ruth Goeke | 41 |
| For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork | 6 | Registration Report - Iris Keating | 42 |
| Question Box - James Smith | 8 | Guidelines For Advertisers - Diane Richardson | 45 |
| A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht | 11 | AVSA Building Maintenance Fund - Ruth Warren | 51 |
| In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith | 12 | AVSA Membership Application | 51 |
| Thinking Small - Darryl Hoover, | | | |
| guest columnist for Pat Richards | 14 | | |
| Coming Events | 16 | | |
| Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin | 19 | | |
| AVSA's Most Wanted - Barbara Elkin | 19 | | |
| Tally Time - Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren | 20 | | |
| AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons | 24 | | |

CONVENTION

- | | |
|---|----|
| Tax Refund - Linda Golubski | 19 |
| A Postcard From the | |
| TradeWinds - Barbara Matthews | 27 |

COVER

- Spring Peach
Best Miniature
1996 AVSA National Show
Grown & Exhibited by:
Alice Grundy
Hybridized by: **H. Pittman**
Photo Credit: **Daemon Baizan**



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations	55
Alannah's African Violets	62
Allegro Plant Tonic	55
American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society	57
American Orchid Society	53
Attention: All AV Collectors	59
AV Enterprises Press.....	64
AVS of Canada	53

B

Bayou Violets	53
Belisle's Violet House.....	55
Big Thicket Violets.....	64
Bluebird Greenhouses.....	57
Brenda's Bloomin' Babes.....	53

C

Cadillac of Plant Stands	53
Cape Cod Violetry	61
Country Road Violets & Things.....	57
Cryptanthus Society	53

D

Dyna Gro	58
----------------	----

E

Episcias Only	56
Ernest Nursery	57

F

Florals of Fredericks.....	54
----------------------------	----

H

Hattie Baggett's African Violets ...	56
Herbal Gardens Ceramics.....	58
Hobby Greenhouses.....	55

I

Indoor gardening Supplies	57
---------------------------------	----

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents	56
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.....	59

M

Midland Violets.....	55
Mighty Minis	57

N

Neptune's Harvest	53
-------------------------	----

O

Optimara	25
----------------	----

P

Pat's Patch	58
Pat's Pets	58

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets..Inside Back Cover	
Rozell Nursery	54

S

Shirley's House of Violets	58
Sonja's African Violets.....	56
Source Technology-Phyton 27.....	56

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund.....	54
Teas Nursery	54
Tinari Greenhouses.....Back Cover	
Travis' Violets.....	60

V

Verilux	62
Violets by Appointment.....	59
Violets Etc., Inc.	55
Violets From the Starrs	56
Violet House.....	63
Violet Showcase	59
Violets In Vogue	53
Vision Violets	55
Volkman Brothers	64

W

Web Exposures	60
Jim Wildman	56



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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 and Friends,

Whenever "Old Man Winter" pays a visit to my section of the country-located only eighteen miles from the Gulf of Mexico-he usually does a thorough job of convincing us that he's only tempting us with the beautiful sunny days we get in January. As you already know growing African violets indoors in this part of the country requires a good circulation of air as well as "comfortable" temperatures" in which they can thrive. We make an earnest effort to give our plants what they want and when we do they generally respond with good growth and some lovely blossoms. Naturally, this comfortable environment has its cost. But then, what hobby doesn't? To me, a healthy plant with its magnificent blossoms is worth it!

In just a few months our Society will sponsor its fifty-first Convention and Show in St. Petersburg, Florida from June 1 to June 8, 1997. If you haven't sent in your registration and reserved your room we urge you to do so promptly. The convention workers have been real busy planning activities that should please everyone - ten tours are listed and there are ten workshops planned! For sure, every convention goer will find the presentations and tours inviting and hard to resist! ! Get out your January/February issue of the AVM, turn to the purple pages, and see for yourself what is in store for all who attend.

Whenever I think of AVSA national conventions, the first national convention that Yvonne and I attended readily comes to mind. It was in Austin, Texas and we enjoyed every minute we spent there. Two hotels were used for the Convention and those attending. We stayed in one hotel and the show room was in the other. And to this day I know that we must have worn out a new pair of shoes going from one hotel to the other! We were so impressed with the thought of being at a national convention; seeing in person the hybridizers, the officers, and the speakers who captured our attention. Honestly, it was a truly wonderful experience. I just wish that those of you who are considering attending the convention register without delay. You will remember the experience for years to come. Turn to the purple pages of your January/February issue and treat yourself to an unforgettable experience.

Our trip to St. Petersburg sounds wonderful and we are anxiously awaiting our visit to that beautiful city and the AVSA Convention. We hope that you will be there, too!

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
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I had the recent pleasure of speaking with **Alma Wright** of Knoxville, TN. Mrs. Wright is one of the original founders of AVSA, our first Secretary, President from 1949 - 1950, and the first Editor of the African Violet Magazine, a position she held from 1947 to 1963. I enjoyed our conversation very much, discovering that someone else knows the excitement of "having all those empty white pages to fill."

We discussed the job of Editor and how similar our jobs, though separated by many years. Having read all of the back issues of the AVM in preparation for the 50th Anniversary Book project, I have great admiration for Mrs. Wright and the wonderful job she did as Editor.

Mrs. Wright told me that she has nothing but good feelings and memories for AVSA, and wanted to make a contribution. I was pleasantly surprised when she suggested it be used in the production of the AVM. I recently received a substantial donation from Mrs. Wright, and will soon have a scanner for the computer in my office.

Thank you so much, Alma.

I also want to thank **Georgene Albrecht** for all the years she contributed to the AVM. This issue carries Georgene's "A Family Portrait" column for the last time. Although she's very busy with other things now, I know she'll contribute occasionally to this magazine. Thanks, Yankee Clipper, not only for the columns, the painting for the cover of the anniversary book, but for being just a phone call away when I have a question. (I will continue to rely on your expertise.)

On page 36, you'll find a repeat of the color photos that accompanied **Dr. Jeff Smith's** article on the new collections of *Saintpaulia* species. In the January issue, these photos were inverted, causing confusion as to which name in the caption went with which plant. I apologize for this error, not only to Dr. Smith, who is an important contributor to this publication, but to the world of African violets, as well.

Ellen & Bill Beckerman's debut article on utilizing the internet, "Browsing the Web", is on page 26. Please take the time to visit AVSA's own Web Site: <http://avsa.org> and let us know what you think.

I recently heard from **Judi Nuest** of Kouts, IN. She was responding to **Eugene Allerton's** article on

growing African violets in rock wool. (Nov/Dec '96, pg. 26) Judi wanted to make our readers aware that although many folks may have excellent results with rock wool, some, particularly those with allergies and sensitive skin, may have reactions; itching, dermatitis, and respiratory problems.

Down here, in the southeast corner of Texas, we rarely have what many of our neighbors to the north consider a "real winter". The ice storm we experienced in early January was as close to a "real winter" as many of us care to get. Power was out all over this area for several days as ice-laden branches and trees fell, pulling down power lines. As a result, almost all of the beautiful plants we exhibit in the plant stands downstairs either died due to the freezing temperatures, or suffered so terribly that Cindy cut them back to the crowns and repotted them. We now anxiously wait to see if they'll make it. Oddly enough, all of my plants (in the windows of my office upstairs) did just fine. I've spoken with a few violet folks and it seems that my having forgotten to water them for several days before the power went out may have played a part in their survival. I never thought I'd feel so good about being neglectful.

We have a new advertiser and Commercial Member, **Christine Estridge of Violets in Vogue**, from Canada. Her address is: 1428 Cypress Rd., Sidney, BC V8L 5R3, Canada.

You may be making your plans to attend the convention in Florida. I spoke with our Convention Director, **Ann Miller**, and discovered a thing or two about our conventions. I remember hearing in St. Louis, how some of our members found a more inexpensive room rate at a neighboring hotel, close to the convention site. I know we all want to save money these days, but I didn't realize that if our convention attendees fail to fill the reserved room block, AVSA doesn't get a better rate on the meeting rooms or the enormous areas required to stage our Show and Commercial Sales areas. This means that AVSA ends up having to pay more for this space, and since **WE are AVSA**, we all lose. So, please keep this in mind when you make your convention plans. And, don't forget how convenient it is just to run your purchases up to your room, and how much fun it can be when everyone is in the same hotel.

How Design Entries Are Judged

by Edna Rouke – Shelton, CT

Exhibitors often wonder why their entries in the design division receive the awards they were given. The panel of judges look at many aspects before a decision is made as to the award of which an entry is worthy.

There are three categories in the design section: Interpretive Flower Arrangements, Interpretive Plant Arrangements and Container Gardens. This article will deal with the first two categories - Interpretive Flower and Interpretive Plant Arrangements. Both these categories use the same scale of points. They are:

	<u>Points</u>
1. Design	40
2. Interpretation of schedule	15
3. Distinction and originality	15
4. Suitability of materials	10
5. Relation of materials	10
6. Condition of materials	10

The AVSA handbook tells us that in plant arrangements the African violet (s) should be the focal point and in interpretive flower arrangements, the blossoms should be emphasized and readily apparent in the design. When using blossoms, it is much more effective to use all one color rather than many different colors, which would create confusion.

As noted in the AVSA Scale of points for judging interpretive flower and interpretive plant arrangements, forty (40) points has been allotted for design. Design encompasses the following areas in the order of their importance:

Space - Your schedule tells you what space has been allotted. You must stay within these dimensions. Your design must utilize the space well - that is fill the area allotted without being crowded or extending beyond it. In some cases, some of the open area in your design may be considered as a filled space. One of the most common faults found in the filling of the area allotted is that a design is too small for the space. Remember points are deducted for this as well as if an exhibit extends beyond the given space.

Balance - Balance in a design may be either symmetrical, when both sides are equal, or asymmetrical, uneven. Therefore, if symmetrical is your goal it is an equal visual balance. Whereas, if you want an asymmetrical balance, it is an unequal visual balance and stability that has to be achieved. Whatever the case, your design should be stable and well balanced. Points will be deducted if balance and stability are lacking.

Proportion and Scale - Proportion and scale have to do with the materials used and their relation to both the space allowed in which to put them and each other. Color, texture, space, voids, size, etc., have to be considered. If either the container, plant material or any of the previously listed items are not in good scale or proportion, points will be deducted.

Contrast - Interest in a design is created with the use of color, size, form and texture. Throughout the design, there should be unity of the components. Try using interesting materials. For example, using just one leaf or branch of plant material of many different types can be distracting and really doesn't create a contrast, but instead causes confusion. Points will be deducted if there is any disturbing repetition.

Dominance - One part of a design should be dominant and hold the whole design together. It can be either the line, texture,

color - but not the background or a container. If the dominant part of the design is not correct, points will be deducted.

Color - If color has been specified in any way in a show schedule, then it should be considered first. When the exhibitor chooses color (s), it should be chosen to communicate a style, theme or mood. If the choice of color is not good, points will be deducted.

In summary, according to the AVSA handbook, the goal of any design is the use of the elements of design manipulated by the principles of design to create beauty, harmony, expression and order. The elements of design are therefore, color, form, line, pattern, space and texture, while the principles of design are: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale.

Interpretation of schedule - 15 points

Interpretation of a theme is the exhibitor's choice. Interpretation may be literal or suggestive. To me, it is more interesting to be suggestive and use material that will be communicative to the viewer. Components, as always, should be related and contribute to the end result of any interpretation.

Distinction and originality - 15 points

A designer should use imagination as well as skill (skill will come with practice) when choosing materials and their usage when creating an exhibit. Even ordinary material, when used in an unusual or imaginative (creative) way, will be distinctive. The use of mechanics can create originality. An interesting background also adds to the distinction and originality of a design. Make sure to check the schedule to be sure backgrounds are permitted and can be altered or changed. Points will be deducted when a design lacks the use of skill in handling of materials. I can't emphasize enough that practice will give skill to an exhibitor.

Suitability of Materials - 10 points

When constructing a design, the exhibitor chooses the components - plant material, container, base mechanics, background and an accessory, if permitted by the schedule. All of these components should be in compliance with the show schedule, appropriate to each other, and in harmony to the class. Points will be deducted for any unsuitable choices.

The relationship of materials - 10 points

Colors, textures, sizes, etc, should be compatible. It would not be a good idea to use materials that are incompatible. The use of colors, textures, and sizes to create a picture or miniature scene reflects the skill of the designer and if any of these is not suited to each other points should be deducted. However, if a show schedule dictates otherwise, points will not be deducted.

Condition of materials - 10 points

All plant material used in any exhibit should be well conditioned, free of defects and insects. Fresh plant material should be cleaned. It is a good idea to wash all plant material before using it. Containers and accessories, if permitted, should be clean. The mechanics should be hidden and/or well-camouflaged and without the obvious use of covering. All of this makes for a neater overall appearance. Points will be deducted for mechanics that aren't a part of the design, exposed pots or for unpressed background material unless specified in the show schedule. Dirty components, wilted plant material, or spent blooms detract from an exhibit as well as lose points for the exhibitor.



Kent & Joyce Stork
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What's That White Stuff?

We wish we had a dollar for every time we've been asked a question that began with "What's that white stuff...?" That white stuff can be a serious problem or it could be nothing to worry about. It might even be something to be thankful for!

As a result, this column will be an eclectic collection of information. Maybe we should call it everything you need to know about white stuff!

"What's that white stuff on my leaves and blossoms that looks like flour?"

It's probably powdery mildew. This is a very common problem that seems to appear whenever conditions are right for its development.

Mildew is actually a simple plant in the group of plants called fungi. The fungus group all reproduce primarily with spores. The spores drop away from the mother plant in neat circles. The spores mature into an adult fungus which drops more spores into more neat circles. If you've ever noticed mushrooms growing in circles, you'll recognize the pattern. When mildew does this the resulting appearance is like a round puff of powder on the foliage or on the flowers. It starts almost invisibly small, but left untreated grows into larger and larger puffs until the leaf or flower surface is covered.

A fungus has no chlorophyll (the green color in many other plant groups) to aid in the production of food energy for itself. Because of that, it is parasitic, depending on the host upon which it grows to keep it alive. In the case of mildew, the white stuff is using our violet flowers and leaves to support its own growth. Unfortunately, the bigger the colony of mildew, the more likely it is to damage the host or even ultimately to kill it. If we don't kill the mildew, it will damage our violets! This is complicated by the fact

that "powdery mildew" encompasses a family of many different strains that exhibit the same characteristics. Some strains are far more aggressive and much harder to eliminate.

There are several ways to treat for mildew. It is helpful to increase the air movement with fans and to space plants further apart. If possible, lower the level of humidity in the air around the plants. Mildew can almost always start growing if the conditions are right. Moving air and lower humidity tend to be unfavorable for the growth of most types of mildew. Be especially aware of what happens at night. If you are inclined to turn off fans and lower thermostats when you go to sleep, you are inadvertently improving the conditions for mildew growth.

In mild cases powdery mildew can be stopped with an anti-fungal spray such as Lysol, or with sulfur powder. It can also be washed off with a stream of water. If you choose the Lysol and have cats, be aware that some cats react violently and may even die from exposure to its chemical ingredients.

There are several somewhat more expensive fungicides available from advertisers in this magazine that are very effective. Many of the sprays may damage open blossoms, but a few do not. One that seems to be effective without residue on foliage or doing severe damage to blossoms is Phyton 27. To be sure, any flowers with powdery mildew growth should be removed and disposed of far away from the growing area.

"What's that white stuff sticking to my leaves?"

White stuff that sticks to the foliage and has a cotton-like appearance is probably the nest of the foliar mealy bug. These pests wrap their eggs and live young in a waxy fiber or webbing to protect them. The adults are about the

size of a sesame seed and the nests individually are not much larger. Masses of nests can cover the entire surface of a leaf (a truly horrible sight!) In addition, live mealy bugs are coated with a white waxy coating that protects them from dehydrating.

In this case the "white stuff" is one of nature's best protections against humans. Often, by the time you notice the tufts of webbed nests on the foliage, the colonies are well established. The waxy coating resists the application of pesticides and protects nests. Nests and actively moving adults can be removed by dabbing with a cotton swab moistened with rubbing alcohol. Alcohol breaks through the coating and causes the bugs to dehydrate. This is time-consuming and requires persistent daily examination and treatment for several weeks, until at least seven days have gone by with no sightings.

Once you have foliar mealy bugs on your violets, you must treat for them with proper chemicals and with great persistence. But it is much better to prevent their appearance by being vigilant. If you even vaguely suspect that foliar mealy bugs might be on any plant in your house (or if you have brought any new plants in recently), you must watch closely for any sign of the insects. Obviously it is much better to keep any new plants in a separate growing area in case they are harboring a future colony of trouble-makers. Mealy bugs can live from six to eight weeks reproducing regularly. Their eggs can hatch out in seven to ten days but will hold for a longer time in cool temperatures. A wise grower would isolate for at least three months before declaring any plant to be pest-free.

"What's that white hard stuff on my leaf stems?"

Most African violet growers will fortunately go their entire life and never see this symptom of the fungus known as sclerotinia because it is quite rare. Nonetheless, it has been reported sporadically, and is disastrous if left untreated.

Typically, sclerotinia will grow as a white crusty layer on petioles (leaf stems) and peduncles (blossom stems). Once it is established, it is one of the fungus species that cause crown rot in African violets as well as a number of other plants.

Because sclerotinia is a fungus, it requires much the same type of treatment as powdery mildew. The growing area must be altered to discourage fungal growth by spacing plants further apart, increasing air circulation, and moderating temperature fluctuations which allows dangerous levels of humidity as the air cools. There are several fungicides available mostly to greenhouse growers which will control the disease.

(Please notice that we are not specifically recommending any one chemical. These go on and off the

market quickly and may not be available by the time this is in print. Call any of the advertisers in this magazine who sell chemicals to ask their current recommendations for available products. It is necessary to be very specific about what fungus you are fighting. No fungicide, currently available, kills every fungus. You will only be successful if the fungicide targets your specific fungus problem.)

"What's that white stuff on top of my soil?"

We asked this question ourselves recently at our own Omaha African Violet Club and got a terrific answer from one of our members, Dr. Roger Brown, who also grows an extensive cactus collection.

Roger tells us that this is often a beneficial fungus. The white stuff is the hyphae (or small fungus plants) that digest or break down organic particles in the soil into nutrients that African violets, or other house plants, can use. Roger tells us that some cacti will die without hyphae, requiring those growers to add it to the soil. These hyphae grow all through the root ball but are usually only noticeable on top of the soil. Helpful hyphae partner with the potted plant, sometimes using carbons from the plant's roots to promote their own growth.

The presence of this beneficial fungus on top of the soil indicates that you have very good to excellent growing conditions. The fungus will not thrive in poor quality soils or with poor watering methods. Nor will it grow in soils that have been totally sterilized. Complete sterilization kills all life in the soil, including the good bacteria. If you have ever smelled that woody fresh scent of a healthy root system growing in potting soil, you are probably detecting the presence of beneficial fungus.

Can this white stuff be powdery mildew? No. Mildew needs living cells to support it. Powdery mildew will only grow on foliage or flowers.

Can this white stuff be excess salts building up in the soil? Yes. Rub the white stuff between your fingers. If it feels gritty, there is excess salt. If it feels lubricating or greasy, it is the good fungus. If it is salt, you need to leach the soil by pouring clear water into the top of the pot until the water runs out the bottom for several minutes.

"What is the white stuff on the inside of the pot at the soil line and in my water trays?"

That is a build-up of minerals usually from the water. It is the same thing that deposits on glass shower doors and other bathroom fixtures, especially if your source of water is "hard". It can also be a build-up of fertilizer salts.

Usually when this begins to show up it is also an appropriate time to repot. If you choose to reuse the same pot, clean it thoroughly. Wash it. Bleach it to kill

continued on page 47

Question Box



James Smith
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Dunedin, FL 34698-4317

Hello from sunny Florida! What a beautiful place! I am so glad to have selected the Tampa Bay area. Everyone is so friendly and have been a great help in my getting settled. I have joined the Upper Pinellas African Violet Society - what a great bunch! They have made me feel right at home. My first show with this society will be in February and I can't wait! But, I miss my New York State violet friends. All of you will just have to come and visit! During my move, I lost some of my favorites, so care packages would be gratefully accepted. My orchids and gesneriads are living on the front porch and are growing very well (like weeds!). It is wonderful to live in an area where you can grow a vast variety of plants. I am employed by Earl J. Small Growers, Inc., in Pinellas Park. What a beautiful place to work! The greenhouses are HUGE, just imagine opening a door to one and seeing a field of the most beautiful gloxinias that you could ever see. We also specialize in gerbera daises, mums and poinsettias - all spectacular! I am fortunate to finally have a job that I really enjoy. I hope to get involved in the local gesneriad society and a bonsai club - honestly, there is so much to do, and THERE IS NO SNOW!

QUESTION: *I need a blossom booster for my plants. Could I use superphosphate?*

ANSWER: Superphosphate added to the soil promotes the growth of good roots and stimulates better flowering. One tablespoon to one peck of soil is the recommended proportion. It should be added only at the time the soil is mixed. Or, divide this amount with an equal amount of bonemeal using one half tablespoon of each in one peck of soil mix. This latter combination can be more advantageous because superphosphate is immediately available to the roots of the plants while the bonemeal breaks down slowly into a usable nutrient. This provides a constant supply of phosphorous in the soil over a longer period of time.

QUESTION: *How often should violets be repotted?*

ANSWER: Standards should be repotted at least once



Ralph Robinson
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Naples, NY 14512

a year, usually after a show. Miniatures and semiminiatures can be repotted at least twice a year, once after a show and again about six months later. After a show the roots can be cut back more severely (at least one half of the root ball) for minis and semis as they take less time to recover.

QUESTION: *I have purchased some new plants for the spring shows and want to try my hand at the art of disbudding. What is the recommended timetable?*

ANSWER: Many growers seem to use the 6 to 8 weeks before show timetable. Singles seem to bloom six weeks after disbudding and doubles take at least 8 weeks. If the weather warms up and your temperature increases it can have a significant effect on the time it takes the plant to come into full bloom. There are variables that you have to deal with, such as your environment and which part of the country you live in. Many people will disbud to let the growing strength go to the foliage, then follow the 6 to 8 week rule prior to show. Also, many cultivars react differently to the disbudding treatment. The best way to learn of your collection's habits is by trial and error.

QUESTION: *I recently changed the light bulbs in my fixtures and after a week the centers seem to be getting tight. I have noticed that there are 'burn' marks all over the foliage. I can't seem to find the cause of this. What has gone wrong?*

ANSWER: To quote from Pauline Bartholomew's book, 'Growing To Show', "If both tubes are replaced at the same time, the sudden burst of energy will burn sensitive plants." If you replace both tubes, reduce the your timer to eight hours. Better yet, break this time with a two-hour 'rest' period. After a week, you can gradually increase the time back to your normal schedule. Do this in increments of one hour each day.

QUESTION: *After repotting my miniatures, the leaves start to turn brown and blotchy. This is causing much frustration. Do you have any suggestions to help prevent*

the brown spots?

ANSWER: What has happened to your plants is called transplant shock. To minimize this, try choosing a time to transplant when the plants are on the dry side. After repotting, don't water for at least 8 hours. I find that watering too soon will not give the damaged root system enough time to 'heal'. When I repot miniatures, they are severely cut back to three or four leaves and the root system is almost cut away. Some of you may think that this is a radical way to repot, but it works quite well and helps to maintain the small size of miniatures. When the plants are finally watered, use warm water mixed with a weak solution of fish emulsion, combined with Bounty or Sturdy products. I use no other fertilizer on these plants for at least a week. Using the aforementioned method, I have reduced the incidence of spotting.

QUESTION: *What causes yellow or crown variegation to turn brown after repotting? Even after brushing, brown spots appear. Is there anything that I can do to prevent this from happening?*

ANSWER: I wish I knew how to answer this. It seems that yellow or crown variegated varieties are more sensitive to brushing and repotting than any other foliage type. The trick that I learned (from Ralph Robinson) is to make sure that the potting soil is room (warm) temperature before use. Don't touch the foliage when your hands are cold, and NEVER water with cool or cold tap water. Always use a soft cosmetic brush on the foliage (any brush that is SOFT, will work fine). When repotting, try to leave an extra row of leaves (those that you would normally remove), since these will likely turn brown after handling, they can easily be removed later. The browning, or bruising, could be due to the absence of chlorophyll, thus making the upper layer of cells more sensitive to touch. If anyone has a more definitive answer to this phenomenon, please write to me.

QUESTION: *What do you think using products such as Sturdy, fish emulsion, Granny' Bloomers, etc. Do they really add anything to growing more healthy plants?*

ANSWER: Any of these products are wonderful when used as an alternate feeding method to your regular fertilizer program. They provide minerals that may not be available in most conventional fertilizers. If you have used any of these products in an experimental program, please share your results with us. One product that I use is Superthrive. Using one to two drops of this product per gallon of water at each watering, does promote a nice healthy shine to foliage. I alternate the use of several fertilizers. I find that this practice helps promote healthy

plant growth. After all, how would you feel if you ate spaghetti every day? A good variety, as long as you are consistent, is advantageous.

QUESTION: *What method of watering do you find better, mat or saucer? I use the mat method of watering and I am having all kinds of trouble with algae. What can I do to prevent algae growth?*

ANSWER: In New York, I used a combination of both, mats on the bench and saucers under the plants. I used the mats for the purpose of humidity. The method you use depends upon many factors concerning your growing conditions and the size of your collection. Here in Florida, my growing conditions have changed. The humidity is higher in the summer and seems to stay around 50% for most of the winter. Conditions are different here than in New York – much to learn. Because of the humidity, heavy soil is almost never used. A soilless mix with higher perlite content is desirable and necessary. Since the soil is lighter, I have to water more often, or so it seems. A lot of club members use the wick method. If you have low humidity levels of 30% or less, you may want to consider capillary mat watering. If you use this method, it is important to always keep the material on the moist side. If you don't, the plants will dry out and the capillary action will cease. Growing under fluorescent lights, and using the mat system, it is difficult to avoid the growth of algae. I recommend purchasing an algicide from your local garden shop, and follow the label directions. There isn't much you can do about the algae, but the algicide will help. It is a good practice to wash your mats at least every two months in hot water to kill any pests that might be present. I do know of those who mix a weak amount of insecticide into the water/fertilizer mixture used on the plants. Doing this at least once a month will help curtail any communicable diseases or pests that might be present. Using saucers will help eliminate the chance of spreading disease and pests, and that is why I use them.

QUESTION: *Is it true that variegated varieties like it better if they are grown on the lower shelves of plant stands?*

ANSWER: Variegated varieties do grow best if they are placed on the lower shelves. These plants require cooler temperatures to maintain their variegated color. Since heat rises, the upper shelves may be too hot. Variegated colors may not form as well, or not at all, if the growing temperatures are too hot. The other day, I received a letter from Don Thornburg who gave me a tip on how to 'green-up' plantlets which are variegated but turn white due to the absence of chlorophyll. The suggestion came from Ethel

Champion who indicated that she used about one teaspoon of epsom salts to a cup of warm water. After watering the plantlets with this solution for about two weeks, the plants turned green. If they had not produced any chlorophyll, they would have died. Thanks for the tip Don and Ethel.

QUESTION: *I am a novice grower of the beautiful African violet. Is there any way one can speed up the root growth of a leaf?*

ANSWER: There are several methods to rooting a leaf. The best way to start a leaf is to select a young-fresh leaf. You can choose one from the center rings. Actually, any leaf will root, but older leaves seem to take longer. Success depends upon the care and method selected. I find that the water-in-the-jar method is not too dependable. The leaf tends to grow and curl, making planting difficult. Roots that are developed in water are fragile and tender. They often break or rot when planted in the soil. When this happens, the leaf will have to go through the re-rooting process. This adds more time to that already lost. The method I use was

passed down to me by my Canadian friends. I think it is fool proof and I lose very few, if any, leaves. Choose a young leaf and cut it on a 45 degree angle, one inch from the base of the leaf. The cut should be made toward the front of the leaf. The potting mix should consist of one part vermiculite, one part perlite, and one part horticultural charcoal. Moisten the starting mixture thoroughly with room temperature water which contains fertilizer. Fill a 2 1/2 inch pot with this mixture. Plant the leaf close to the edge of the pot. Set the pot into a saucer (or tray) and keep it filled with the same watering solution as used on your other plants. Keep the humidity high, by enclosing your planting in a plastic bag or a transparent container. It is important to provide adequate light during the rooting period, and after the plants begin to appear. Plants should appear in about 1 month (they do for me). There is no easy way to speed up this process; just have patience. When the babies show at least four leaves, they can be separated and transferred to their own small pots.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.



Virginia Is For Violet Lovers

The Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS) will hold its 41st Annual Convention show/sale in Richmond, VA from March 19-22, 1997. All violet lovers are invited to enjoy Virginia's hospitality and see hundreds of beautiful violets on display and for sale. The convention site is the Holiday Inn Select, Koger South Conference Center, 101 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA. The phone number for the hotel is (804) 379-3800.

The theme for the convention is "VIRGINIA IS FOR VIOLET LOVERS" with convention tours scheduled for Richmond, Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello (the home of Thomas Jefferson) and a plantation cruise down the James River aboard the Annabel Lee.

Between tours convention attendees will enjoy presentations by: Marie Burns, a DAVS member and

hybridizer, who will speak on "How To Grow Large Show Plants", Dr. Larry Skog, from the Smithsonian Institute, on newly discovered gesneriads from China, Bob Loomis, a graduate instructor of the Sogetsu Teacher's Association of Ikebana, on the art of Japanese flower arranging, and Mr. Don Hagg, electrical engineer, on changes to federal laws affecting fluorescent lighting and how to save money on electrical bills.

From the first night welcome dinner when Thomas Jefferson's 5th Great-Grandson will welcome convention attendees, until the close on Saturday's awards banquet, DAVS has a packed schedule. Come join us in Virginia, after all, "VIRGINIA IS FOR VIOLET LOVERS!" Info Contact: Cathy Akers, (540) 786-9587.

A Family Portrait



Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Sunset'

The featured gesneriad is one of Ralph Robinson's beauties. This handsome variety was the best *Streptocarpus* at the New York State Convention and it just happened to come to my house to live afterward. Two months later it is still covered with vibrant pink blooms having yellow throats with burgundy stripes. Absolutely charming. Many flowers are presented on each strong petiole at just the right length above the light green foliage. Old stubs of petioles are visible proving that each leaf produces at least four inflorescence stems.

Rob gave a great presentation on Streps; here are a few remarks from my notes. If you have tried Streps and failed, try some of the newer varieties. They are easier to grow and produce more bloom. Some are able to tolerate heat much better even though the species could not.

A soilless mix is absolutely necessary, Pro Mix is fine. He repots plantlets from the mother leaf into Solo cups which are placed in trays lined with blanket material. When the first bloom appears, it is transferred to a three-inch pot. About 2 1/2 months later it is ready for a 5 inch pot. They are usually in the three inch pot for three to six months. Rob repots every 6 inch pot every 6 months. Some foliage can be trained to grow like spokes of a wheel, similar to violet growth.

Trim leaf edges if they brown. When you get 7 to 8 leaves, remove some old ones. He does not disbud for show. For propagating he adds two parts vermiculite to his mix. Propagate newer leaf sections. The more veins that touch the soil, the more plantlets you will have. You can put a leaf down as you would a violet leaf, but you will not



get many babies. Rob is looking for Streps that grow like the "Optimara equivalent" in the violet world ... that is, easy, husky, horizontal foliage with short, stiff, slightly elevated bloomstalks producing many flowers. He likes to grow more compact plants. His *S.* 'Blue Lemon' is very compact and he is working on more.

Placing propagating leaves at the end of lights will produce less babies. More light, more babies. Rob does not use bottom warmth. He places seeds under lights one week after planting. They need light. His basic growing mix is 1/2 Part Pro Mix, 1/2 vermiculite with two cups horticultural charcoal for every five gallons. Fertilizing is necessary right from the start, even with leaf cuttings, and Peters is fine. Rob's lights are on 13 hours a day and a five inch pot is placed about 18 inches from the light.

Thanks, Rob, for hybridizing these wonderful plants.

TIME FOR CHANGE

Going back to basics has been wonderful for me and my office as President of my Pittsburgh Violet Society. We are growing and loving it all. I have been doing a column since 1980, that's seventeen years. My life has changed and my priorities must change. This is my last column for the AVM. I have enjoyed the friendship of so many wonderful growers over the years. I thank all of you for sharing your love of this beautiful plant family.

Bless you.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

Have you ever wanted to cross two violets together, but couldn't seem to get the plants to flower at the same time? In these cases, harvesting and storing the pollen can be a solution.

Harvest the anthers or pollen sacs from newly open flowers of the plant that is to serve as the pollen parent. The anthers should be dry, not mushy, and should be large and firm. If you break one open, the pollen should be visible as a dry yellowish powder. Place the intact anthers into a small sealable container such as a 35 mm film can. Add a small packet of silica gel to keep the moisture content inside the container low. A label should be attached to the outside of the container giving the name of the pollen parent and the date the pollen was harvested.

If the containers are stored in a refrigerator and kept dry, the pollen in the anthers will usually keep for up to two years. If the anthers are placed in a small envelope with a silica gel packet, pollen can easily be mailed and shared with others. In this way, hybridizers can share their genetic material without having to grow each and every plant.

Q: Is it possible to breed a violet in white with dark fantasy spots?

A: This color combination is going to be very difficult to achieve. The reason is that a true white flower does not have the ability to make any pigment, including the fantasy spots. The closest that can be achieved is to dilute the background color to near white, allowing the fantasy spots to still be made. Unfortunately, the dilution factor (a genetic dominant) will also dilute the color of the fantasy spots. The choice is to obtain a near

white flower with pale colored fantasy spots or a pale pink flower with darker fantasy spots.

Q: Can African violets be crossed with Petrocosmea, which looks very similar to the Saintpaulia species plants.

A: The chromosome number of African violets is 30 while that of Petrocosmea is 34. This difference will likely keep the two from producing offspring, although sometimes members of the Gesneriad family will still cross even if the chromosome numbers don't match. Dale Martens, however, reports that she tried making crosses between these plants for over a year without any success. It would appear that traditional breeding methods won't work for crossing these two genera.

Q: What is the difference between coral pinks and pinks that have a blue haze?

A: True coral color is the result of pink flowers that also have the recessive coral factor. This color will "glow" with a reddish cast under gro-lux lights or in bright sunlight. Pinks with a blue haze are pink flowers that lack the coral factor, but have a "bluing" factor expressed. The bluing factor gives darker shades to the blooms and is especially pronounced in dark pink flowers. The visible color of blue haze flowers can appear similar to corals, but this color does not "glow" under gro-lux lights or bright sunlight.

The inheritance of these two flower colors is also different. The coral factor is a genetic recessive and can

only be inherited if both parents carry the trait. The bluing factor is a genetic dominant and can be inherited from a single parent.

Q: If two plants are siblings from the same cross, will they be more likely to be fertile when crossed together than two plants that are not directly related?

A: I would not expect that siblings would have higher fertility. In nature, most species are actually less fertile when crossed to a close genetic relative because of the reinforcement of lethal recessive genes. Inbreeding will concentrate and conserve desired genetic traits, but it is not usually a way to increase fertility.

Q: The seed pods that resulted from a genetic cross are long and skinny instead of round and fat. Will these seed pods contain seeds that will germinate?

A: Yes, these seed pods should contain viable seed. The shape of the seed pod or fruit is controlled by the genetics of the seed parent and reflects the ancestry of the plant. Several of the species plants, such as

Saintpaulia nitida or *S. orbicularis* have seed pods that are long and skinny. Your seed parent plant is likely expressing the seed pod shape of one of the species in its genetic background. Seed pods that are long and skinny may contain fewer seeds than those that are fat and round, but the percentage of mature seed will often be higher. Mature seed should have a shiny black appearance while immature seed will be brownish and dull in appearance.

Q: Will spraying plants regularly with AVID or PT1300 have any effect on hybridization?

A: I have not seen any studies on the effect of regular pesticide use on hybridization, however, I would not expect the chemicals to change the ability of the plants to flower and set seed. If used correctly, I would also not expect the chemicals to cause mutations in the offspring. There would be a benefit in that the plants should be pest free, allowing the hybridizer to grow the plants without fear of losing the plants while the seeds mature.

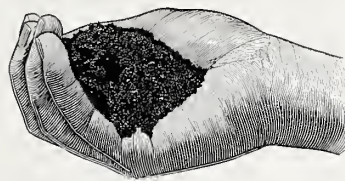
Potting Tips

by Catherine Thompson
Cedar Falls, IA

Never set the crown of the African violet below the soil surface. The crown should be even with the pot top. It is easy to put plants too deep in the pot, especially the little ones. Let the petioles be even with the pot top and the crown will be properly placed.

Use moist soil for potting. It is much easier to use than dry soil and is not so messy. You don't get the dry mess on your leaves and the moist soil can be flicked off easily. The moist soil makes positioning and centering the plant easier and the plants hold an upright position with the crown at the top of the pot.

The roots get instant moisture and seem to show less stress. I learned from a plant physiology professor that roots begin dying within 60 seconds of exposure to air. Keep the roots moist and the plants will "sulk" less. It takes about a month between changes of any kind for the plant to adjust completely, but some things you can do, like



keeping the roots moist, will reduce the amount of stress and adjustment the plant must make.

Fill a one gallon bucket with dry soil and add water slowly, mixing until the soil is uniformly MOIST (not WET). One word of caution, don't pack the soil too tightly. The roots need air space in the soil.

If you notice a plant with a bad crown it could be too wet. Remove the plant from any automatic water supply such as matting or wicking, and water by hand for a couple of weeks. Mark the plant with a colored toothpick or put it in a separate "hand water only" tray. It is easy to lose it on a large tray and let it get too dry, which may cause additional stress.

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Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004

This month we have a special guest columnist to continue the analysis of growing small ones for show. His name is **Darryl Hoover**, a grower known throughout Texas and California for growing absolutely amazing show plants. Darryl also hybridizes and has a very interesting criterion for deciding which of his show plants to introduce: It

must have won Best In Show! With standards such as this, I think you'll understand why we can learn so much from Darryl. I'll be back in May with a discussion on the propagation of the small ones. In the meantime, please send me a list of your favorite 25 small ones to be included in the September convention review.

Culture: What do we really need to know about culture in order to grow healthy little ones? First, understand that *culture* and *growing conditions* are not one and the same. *Culture* refers to the care you provide for your plants, whereas *growing conditions* refer to the environment in which they are grown. Having said that, it is important to understand that your *growing conditions*, more than any other factor, should dictate your *culture*.

Despite what you may have heard, living in Southern California isn't all bad. Especially if you are an African violet enthusiast. The temperature in my home, during non-summer months, averages about 72 degrees during the day and about 65 degrees at night. The humidity in my home, measured in rooms not housing plant stands, ranges between 40-60 percent. Based on these *Growing Conditions* I follow these culture practices:

Watering Method: The humidity level in my home falls well within acceptable level for growing African violets, therefore, I need to avoid a watering method that substantially increases the humidity. Why? Because high humidity encourages fungal diseases such as Powdery Mildew and Botrytis Blight. High humidity can also cause condensation to build up on the crowns of your plants which may lead to marred or spotted foliage when the condensation evaporates. Another factor which will dictate the watering method you choose in how much time you can devote to watering. Because I grow hundreds of plants and work full-time I need some type of self-watering system that provides consistent moisture. At first I wicked all my plants atop common reservoirs. However, the water

evaporating from the open reservoirs caused a substantial increase in the humidity which created the problems I just mentioned. My solution was to alternate my watering method. Each of the shelves on my plant stands accommodate four 11" x 22" Perma-Nest Trays. The end trays, where my seedlings and starter plants are grown, are wicked atop common reservoirs. The two middle trays, where my show plants are grown, are wicked atop individual reservoirs (such as margarine tubs which inhibit evaporation). Manipulating my watering method in this manner allows me to keep the humidity (and the problems associated with high humidity) in check.

Pots: I use four different size pots for my little ones. These includes 2", 2 1/8", 2 1/4" and 2 ounce plastic Solo cups (which begs the question, "Can a cup be a pot?" But that's another story). The one thing I've learned about selecting the appropriate pot for the type (e.g., mini, semi) of little one is this: "one size **does not** fit all". For example, I tried unsuccessfully for years to grow Petite Jewel in a 2" and 2 1/8" pot. In frustration, I potted it up into a 2 1/4" pot and was amazed how well it responded to the larger pot. Equally impressive, and a tribute to its creator Hortense Pittman, is that it has never grown beyond the six inch limit imposed on miniatures while being grown in a 2 1/4" pot.

Fertilizing: Perhaps the easier culture practice to master is fertilizing. When it comes right down to it, I haven't seen one fertilizer outshine another. They all generally contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium as well as other macronutrients and micronutrients. They do differ slightly

in that some derive certain macronutrients from different sources (e.g., nitrogen can be derived from urea, ammoniacal or nitrate). It's debatable whether these slight differences produce noticeable differences in the overall health of your little ones. I believe the important things to remember when selecting a fertilizer is to ensure that it is well balanced (e.g., 20-20-20, 15-30-15 or 12-36-14) and applied in small dosages in a constant feed program. If I had to choose one fertilizer, I would choose one which did not derive the majority of its nitrogen from urea. Why? If you saw my lawn after I overfeed it with urea you wouldn't use it either.

Foliar Feeding: To foliar feed or not to foliar feed, that is the question. I'm a believer in the benefits foliar feeding provides. African violets are capable of absorbing up to 90 percent of the nutrients received through its foliage, as opposed to approximately 10 percent through its root system. Because the foliage is capable of absorbing high quantities of nutrients, it's important not to go overboard when foliar feeding. I foliar feed every other week with fish emulsion used at a rate of 1/8 tsp. to a quart of water. I prefer using fish emulsion for two reasons: 1.) Fish emulsion is void of dyes and 2.) The smell keeps club members from visiting too long. Two fears many growers have about foliar feedings is: 1.) Their variegated varieties will green up and 2.) foliar feeding will spot the foliage. I have never seen foliar feeding green up a variegated variety with good variegation (e.g., Precious Pink, Dean's Sonata). However, if you're growing crown variegated varieties or varieties with marginal variegation you may want to avoid foliar feeding as it may cause these types of variegates to green up. If you're concerned that foliar feeding may spot your foliage and ruin your otherwise perfect plant, simply spray underneath the foliage. I assure you, neither visitors to your home nor judges will look under the leaves.

Soiless Mixes: Soiless mixes generally have three major components: Peat moss, vermiculite and perlite as well as minor components such as dolomite lime (to adjust the pH of the acidic peat moss), horticultural grade charcoal (to keep the mix from souring) and superphosphates (for an added boost of phosphorus). Given all the variables involved in growing healthy African violets, can one soiless mix be created that will perform under every growing condition? Personally, I don't think so. When a

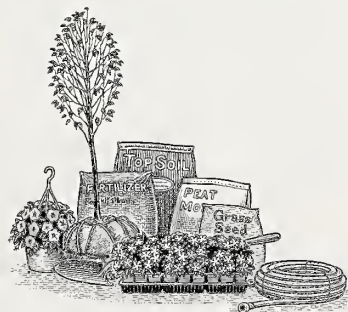
grower proclaims he's found the perfect soiless mix, what he's really telling you is that he's found a mix that suits his *culture practices* and *growing conditions*. When searching for the perfect mix your first consideration should be, does the mix have the proper pH (Puissance de hydrogen). Why? If the pH level in your mix is not within the accepted norm (6.4 to 7.2), your plants will soon become incapable of absorbing any of the nutrients supplied to the roots (a phenomenon known as "locking out"). Once a plant becomes incapable of absorbing nutrients, it loses its vigor and you lose your sanity.

The Perlite Controversy: The decision to add or not to add a layer of perlite to the bottom of your pots should be based on your plant's preferences, not mine or Pat's. Pat has tremendous success, as do other growers, not adding a layer of perlite to the bottom of their pots. I, on the other hand, as well as other growers, have success adding a layer of perlite to the bottom of our pots. It all comes down to how the layer of perlite reacts to your *growing conditions* and *culture practices*.

Minor Adjustments: If you really have your heart set on growing healthy little ones, you must be willing to adjust your *culture practices* to fit your *growing conditions*. Something as simple as removing one strand from your wicking material can be the difference between a so-so plant and one that you're really proud of. Adding perlite to the bottom of your pots, or for that matter, not adding perlite to the bottom of your pots may be the deciding factor. Adding a few extra holes in the bottom or sides of your pots may do it. Reducing or increasing the number of plants you grow on common or individual reservoirs may take you to the next growing level. Never be afraid to try something new. Of course, don't experiment on your entire collection. Rather, make Guinea Pigs out of those you're not terribly fond of to begin with.

Final Thoughts: Few growers achieve immediate success. It takes time to learn the needs of your plants and how, under **your** growing conditions, is the best way to fulfill those needs. I've been growing violets since I was fourteen, and today, at the ripe old age of thirty-two still discover ways to grow better violets under my growing conditions.

Darryl Hoover



Coming Events



March 7 - 2pm - 7pm
 March 8 - 9am - 5pm
 Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

March 7 - 9 - FLORIDA
 Violet Patch of South Florida
 15th Annual Judged Show
 Coral Ridge Mall,
 3200 N. Federal Highway, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 Info: Allan & Janis Mink (954) 587 - 0392

March 8 & 9 - LOUISIANA
 Atchafalaya AVS Show/Sale
 Morgan City Municipal Auditorium,
 Myrtle Street
 March 8 - 2pm - 5pm
 March 9 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Donnie Clement (504) 384 - 6852

March 8 - FLORIDA
 Fantasy AVC Show /Sale
 Spring Hill Regional Hospital
 Enrichment Center,
 1244 Mariner Blvd., Spring Hill, FL
 9am - 7pm
 Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799 - 0973

March 8 & 9 - CALIFORNIA
 South Coast AVS of
 Redondo Beach, CA Show/Sale
 South Coast Botanic Garden,
 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
 March 8 - 11am - 5pm
 March 9 - 9:30 - 4pm
 Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

March 13 - 15 - TEXAS
 1st AVS of Dallas Show/Sale
 Richardson Square Mall, Beltline & Plano Rd.
 Richardson, TX
 Sale: All days - 10am - 9pm
 Show: March 14 - 1pm - 9pm
 March 15 - 10am - 9pm
 Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0589

March 15 & 16 - LOUISIANA
 Jefferson AVA Annual Show/Sale
 Lakeside Shopping Center,
 Veterans & Causeway Blvd.,
 Metairie, LA
 March 15 - 2pm - 9pm
 March 16 - noon - 6pm
 Info: Audrey Voorhees (504) 282 - 6492

March 15 & 16 - CALIFORNIA
 San Joaquin AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Sherwood Mall, 5308 Pacific Ave.,
 Stockton, CA
 March 15 - 10am - 6:30pm
 March 16 - 11am - 5pm
 Info: (209) 524 - 2169

March 15 & 16 - NEW YORK
 Sweet Water AVS Show/Sale
 West Sayville Fire Dept., Montauk Hwy.
 March 15 - 2pm - 5pm
 March 16 - noon - 5pm
 Info: 473 - 8726

March 15 - TEXAS
 Moonlight AVS Non-judged AV Exhibit/Sale
 Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center,
 University Dr., Ft. Worth, TX
 Hours: 9am - noon
 Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 15 & 16 - TEXAS
 Moonlight AVS Annual Judged Show
 Ft. Worth Botanical Garden Center,
 University Dr.
 Fort Worth, TX

March 15 & 16 - 1pm - 4pm
 Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 15 & 16 - TEXAS
 1st Austin AVS Show/Sale
 Austin Area Garden Center,
 Zilker Botanical Gardens
 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX
 Both Days: 10am - 4:30pm
 Info: Susan Storey (512) 353 - 2858

March 19 - 22 - VIRGINIA
 Dixie AVS Show/Sale
 Holiday Inn Koger Center
 (Midlothian Turnpike)
 Richmond, VA
 Info: Cathy Akers (504) 786 - 9587

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS
 First AVS Show/Sale
 North Star Mall, San Antonio, TX
 Both Days: 10am - 6pm
 Info: J. Blount (210) 824 - 2921

March 21 - 23 - IOWA
 Quad Cities AVS Show/Sale
 Duck Creek Mall, Bettendorf, IA
 Info: Celia Schofer (319) 359 - 0231

March 21-23 - MINNESOTA
 Lakes Area Violet Growers Spring Show/Sale
 Har Mar Mall, Co. Rd. B & N. Snelling Ave.
 Roseville, MN
 March 21 - 10am - 9pm
 March 22 - 10am - 6pm
 March 23 - 11am - 5pm
 Info: Jude Newmann (612) 433 - 2708

March 22 - MICHIGAN
 Border Cities AVC 45th AV Display/Sale
 St. James Church, 241 Pearson St.
 Ferndale, MI
 Hours: 10am - 5pm
 Info: Ellen (313) 278 - 5030

March 22 & 23 - NEW YORK
 Capitol District AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Knights of Columbus Hall,
 Ontario St., Albany, NY
 March 22 - 1pm - 6pm
 March 23 - 11am - 5pm
 Info: Esther Mason (518) 482 - 7851

March 22 & 23 - NEW YORK
 AVS of Western NY Annual
 AVSA Judged Show/Sale
 Galleria Mall, Buffalo, NY
 March 22 - 10am - 9pm,
 March 23 - 11am - 5pm
 Info: Fred Packer (716) 833 - 4504

March 22 - DELAWARE
 Delaware AVS AV Show
 Boscov's Auditorium,
 Concord Mall, Rt. 202, Wilmington, DE
 Hours: 1pm - 6pm
 Info: Carol Cattlett (302) 475 - 5349

March 22 & 23 - ILLINOIS
 Northern IL Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
 Chicago Botanical Garden,
 Lake-Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL
 March 22 - 12noon - 4pm
 March 23 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Nancy Maybloom
 (847) 882 - 4652, email: hsmay@aol.com

March 22 & 23 - CALIFORNIA
 San Mateo Co. AVS Show/Sale
 Good Nite Inn, 485 Veterans Blvd.,
 Redwood City
 Exit 101 at Whipple Ave. to Veterans Blvd

March 1 & 2 - LOUISIANA
 Baton Rouge AVS 28th Annual Show/Sale
 Baton Rouge Garden Center,
 7950 Independence Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA
 March 1 - 2pm - 5pm
 March 2 - 11am - 5pm
 Info: Sallie Barlow (504) 665-7958

March 1 & 2 - OKLAHOMA
 AVS of Greater Tulsa 21st Annual Show/Sale
 Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 South Peoria
 March 1 - Sale: 11am - 5pm,
 Show: noon - 5pm
 March 2 - Show & Sale noon - 5pm
 Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

March 1 & 2 - ALABAMA
 Capital City AVS Show/Sale
 Southern Homes and Gardens,
 Hwy. 231 N. (Wetumpka Hwy)
 Montgomery, AL
 March 1 - 2pm - 5pm
 March 2 - 1pm - 4pm
 Info: Barbara Strock (334) 567 - 6811
 Doris Till (334) 264 - 6509

March 5 - 9 - OHIO
 Floralscape '97
 Cleveland Convention Center,
 500 Lakeside Ave
 Cleveland, OH
 Info: (216) 721 - 1695,
 Fax (216) 721 - 1694

March 7 & 8 - FLORIDA
 Gulf AVC Show/Sale
 Ft. Myers/Lec County Garden Council Bldg.
 2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
 Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542 - 9195

March 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA
 Top Choice AVS
 25th Annual Spring Show/Sale
 Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave,
 Shreveport, LA

March 22 - 2pm - 5pm
March 23 - 9:30am - 3pm
Info: (415) 368 - 9020

March 28 - TEXAS

Four Seasons AVC Good Friday Sale
First Bank & Trust,
4000 Twin City Hwy., Groves, TX
Bank Hours
Info: Helen Davis 736 - 2409
Sandra McDaniel 982 - 9940

March 28 & 29 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Easter Sale
Tarrytown Mall, Bus. 64 & 301
Rocky Mount, NC
Both Days: 10am - 8pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

March 28 & 29 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Spring Show/Sale
Memphis Botanical Garden,
750 Cherry Rd., Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Margaret Hope (901) 744 - 0726

March 28 & 29 - FLORIDA

Heart of Jacksonville AVS 3rd Annual Show
Avenues Mall, 10300 Southside Blvd.,
Jacksonville, FL
Both Days: Mall Hours
Info: Bobbi Johanssen (904) 221 - 0629
Trish Kania (904) 641 - 1539

March 29 & 30 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Spring Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens,
1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
March 29 - 10am - 4:30pm
March 30 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

April 3 - 5 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS of Dallas Annual Show/Sale
Garden Ridge Mall,
1717 Spring Creek Parkway & Ave. K,
Plano, TX
Sale: April 3 & 4: 10am - 9pm,
April 5: 10am - 6pm
Show: April 4: 1pm - 9pm,
April 5: 10am - 6pm
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

April 4 & 5 - TEXAS

1st AVS of Denton, TX Show/Sale
Erwin Hall, 1st Presbyterian Church
1114 W. University Dr., Denton, TX
April 4 - 1:30pm - 5pm
April 5 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (817) 430 - 8147

April 4 - 6 - MINNESOTA

Minnesota AVS Spring Show/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave. & Hwy. 694
Maplewood, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Palma Trapp 780 - 7317

April 4 & 5 - ALABAMA

Early Bird AVC of Birmingham, AL Show/Sale
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
April 4 - 2pm - 4pm
April 5 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Ramona Hodges (205) 833 - 1309

April 4 & 5 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Annual Show/Sale
East Park Plaza mall, 66 & "O" Streets
April 4 - 10am - 9pm
April 5 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Ann Sweeney (402) 476 - 1316

April 5 & 6 - INDIANA

Indiana State AVS Show/Sale
Holiday Inn SE,
Rt. 1465 South @ Emerson Beech Grove Exit
April 5: Sale: 9am - 12:30pm, 2pm - 6pm
Show: 3pm - 7pm
April 6: Show & Sale: 11am - 4pm
Info: Chris Poore (317) 898 - 1608

April 5 & 6 - NEW YORK

Long Island AVS 43rd Annual Show
Rockville Centre Recreation and
Community Center
111 N. Oceanside Rd., Rockville Centre, NY
April 5 - 2pm - 5pm
April 6 - noon - 5pm

April 5 - CONNECTICUT

Windsor AVS Judged Show/Sale
Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St.,
Windsor, CT
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Info: Vivian Hiltz (860) 828 - 7979

April 5 & 6 - OHIO

Columbus AVS Show
Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Garden
1777 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH
April 5 - noon - 5pm
April 6 - 10am - 5pm

April 5 & 6 - ARKANSAS

Green Thumb AVS Show/Sale
Northwest Arkansas Mall, Fayetteville, AR
April 5 - 1pm - 9pm
April 6 - noon - 4pm
Info: Mary Hill (918) 437 - 3343

April 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA

Capital City AVS Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento
April 5 - 2pm
April 6 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Barbara Elkin (916) 878 - 0505

April 5 & 6 - LOUISIANA

Sundowners AVS Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center,
7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA
April 5 - 2pm - 6pm
April 6 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Mary McFarland (504) 923 - 3337

April 5 & 6 - TEXAS

Cen-Tex Rainbow AVC Annual
AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Conder Park Special Olympics Bldg.,
902 Conder St., Killeen, TX
April 5 - 3pm - 6pm
April 6 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Sneed (817) 542 - 1352

April 10 & 11 - IOWA

Evening AVC of Des Moines Show/Sale
Des Moines Botanical Center
April 10 - 10am - 5pm
April 11 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Kathy Mathews (515) 674 - 4025

April 11 & 12 - NEW JERSEY

AVS of North Jersey 29th Annual Show
St. John's Lutheran Church,
810 Broad St., Clifton, NJ
April 11 - 3:30pm - 8pm
April 12 - 9:30am - 3pm

April 11 - 13 - ILLINOIS

Illinois AVS Convention Show/Sale
Ramada Woodfield, Palatine,
Rt. 53 & NW Hwy.

Hosted by Glenview/North Shore AVS
April 12 - 1:30pm - 5:30pm
April 13 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Goodsell (847) 729 - 1690
Tom Moore (847) 251 - 3857

April 12 & 13 - ALABAMA

Montgomery AVS 25th Annual Show/Sale
Southern Homes & Gardens,
3561 Hwy 231, Montgomery, AL
April 12 - 1pm - 5pm
April 13 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Info: Peg Phythyon (334) 567 - 5433
Marty Davis (334) 365 - 8858

April 12 & 13 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester Show/Sale
Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.
Rochester, NY
April 12 - 2pm - 6pm
April 13 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Iris Wagman (716) 381 - 6384

April 12 & 13 - WASHINGTON

Seattle AVS 44th Annual Show/Sale
U. of Washington's Center for
Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA
April 12 - noon - 5pm
April 13 - noon - 4pm
Info: Cris Pigg (206) 775 - 1545

April 12 & 13 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC 29th Annual Show/Sale
Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas NE
April 12 - 2pm - 6pm
April 13 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026

April 18 & 19 - NEW JERSEY

Union Co. Chapter's 43rd
AVSA Standard Show/Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church,
559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ
April 18 - 6pm - 9pm
April 19 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jean Peters (908) 276 - 3221

April 18 - 20 - MISSOURI

Unpredictables AVS 14th Annual Show/Sale
Independence Center Mall,
170 & Hwy. 291, Independence, MO
April 18 & 19 - 9am - 9pm
April 20 - noon - 5pm
Info: Deanna Loeffler (816) 353 - 1969

April 18 & 19 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS Annual Show/Sale
Church of the Brethren,
2175 Bonita Ave., LaVerne, CA
April 18 - 1pm - 6pm
April 19 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Nancy DiPaola (818) 919 - 2594

April 18 - 20 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Show/Sale
Northtown Mall,
Hwy 10 & University Ave. NE, Blaine, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Barb Werness (612) 754 - 3918
Ruth McAlindon (612) 522 - 8332

April 19 & 20 - CANADA

La Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal
AVS Show/Sale
Chalet du Parc Maisonneuve,
4601, Sherbrooke Est, Montréal
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: (514) 990 - 5701

April 19 - MISSOURI
Heart of Missouri AV Show
Senior Center of Columbia, MO

April 19 & 20 - NEW YORK
Copper City AVS Annual Show/Sale
Rome Community Art Center,
308 W. Bloomfield St., Rome, NY
April 19 - 2pm - 6pm
April 20 - noon - 5pm
Info: Robin Yager (315) 337 - 9904

April 19 & 20 - NEW YORK
The Saintpaulia Society of
Long Island Annual Show/Sale
St. Mary of the Isle Parish Hall,
Park Ave. & Monroe Blvd.,
Long Beach, NY
April 19 - 3pm - 7pm
April 20 - 8am - 3pm
Info: Edward Bradford (718) 847 - 9854

April 19 - 20 - PENNSYLVANIA
AVS of Springfield, Delaware Co., PA
Participating this year in the
Peddler's Village Flower & Garden Festival,
Rts. 202 & 263, Lahaska, (Buck's Co.) PA
April 19 - 10am - 7pm
April 20 - 10am - 5:30pm
Info: Judi Criswell (610) 449 - 9041

April 24 - 26 - CANADA
Stamper City AVS Annual Show/Sale
Northland Village Shoppes,
5111 Northland Dr. NW,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mall Hours
Info: Gabriela Liberty (403) 293 - 0026
Joan Pearce (403) 246 - 4164

April 25 & 26 - NEW YORK
New York City AVS 30th Annual Show/Sale
Horticultural Society of NY,
128 W. 58th St., NY, NY
Info: (212) 757 - 0915
email Stpaulia@aol.com

April 26 & 27 - WISCONSIN
Late Bloomers AVC Judged Show/Sale
Janesville Mall, Janesville, WI
April 26 - 10am - 9pm
April 27 - noon - 6pm
Info: Carole Zimmerman (608) 325 - 2550

April 26 & 27 - CALIFORNIA
Ventura Co. AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventura Mall,
Mills Rd. & Main St, Ventura, CA
Sale: April 26 - 10am - 6pm,
April 27 - 11am - 6pm
Show: April 26 - noon - 6pm,
April 27 - 11am - 6pm
Info: (805) 983 - 3522

April 26 & 27 - ILLINOIS
AVS of Northern IL Annual Show/Sale
Friendship Park Conservatory,
395 Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL
April 26 - 9am - 3:30pm
April 27 - 11am - 3:30pm
Info: (708) 457 - 0661

April 26 & 27 - PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania AVS of Lower Bucks Co.,
Levittown, PA
22nd Annual Show/Sale
Silver Lake Nature Ctr.,
1306 Bath Rd., Bristol, PA
Info: (215) 946 - 3698

April 26 & 27 - VIRGINIA
7th Annual Leesburg,
Virginia Flower & Garden Festival
Historic Downtown Leesburg, VA
Info: (703) 777 - 1262

April 27 & 28 - WISCONSIN
Oshkosh AVS 17th Annual
AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Park Plaza Mall, downtown Oshkosh
April 27 - 10am - 5pm
April 28 - noon - 4:30pm
Info: Cathy Heider (414) 685 - 5262

April 26 & 27 - CONNECTICUT
Naugatonic AVS Annual Spring Judged Show
Boothe Memorial Park Hall,
Main St. (Putney), Stratford, CT,
Exit 535 from Merritt Pkwy.
April 26 - 1pm - 4pm
April 27 - 10am - 4pm

May 1 - 3 - CANADA
AVS of Canada 30th Annual
Convention & Show
Toronto, Canada
Info: Betty Tapping (416) 621 - 1549
Donis Brownlie (905) 270 - 6776

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK
Hudson Highland AVS Annual Display/Sale
Union Presbyterian Church,
44 Balmville Rd., Newburgh, NY
May 3 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Mary Louise Miller (914) 831 - 7786

May 3 & 4 - MISSOURI
Sho-Me AVC Annual Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Ctr.,
5200 Pennsylvania Ave.
Kansas City, MO
May 3 - 9am - 3pm
May 4 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Sandy Burns (816) 761 - 7189

May 3 & 4 - MISSOURI
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council's
42nd Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden,
4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Ardath Miller (314) 394 - 9190

May 3 & 4 - CONNECTICUT
Silvermine AVS 24th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities,
10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 3 - 1:30 - 5pm
May 4 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570

May 3 & 4 - WISCONSIN
Milwaukee AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Southgate Mall, 3333 S. 27th St.,
Milwaukee, WI
May 3 - 10am - 6pm
May 4 - noon - 5pm
Info: (414) 255 - 1004

May 3 & 4 - WISCONSIN
Crosstown AVC Annual Show/Sale
East Towne Mall, Madison, WI
Mall Hours
Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221 - 2050

May 3 & 4 - VIRGINIA
Old Dominion AVS Spring Show/Sale
Green Spring Garden Park,
4601 Green Spring Rd.
Alexandria, VA
Info: Laurene Jones (703) 560 - 6134

May 3 & 4 - NEW YORK
AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay, NY
Rt. 31, West of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: (315) 455 - 2963

May 9 & 10 - LOUISIANA
Top Choice AVS Plant Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City, LA
May 9 - 10am - 6pm
May 10 - 10am - 6pm, or sold out
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

May 9 - 10 - WASHINGTON
Longview AVC Show/Sale
Triangle Mall, Longview, WA
Both Days: 9am - 5pm

May 9 & 10 - CANADA
AVS of Central Alberta Show/Sale
Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta
Info: Bertha Lawrence 347 - 0445

May 9 & 10 - OHIO
Parmatown AVC 37th Annual Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall,
7899 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH
May 9 - 12:30pm - 9pm
May 10 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Tracy Lorence (330) 225 - 6967

May 9 & 10 - OHIO
Springfield AVC Show/Sale
Fairfield Commons Mall, Beavercreek
May 9 - 10am - 9pm
May 10 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Betty Bartley (937) 324 - 3630

May 9 - 19 - CANADA
Canadian Tulip Festival
Ottawa, Ontario
Info: (613) 567 - 5757

May 10 - NEBRASKA
Omaha AVS Exhibit/Sale
Southroads Mall, 1001 Ft. Crook Rd.
Bellevue, NE
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

May 10 & 11 - MARYLAND
Baltimore AVC 43rd Annual Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall, Parkville, MD
May 10 - 1pm - 9pm
May 11 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Shirley Huffman (301) 953 - 7554

May 10 - ILLINOIS
Glenview/North Shore AVS Sale/Exhibit
Friendship Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Rd.
Des Plaines, IL
Info: (847) 729 - 1690

May 10 - CALIFORNIA
Fancy Bloomers AVS Annual Sale
Coddington Mall, Guernville Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm or sold out
Info: Harriet Maddux (707) 523 - 1614

May 10 & 11 - CALIFORNIA
Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza @ West Covina,
Lower Level - Macy's Ct.
1200 West Covina Pkwy, West Covina, CA
May 10 - 10am - 8pm
May 11 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Cindy Cartwright (818) 969 - 1431

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674

Last month I had the opportunity to travel to Calgary, Canada to teach an AVSA Judging School. Guess what I found there besides some wonderful people? A whole passel (that's southern you know) of Wrangler series plants. Now it just so happens that Winston Smith was asking for some of his own varieties. Seems he would like to start hybridizing again, using his older stock as a starting point. I was able to send him a lot of leaves carried special delivery from Canada. Brought home other goodies too. Couldn't let a thing like that get away from me, now could I? Come spring some of you will be getting a special surprise from Canada through me.

I also learned the difference between Fahrenheit and Celsius, the difference between cold and very cold. I've

been to Canada before but this was my first non-summer excursion. It's just as beautiful in winter as in summer. Being from a rather mild part of the United States, this was a treat in contrast. Regardless of climate, African violets are kept world-wide. Hot, cold, dry or wet, I even found a source for Brass Band. Wherever you are, keep sending your 'haves' and 'have nots'. I'll do my best to help.

Rennie Laskey (I lost your address), you can get a start of Kaneland Beauty from Marcia Belisle, Belisle's Violet House, P. O. Box 111, Radisson, WI 54867.

Remember to always return the postage if someone is good enough to send you a start of something. If asking me for the location of a plant always send a SASE for my reply.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Cat's Meow

Dean's Sonata

Pink Philly

Chris Leppard

Etna

Rob's Antique Rose

Daredevil

Niagara's Pink Beacon

Vibrant Val

TAX REFUND

Did you get a tax refund? Don't know what to do with your windfall? How about donating an award to see the AVSA Convention in St. Pete Beach. All awards will gladly be accepted. Please send your award to:

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski
AVSA N.W. A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015-3605
(816) 229-2051 after 6:00 PM

And **THANKS** for all your support!

Tally Time 1996

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren
2450 Iroquois Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from state and local shows during 1996. This year it is based on 120 reports containing 1721 individual entries.

Show Chairs, please note, the names of winning 1996 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20 to be counted.

STANDARDS

Total Number Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Regis. #	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini SM, Trailer or Species
31	3	6	Picasso M. Tremblay #6924	17	5
19	1	5	Lela Marie I. Lineberg #5668	12	1
19	2	3	Party Print M. Burns #7553	10	4
17	2	0	Powwow K. Stork #7708	11	4
13	3	0	The Alps Horikoshi / Sawara #7813	6	4
12	2	0	Favorite Child Cox / B. Johnson #7676	8	2
12	0	0	Tomahawk K. Stork #7269	12	0

SEMIMIINIATURES

38	1	1	Irish Flirt S. Sorano #7577	26	10
29	0	3	Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	19	7
16	2	0	Ness' Satin Rose D. Ness #8144	10	4
15	1	0	Little Pro H. Pittman #6637	12	2
13	2	0	Pat Champagne H. Pittman #7084	5	6
13	0	0	Rob's Fiddle Faddle R. Robinson #7431	8	5

MINIATURES

11	0	0	Optimara Rose Quartz Holtkamp #6969	6	5
9	1	1	Optimara Little Moonstone Holtkamp #7352	0	7
8	0	1	Petite Jewel H. Pittman #7085	0	7

TRAILERS

12	0	1	Milky Way Trail J. Stahl #7169	2	10
10	1	2	Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	4	3
10	2	0	Rob's Sticky Wicket R. Robinson #6467	1	7

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

14	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	6	1
12	0	0	<i>Saintpaulia velutina</i> S 11	3	9

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical divisions.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographical Divisions				
		I	II	III	IV	V
STANDARDS						
Picasso	31	11	8	6	4	2
Lela Marie	19	2	3	6	8	0
Party Print	19	3	0	9	6	1
Powwow	17	2	7	7	1	0
The Alps	13	4	1	4	0	4
Favorite Child	12	0	8	2	2	0
Tomahawk	12	3	2	3	3	1
SEMIMINIATURES						
Irish Flirt	38	5	10	6	9	8
Ness' Crinkle Blue	29	4	11	7	3	4
Ness' Satin Rose	16	4	2	0	9	1
Little Pro	15	2	2	7	2	2
Pat Champagne	13	0	5	0	4	4
Rob's Fiddle Faddle	13	2	3	8	0	0
MINIATURES						
Optimara Rose Quartz	11	2	2	5	1	1
Optimara Little Moonstone	9	4	2	3	0	0
Petite Jewel	8	1	3	1	3	0
TRAILERS						
Milky Way Trail	12	2	4	0	2	4
Rob's Boolaroo	10	1	0	7	1	1
Rob's Sticky Wicket	10	1	3	2	4	0
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES						
<i>S. grandifolia</i>	14	2	3	6	3	0
<i>S. velutina</i>	12	2	5	4	0	1
NUMBER OF WINNERS	332	57	84	93	65	34
NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED	120	21	26	32	21	20

The states in each geographical area, and number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Alberta-3, Arizona-2, California-11, Colorado-3, Nevada-1 and New Mexico-1; #II - Illinois-3, Indiana-2, Iowa-2, Minnesota-1, Missouri-6, Ohio-5, Ontario-3 and Wisconsin-4; #III - Connecticut-5, Delaware-1, Massachusetts-2, New Brunswick-2, New Jersey-7, New York-9, Pennsylvania-3 and Quebec-3; #IV - Arkansas-1, Kansas-1, Louisiana-3, Oklahoma-1 and Texas-15; #V - Alabama-3, Florida-8, Georgia-2, Maryland-1, Tennessee-4 and Virginia-2. I move border states around to try to even the areas. No Tally Time sheets were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning 6 or more awards within an area were: #I - 0; #II - Candy Swirls (6); #III - Fredette's Moonflower (6) Harbor Blue (6) Ness's Red Flash (6) Rob's Perfect Peach (6), and Tiger (6) #IV - Mary Craig (6) Teen Surprise (6) and Rodeo Country (7); #V - Georgia Lover (8).

The "Facts of Light" for African Violets

by Carla Ryan

Why is light important?

African violets require bright diffused light in order to grow and bloom well. If an African violet fails to bloom, the most common reason is insufficient light. This is particularly true for plants grown in natural light.

What kind of light is best for my plants?

Both fluorescent lighting and natural light will produce excellent results if correct cultural practices are followed. Because the amount of natural light your plants receive can't be completely controlled, they may not bloom as often in the winter months as they do at other times of the year. I have found that scalloped "girl" leaf varieties and "curly" leafed varieties often grow better in natural light than they do in artificial light. They seem to grow more tightly in artificial light and get tangled up in themselves when I grow them under artificial light.

How can I tell if my plants are not getting enough light?

If the leaves on your plant are smaller than normal, the petioles are longer than normal, and the plant looks like it is reaching straight up toward the light, try giving it more light. Lack of flowering is also an indication that more light is needed.

What are the signs that a plant is getting too much light?

If the leaves on your plant are bleached, burned, or yellowed, and the center of the plant looks tight (crowded), try giving it less light.

What is the best kind of window for African violets?

East-facing windows are the first choice, and west windows are a close second. An unobstructed north window can work well, but may require supplemental artificial light. Plants in a south window will require a sheer curtain across the window from late spring through early fall to protect them from being burned by intense sunlight.

How far away from the window should I place my plants?

If the plants are more than 18" from an east or west window, they won't get enough light. Plants in a north

window may need to be within a foot of the glass, and plants in a south window may need to be two feet away. Watch out for hot glass in the summer and frost in the winter!

How can I produce better symmetry?

Plants grown in natural light must be given a quarter turn twice a week to promote symmetry. Plants grown in artificial light must also be turned occasionally, especially if they are growing at the ends of the fixture.

What types of artificial light can be used?

Fluorescent lights are the most economical and produce the best results. Incandescent lights are really too hot and consume too much electricity to be used as the primary source of light. I have seen incandescent spotlights used successfully to supplement natural light when nothing else was practical, but fluorescent lights are still the first choice for that purpose. High intensity lighting (sodium vapor or metal halide) might work in a basement, but produce too much heat and too much light for a living area. They are slightly more economical to operate than fluorescent lights, but are really best for plants with high light requirements, such as some large gesneriads.

What types of fluorescent light bulbs are best?

Cool white, warm white, and Grow-Lux WS all produce excellent results, either alone or in combination. I use a combination of one F40 Cool White and one Grow-Lux WS, because I like the color of the light and feel they last longer. Let your budget and personal tastes be your guide when buying bulbs.

What type of fixtures are best?

The "plant light" type of fixture produces a more even light over the entire shelf than the "shop light" type of fixture, which concentrates light in the middle of the shelf. Forty-eight inch (40W) bulbs produce a larger area of good light per watt than 24" bulbs, because the amount of light produced within a few inches of the ends of the bulbs is much less than at the center. Forty watt bulbs are also easier to find and often cost less than smaller sizes. Six-foot and 8-foot fixtures give even more usable light, if you have room for them but it is more difficult to find bulbs for them.

However, all sizes and types of fluorescent fixtures produce acceptable results.

How often should I replace fluorescent light bulbs?

Regular cool white bulbs need to be replaced once per year. If you buy extra-long-life bulbs or grow lights they will last longer – up to 2 years. When the ends of the bulbs darken, their useful life is over. Don't wait for them to burn out. Dust and yellowish film tend to accumulate on the bulbs and fixtures of fluorescent lights. If you dust the bulbs and clean the reflector, it will ensure that your plants receive all the light produced by the bulbs.

How far away from the bulbs should I place my plants?

Standard plants should be positioned with their tops 8"-10" below the bulbs. Miniatures require more light and should be placed with their tops 6"-7" below the bulbs.

How long should I leave the lights on?

Twelve hours is enough most of the time. Some people slowly increase the number of hours of light their plants receive (at the rate of one hour per week) in the last few weeks before a show. Various sources recommend 14, 15, 16, or even 18 hours of light to force African violets into

abundant bloom. More than 18 hours of light is counterproductive. Like animals, plants appear to need a certain amount of rest in order to thrive. Temperature also has an effect on the amount of light required. Plants in a cool basement will need less light than those in a warm second floor guest room. An automatic timer is practically a necessity in order to provide the kind of cultural consistency required for good, even growth and abundant bloom.

Do all African violets need the same amount of light?

No. Individual cultivars require different amounts of light. Plants with light-colored flowers are thought to need less light than those with dark flowers. Plants with light-colored or variegated leaves are thought to need more light than those with dark or red-backed leaves. Some people claim that the standard Rhapsodie® and Optimara® African violet varieties consistently do better in natural light than other varieties. Take advantage of these differences by placing plants with lower light requirements at the ends of the fixtures or in more dimly lit windows.

*Reprinted with permission from
"African Violet Leaves"
Publication of The Illinois AVS, Inc.*

RECYCLING & AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Evelyn M. Heyl
Cincinnati, OH

I read with interest the article by Dorothy Anderson, "Save Those Suckers", in the Nov/Dec issue of the AVM. What really interested me was the use of small medicine cups which were available at pharmacies. Holes were melted into the bottom with a heated nutpick. This reminds me of what I do.

I recycle instead of using new items. I collect the tops of empty mouth wash bottles which make neat little flower pots. I heat an ice pick on the burner of my electric stove to melt drainage holes in the bottom of them.

I also recycle plastic milk bottles. I cut the bottom off of a 2 quart bottle and it makes a nice dish to put under a pot. Also, since it's square, there is a nice corner space to water plants from the bottom. From the top of the milk bottle, I have made a water pitcher by cutting off the top

in a way that the corner opposite the handle is longer and cut in the shape of the lip of a creamer. Screw on the lid, and you have a nice dipper to water your plants.

Other items that I recycle and use for flower pots, etc., include: hair spray tops, Stain Stick tops, yogurt containers, individual juice cups, plastic party cups, and pill bottles. In fact, any kind of a plastic cup or small container will do. I have some pill bottles that are just large enough to hold the plastic mouth wash tops to be used for wick watering.

Every year our retirement home has a plant booth at the Goodwill Industries Fall Festival. I have been leaf propagating violets to donate to the cause. I always look for all kinds of things I can recycle and use for the many plants I create.

AVSA Booster Fund

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OCT. 1ST - NOV. 30TH

Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	\$25.00
Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI	\$15.00
Yoko Koyo, Tokyo, Japan	\$30.00
Esther Edwards Wells, Liberty, MO	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Earl Jackson</i>	
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs	\$10.00
Mid-Polk AVS, Auburndale, FL	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Hazel Miller</i>	
Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO	\$ 5.00
Shirley L. Berger, Sebring, FL	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Hazel Miller</i>	
John Sullivan, Danville, VA	\$ 2.00
AVS of Lower Bucks County, Levittown, PA	\$20.00
<i>In memory of Flora Semen & Hilda Vander Meer - Second Anniversary</i>	

Total \$167.00

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive
Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from Sept. 20, 1996 - Nov. 20, 1996

Sweetwater AVS, Hauppauge, NY	\$ 10.00
Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	\$ 25.00
<i>In lieu of a speaker's fee to Susan Stieve</i>	
Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	\$ 25.00
Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI	\$ 15.00
Bergen County AVS, Hackensack, NJ	\$ 25.00
Sugarloaf Mt. AVS, Woodsboro, MD	\$ 25.00
<i>In lieu of a speaker's fee to Jack Wilson</i>	
Joan Baker, Thrift River Falls, MN	\$ 5.00
Fantasy VC, Brooksville, FL	\$ 5.00
Bermuda AVS, Bermuda	\$100.00
Aurora Borealis AVS, Anchorage, AK	\$ 50.00
TriState AV Council, NJ, NY, PA	\$ 10.00
<i>In lieu of judges expenses for Laura Shannon & Sandra Skalski</i>	
Fancy Bloomers, Santa Rosa, CA	\$ 25.00
<i>In memory of Jeff Sparks, husband of Joanne Sparks</i>	
Melanie Josefsson, Uppsala, Sweden	\$ 12.00
Hi Hopes AVC, St. Louis, MO	\$ 5.00
Wisconsin Council of AVC, Milwaukee, WI	\$ 10.00
John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	\$ 2.00
Mary Herrington, H & H Enterprises, Ellisville, MO	\$ 10.00
Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO	\$ 5.00

DOES YOUR CLUB NEED A TRANSFUSION?

by Linda Golubski
Blue Springs, MO

Like many clubs, ours has suffered membership loss over the past 5 years due to age and illness. At this time we are down to only 16 members. Our show has been held at a mall for the last 8 years so you'd think with all that traffic we'd entice new members. Not so. We got the usual, "Oh we'd love to come and visit your club". After months of sending newsletters that yielded no response, we'd give up and wait until next year.

This past year we tried a new approach. We ordered "FREE" old AVSA magazines from the AVSA office. All you have to do is change the price of a subscription to the current price and pay the UPS charges - just a few dollars. What an investment!

At our show we went on a member search. Anyone who was really interested in violets and would consider joining our club was given a "FREE" (keyword) AVSA magazine. For this they gave us their name, address and

phone number. Whoever spoke with the person kept a copy of this information and the original went to our newsletter editor. A week before our next meeting a newsletter went out to them and the club member who spoke with them at the show gave the prospective member a phone call, encouraging them to visit with us.

Success was sweet! We gave out 16 magazines and now have eight new **active** members. They are so enthusiastic and can't wait until our show. We're going to try this again at our upcoming show. All these new members loved the magazine and said it was an excellent selling point. All have joined the AVSA. This transfusion had a dual purpose. We got 8 new members, and so did AVSA.

If you're not aware of these FREE magazines, contact the AVSA office 800-770-AVSA for more information. You'll be glad you did!



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

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Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

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713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
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W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679



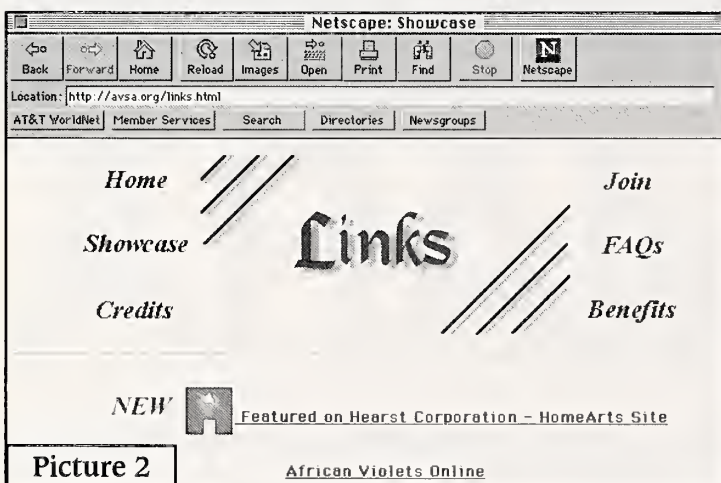
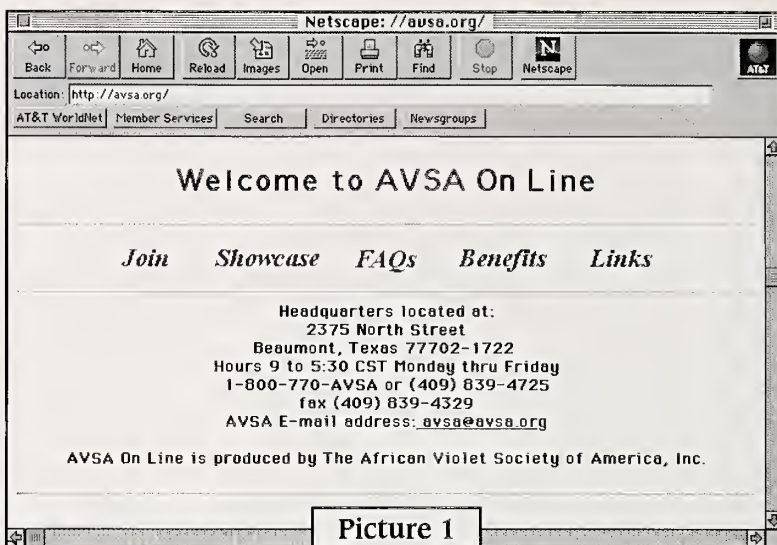
Browsing the Web

by Ellen Beckerman

The Best Place to Start...

Is our very own AVSA website. The address is "avsa.org". To get there using your Internet browser, type "http://avsa.org/", without the quotation marks, into the "Location:" box. (Shown toward the top of Picture 1).

After you type the address, it's important to press the "Return" key on your keyboard to indicate to the browser software that you want to go to the address that you've typed. After a few seconds, you'll arrive at the AVSA website in Beaumont, TX. Note: most web pages are larger than your screen. You'll need to use the "Scroll Bars" located on the bottom and right sides of the screen to move up/down and left/right to see everything. Using your mouse, click on the arrows or click/drag on the square button



you'll jump to the website shown in Picture 3 which features an article on growing African violets. Should you wish to go back to the AVSA website, click on the "Back" arrow shown at the top of your screen. Or you may explore this website by scrolling and/or clicking on other buttons that will take you to other interesting articles and/or other websites.



shown on the scroll bars. The square button also shows how far up/down or left/right the part that you are viewing is on the actual page. (The "Welcome to AVSA On Line" shown in Picture 1 is in the middle of the web page. When you first arrive at avsa.org, you'll need to click on the down arrow to see it).

Click on the word "Links"

Shown on the right in Picture 1. You've just jumped to another "page" of the AVSA's website. The name of this page is "Showcase" and it's identified at the top of your screen as "Netscape: Showcase." It's literally a link to many other websites all over the world. If you click on the "NEW-Featured on Hearst Corporation-HomeArts Site,"

Our next column will show you how to use a "search engine" to look up information on a topic of your choice. If you have questions about the Internet, you can feel free to write to me or my husband Bill at Technical Center Cooperative, Suite 303, 201 W. Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066, or e-mail us at:

TCC-Beckerman@worldnet.att.net

We'll address questions in future columns (please be patient, our column appears only every other issue!) and we'll try to answer as many questions, personally, as possible.

— A husband and wife team, Ellen and Bill Beckerman are Apple Macintosh computer consultants who create custom databases, multi-media presentations and specialized training programs for small and large businesses.

A Postcard from The TradeWinds

by Barbara Matthews
Tampa, FL

Everyone here returned safely to Florida after the Atlanta Convention. We all hope that you had a good trip home, too. Of course, after we got home, there were those post-convention, "Whew, I'm really tired" comments combined with, "Darn, now I have to wait another whole year to do it again" blues!

As an antidote, we decided to visit our favorite resort, the site of the next convention. So here we are, relaxing in the cool shade of a victorian gazebo, feeling stuffed after a delicious Sunday brunch (even though we made an attempt to walk some of it off with a stroll around the grounds), and musing that on this date next year, everyone will once again have said their "goodbyes" ending the 1997 AVSA Convention here at the Tradewinds.

We enjoyed meeting many of you in Atlanta and look forward to seeing you again soon. We answered a lot of questions, but in case we missed some, here are some general hints about vacationing in Florida.

Everyone talks about the weather. Today is the typical "Chamber of Commerce" weather that Floridians like to brag about – a perfect June day with a breeze off the Gulf of Mexico, clear skies, and temperatures in the mid 80's. The water temperature is about 84 degrees. Visitors sometimes don't realize that "man-made Florida" and "Mother Nature's Florida" differ measurably when considering the comfort level outdoors. If you have never experienced the "real Florida" that we plan to show you, you have a treat in store.

By the time you read this, you will be thinking about your travel plans and what to pack. The TradeWinds is a family resort with a relaxed atmosphere. Beach wear, cool comfortable clothing, low heels, sneakers, and/or sandals will see you through the day. If you tend to feel chilly in air conditioning, bring along a lightweight sweater. Evening attire is generally dressy-casual unless you plan an elegant evening out, perhaps at the Don CeSar down the beach, where you will need cocktail attire.

At the top of your "to bring" list should be sunscreen with an SPF number of 15 or higher, sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, visors, and ragged old "tennies" for walking on the beach. You can also bring inflatable pool-type rafts if you have them. Beach and pool lovers should check the local TV weather reports for the daily UV index that tells you the

maximum amount of time you spend in the sun each day before risking a sunburn.

June is the start of our semi-tropical rainy season, usually exemplified by the traditional 5 pm shower, so a fold-up umbrella is a good idea. Average rainfall for the month is about 6 inches. Look for clearing skies and an impressive sunset following a tropical afternoon shower.

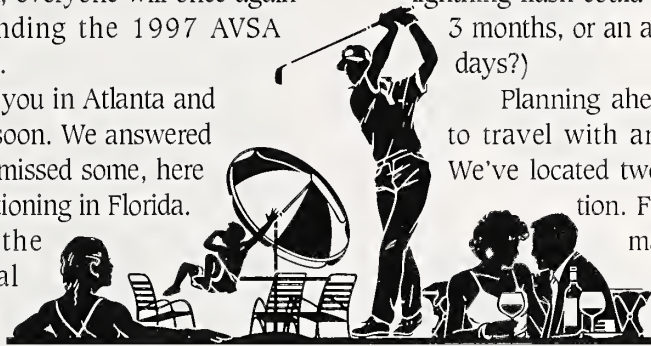
Last night we had a spectacular show when Mother Nature treated us to one of her thunder and lightning extravaganzas for which this area of Florida is noted. (Interested in trivia? Did you know that the average lightning flash could light a 100 watt bulb for more than 3 months, or an average light stand for more than 75 days?)

Planning ahead is necessary for those intending to travel with an RV and stay in a campground. We've located two campgrounds for your consideration. Fort deSoto Park and Campground is made up of 5 keys (islands), covering about 900 acres with over 7 miles of beach frontage. Historic Fort deSoto is located in the park. This campground is 10 miles south of the TradeWinds. Registration is in person only. For an information packet, write to me at 1206 Terra Mar Drive, Tampa, FL 33613, or by email: JayMatthews@aol.com.

The other campground is a KOA Kampground located about 10 miles north of the hotel. You can contact this campground by writing to: St. Petersburg/Madeira Beach KOA Kampground, 5400 95th St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33708, or call (813) 392 - 2233.

We are pretty easy to find, here on Florida's west coast, but we'll give you directions and a map so no one will get lost. Folks flying into Tampa International Airport can arrange limo service to the TradeWinds in advance. Call The Limo, Inc. at 1-800-282-6817. Tell them that you want DEDICATED SERVICE to the TradeWinds. (This saves you from making the grand tour with other passengers who have other destinations.) Round trip fare is \$30.00, one way, \$17.00. Quotes are subject to change. Avis rental cars are available at the TradeWinds and other rentals are at the airport.

This must be the world's longest postcard! See you in June!



New Collections of the *Saintpaulia* Species

by Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306



Top left: *S. grotei* Protzen, from the Uppsala Collection, Iowa State University

Top right: *S. grotei* Protzen, from the Cornell University Collection

Bottom left: *S. grotei*, from Cape Cod Violetry

Bottom right: *S. grotei* Amazon, from Cape Cod Violetry



Saintpaulia Brother Paddy

(showing pin wheel)

So labeled in the Mather Collection,
Iowa State University

These color photographs accompanied Dr. Jeff Smith's article "New Collections of the *Saintpaulia* Species" in the January/February 1997 issue of the African Violet Magazine (page 36). I regret that both of these photographs were

mistakenly inverted in that issue, and I apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused our readers.

Editor

African Violets and Pest Control: The Use of Beneficial Insects

by Kathleen C. Arceneaux, Ph.D.
Blacksburg, VA

When I returned to African violet growing after a lapse of almost twenty years, I was amazed at the advances that had been made in hybridizing. There were no yellows in the 70s, no chimeras (or at least none that I was aware of); the minis back then suckered faster than suckers could be plucked, and were quite frumpy compared to the beautiful varieties offered in the 90s. After looking at photographs of the wonderful offerings in the catalogs, the urge to experiment with creating new varieties was irresistible. With that in mind, I made my selections carefully, ordering from several growers. Months later, I had my collection established, but was still struggling with the infestations of insects that had arrived on my new plants. I had received a full complement of critters, including soil mealy bugs, thrips, and even cyclamen mites! Now that the bugs have been subdued, and hopefully eradicated, I would like to share some thoughts that I have on the subject of biological pest-control.

When I grew violets in the early 70s, on several homemade plant stands under grow-lights, I had very few insect problems. The plants that I ordered from the various growers arrived in "clean" condition, and I was not really troubled by insects, other than one minor attack by foliar mealy bugs, which I dealt with using alcohol and a Q-tip. I did not encounter the dreaded cyclamen mite, no soil mealies arrived in any of my shipments, and I had never heard of thrips. Because of my positive experiences with receiving pest-free shipments of violets, I had assumed that the plants of the 90s would also be "clean". When I realized that many of my new plants were infested, I applied my research skills to solving this problem. I had begun receiving the AVSA magazine by then, and also ordered several back issues, and read them with interest. On a quest for information, I joined the Gesneriphiles discussion group on the Internet – a friendly and knowledgeable group of people. (I strongly recommend joining Gesneriphiles to all violet growers with access to a computer and to the Internet: gesneriphiles@lists.colorado.edu.) I am also fortunate in that I live close to Virginia Tech University, a large land-grant institution that offers horticultural and agricultural advice free of charge, through its extension service. I took several plants in for insect identification, and received detailed, written instructions about the various pesticides that I could use to control the insects. At this point, I still had not sprayed with anything.

I faced a dilemma. The blossoms were seething with

thrips, spilling pollen and compromising the integrity of my hybridizing experiments. There were mealy bugs in the soil, and cyclamen mites were doing their damage, at least to some of the plants. My primary growing area is located in the living room, where my family and I spend most of our time. I also have a cat, a rabbit, and fish. Even though the plants could be sprayed out-of-doors, the chemicals would have had to be mixed in my kitchen, and the plants brought inside again. Although I realize that many violet hobbyists use insecticidal drenches and systemics, I was uneasy about the thought of coexisting with plants that were so toxic that insects died after eating their leaves. (And what if my cat ate a leaf or two, or a visiting toddler nibbled on foliage?)

I have read that some "violeteers" have effectively used No-Pest strips for pest control, particularly for thrips, and of course there are many other pesticides that can be used with good insect control results. However, according to a posting on the Gesneriphiles, many of the No-Pest strips contain Vapone, which has just been reintroduced onto the market. It is a powerful neurotoxin that can be hazardous for developing nervous systems. Because of potential hazards to children, I would advise extreme caution to anyone using this method, and in fact all of the chemical pesticides should be handled with caution.

While reading the AVSA 50th Anniversary book, I noticed that many pesticides that had once been regarded as "safe," have now been withdrawn from the market. For example, consider the following passage, from a 1958 AVSA magazine: "... Diazinon was far less toxic to humans than Malathion, in fact only slightly higher on the scale of toxicity than DDT, one of the most common insecticides in use today." As we know, DDT is no longer in use, due to the environmental damage it causes. I am not a chemist, and don't know all of the specifics about the toxicity of Diazinon, or the other chemicals often used on violets. However, I do think that not nearly enough is known about the long term effects to the environment and human health of the pesticides that are currently regarded as "safe," as DDT once was. I came to the conclusion that the use of poisons was not an option, given the location of my plants and the larger issues involved with the use of toxic chemicals.

While the extension service agent did not mention the use of beneficial insects for pest-control, he did recommend a "hot water bath". Not for myself, (although it would have been relaxing, and would have taken my mind off my violet

problems), but for the control of the cyclamen mites, which he said were very sensitive to heat.

The hot water bath was completely successful in eradicating the mites. I had hoped that it would also control the thrips and the SMBs (soil mealy bugs), but it proved to be effective only for the mites. I followed instructions carefully, which included immersing the entire plant, pot and all, for twenty minutes in water held between 110 and 120 degrees. It was somewhat of a mess, in that I treated every violet that I had, except for some very small germinating seedlings that were kept in another room in a closed container. I used a large aluminum pot in the kitchen sink, and a candy thermometer to monitor the water temperature. I kept a steady stream of hot water running into the pot, which would hold only three mature plants at a time. I placed plastic-wrap over the soil in the pots and wrapped it around the stem of the plant, but a lot of soil floated out of the pots, regardless.

I treated the mature plants, the fresh-cut leaves, the rooting leaves, and even the rooted leaves that had plantlets. For the rooted leaves and plantlets, I removed as much soil as possible, and immersed the leaves, roots, plantlets, and all, and then repotted in fresh soil after the "bath". I had assumed that the majority of my collection would not survive such rough treatment, but most of them actually looked invigorated after their baths! I didn't lose any of them. The mature plants all needed some pruning and repotting because the root-balls were saturated, but the plants soon recovered. A couple of weeks later I took some plants back to the extension service, and no mites were found.

I had discovered an acceptable, non-toxic solution to the problem of cyclamen mites, but that still left the SMBs and thrips to contend with. I was very disappointed to find the SMBs still there two weeks after the baths. I had disbudded all the plants by then, and still had some hope that perhaps the thrips were as heat-sensitive as the mites, (this is not the case, sadly). By then I had done quite a bit of investigating about the use of beneficial insects for pest-control, and I decided to give it a try. I ordered a shipment of predator nematodes (*Steinernema carpocapsae*) from Arbico, a Phoenix based company. The "todes" were packaged in small pellets of a clay-like material, which I reconstituted in cool water. This mixture was then watered into the violets. This should be done in the evening, because light is harmful to the todes, and because they are nocturnal hunters. The application of todes is not at all damaging to the plants, but the clay material/water mixture did leave a whitish residue on a few of the leaves, a residue that did not wash off with plain water. (I used a vinegar-water solution, which was effective in cleaning the leaves.)

Following the application of the nematodes, it seemed that the mealy population was greatly reduced, but not

entirely gone. I awaited the opening of the next buds, and was very disappointed to see healthy thrips cavorting in the first blossoms to open, although the population had diminished. By then I had read many favorable comments about the Nature's Control Company, in Medford, Oregon. I spoke with some of the Nature's Control people on the phone, and found them to be very congenial and informative. As a result of this consultation, I decided that it was time to wage all-out war on the bugs, and ordered a "triple-whammy": Pirate bugs (*orius tristicolor*), and thrips predator mites (*amblyseius cucumeris*), combined with another application of nematodes (a mixture of *steinernema feltiae* and *heterorhabditis heliothedis*). The package arrived the following day, and I applied the "good" bugs that evening.

It is important to follow the instructions carefully when applying the beneficial insects. The thrips predator mites and Pirate bugs require relatively high humidity to reproduce, (70%). I placed a clear plastic tent around the plant stand to raise the humidity, and to hold the temperature at about 70 degrees. The predator mites come packaged in a bran mixture that looks like oatmeal, and the Pirate bugs also are packaged in a natural material. These mixtures are simply sprinkled on the leaves of the plants, and can be brushed off a few days later after the insects have hatched and have established themselves. The todes from Nature's Control are packaged in a small sponge in a zip-lock bag that can be stored in the refrigerator for two months. (the Pirate bugs and the thrips predator mites must be applied right away.) The sponge contains a million nematodes, which will treat 3,000 square feet of growing space, much more than enough for most hobbyist growers. This sponge can be cut in half, or even in thirds, and used at intervals of four to six weeks. The sponge is rinsed in a gallon of cold water to make a concentrate, and can then be further diluted in order to cover more area. The todes application is actually very easy to do, although the mixture must be used within two hours or the todes begin to drown, so it is advisable to have help if you are treating a large collection.

It was difficult to imagine that anything resembling a war was going on in that tented plant stand, but it was, and the good bugs were winning. I regularly scan the water reservoirs with a 10x jeweler's loupe, and at first, there were dead mealies in the water reservoirs, then fewer and fewer mealies, and now, only a very occasional mealy, quite dead, in the reservoirs of only one or two of the plants. Interestingly, the one plant that was still showing signs of live mealies after a week or so was one that had inadvertently been left out of the first tode application, and because of this it, it has proven to be a "control" plant for my beneficial insect experiment. (In case anyone is wondering how mealies "travel," infesting widely separated plant stands. . . I discovered the answer by inspecting the

water reservoirs. They fly! Some of the mealybugs had wings. I later did some reading on the life-cycle of SMBs, and it was mentioned that during one phase of the mealy life-cycle, the male mealybugs sprout wings.)

I think that complete eradication is possible, certainly as possible as it is with the use of insecticides. The plants look terrific, with lush foliage and thrips-free blossoms. I have since reapplied the todes to everything, and I expect success. The nematodes are also effective against thrips, in that (according to the literature sent by Nature's Control) part of the life-cycle of most varieties of thrips is spent in the soil, where they are vulnerable to the todes. I plan to apply beneficial nematodes, as a preventive, at regular intervals, probably at least every six weeks.

I have a few thoughts on this war between the good and bad bugs. When we grow violets, we create artificially, an environment that duplicates, as closely as possible, the original habitat of our plants, but it is one that is lacking in natural controls, including the predator insects that exist in a truly balanced environment. The "good" bugs are natural, even as the thrips, cyclamen mites, and soil mealybugs are natural. When we apply the beneficial insects, we are simply interfering with a natural balance, and giving the odds to beneficial ones. The toxins that some of us apply to our plants are a foreign element in a system that has functioned in the past, even thrived, without our interventions.

Judging from the postings on the Gesneriphiles, there seem to be quite a few hobbyist growers who either use, or would like to know more about biological pest controls. There also was a posting indicating that the Smithsonian Greenhouses use biological pest-control. However, I think that the widespread use of this method would involve a fairly radical reorganization of our attitudes. In the past, insecticides have seemed like a magic bullet for controlling insect populations, both for hobbyists and for agri-business. Introducing insects into a violet collection requires that we overcome any squeamishness we might have about putting **bugs!** on our violets, and it also requires that we have the confidence that the good bugs will actually work as promised. I think that they do.

Why do we grow violets? For an appreciation of nature and its intricacies, for the serenity that is the emotion experienced when looking at the plants, handling them, caring for them. I have always been uneasy about the coupling of the ideas of nature and chemical toxins that often is a part of this hobby. However, one cannot do both. One cannot spray with pesticides and also use predatory insects, for obvious reasons. And what about the apparently increasing problem of infested plants being shipped to us from the growers? We have a symbiotic relationship with our growers, and we should encourage one another. We desire to see the results of their innovative hybridizing in our collections, and the growers have a desire to satisfy and

delight the hobbyists while also making a livelihood from this gentle hobby.

Another dilemma that those of us face, who use biological pest control, is the fact that the plants we receive in our shipments from the growers have, most usually, been treated through comprehensive programs of spraying and the use of systemic pesticides. It takes several weeks before the levels of the toxins diminish to the extent to which we can begin to apply the beneficial insects, and during that time the insect populations, if any, increase. Buying pesticide free violets would allow us to apply the beneficial insects right away, either as a control or as a preventive.

It would be an economic hardship for the growers to stop using the pesticides while converting to beneficial insect controls. However, the pesticides seem to be no longer effective, or at least, they are not as effective as they once were, due to the insects' adaptations to poisons, through mutation. I don't happen to believe that the growers are careless; I think they are baffled about how to solve this problem. Most insects have short life-cycles, (thrips can go from egg to egg-laying in less than two weeks) and genetic selections for things such as resistance to pesticides occur relatively rapidly in insects. We have actually created strains of bugs that are pesticide resistant, which is not dissimilar to the resistance to antibiotics now seen in some bacteria that affect human-beings.

In my decisions regarding insect control on my violets, I have considered the lessons I am giving my daughter, who watched my struggles to solve this problem with great interest. One reason for renewing my violet hobby was that I hoped that it would inspire in my daughter a love of the beauty of violets and would enhance her enjoyment of natural things. It is my thought now that we, the violet hobbyist growers and the commercial growers, have an opportunity to be ecological pioneers. I would certainly buy violets from growers who use biological controls – violets that may or may not contain harmful insects. However, receiving infested violets is a situation that we sometimes face, even now. As more hobbyist growers of violets turn to biological controls, there will be a greater need for us to have available to us pesticide-free plants, and some growers may be willing to take the risk and convert to biological controls.

In my situation, the combination of beneficial insects performed as advertised. In warmer weather, when there is more risk of thrips infestation, I will repeat the insect treatment at the first sign of a problem, and I expect the same positive results. The application of predatory nematodes will become a regular part of my violet care. I have adjusted to the idea of actually placing insects on my plants, and in the soil. My collection is, at the moment, in glorious bloom. I think of it as a balanced and beautiful ecological system.

Showcase

Picasso

Best Fantasy

1996 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Eric West

Hybridized by: M. Tremblay

Standard



White Dew

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminature





Ness' Red Velvet

Midland Violets

Hybridized by: Don Ness

Standard



Rob's Penny Ante

Rob's Mini-o-Lets

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Miniature



A WICKED SITUATION

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI

The word in the title of this article is pronounced "wick-t" but the correct spelling is designed to get the reader's attention.

It probably is obvious that the writer favors the system of using a piece of yarn embedded in the soil surrounding the African violet to water the plants. That yarn protrudes through a hole in the bottom of the pot and is placed in a container filled with fertilized water. It should be emphasized here that only the wick touches the fluid (see accompanying photo). The wick then serves to continually water and fertilize the plant.



It is probably a good idea at this point to start a description of the wick watering system from the very beginning of the life of the plant.

Assume that the plant is started from a leaf, purchased from a commercial source, or is one in the home collection that is destined to be converted to the wick system. In each case the combination of a non-soil mix is necessary. This will probably consist of a commercially prepared product such as Metro Mix along with coarse Perlite and Vermiculite. The writer uses equal amounts of the three ingredients. Other people have had success with different proportions. At least one African violet commercial grower advertises the sale of a specific mix for the wick system.

Whether the plant was one that was commercially started or from the individual's present collection, if the soil mix is unknown, the safest method of converting to the wick system is to remove the plant from the pot and wash most of the soil from the roots.

An acrylic yarn wick (3 or 4 ply) can be inserted in the empty pot and run up the side. Be certain in all cases the yarn is acrylic. Wool or cotton yarn will rot. At this point the yarn should be emerging from both the top and bottom of the pot. With the thumb and forefinger hold the plant at its base. Suspend it that way in the pot and with a small spoon slowly sprinkle the non-soil mix around the roots until the pot is full. Do not pack tightly because it may damage the roots. It should also be noted that the very looseness of the soil allows for easy penetration of the

roots.

Now the wick emerging from the bottom of the pot can be pulled through, bringing the wick that had emerged at the top down to the level of the top of the soil. The length of the wick emerging from the bottom of the pot need only be long enough so that when the pot is placed on a reservoir the wick touches only the bottom of the reservoir.

An alternate method of wicking would be to obtain a yarn needle and thread the yarn through the eye. It can then be pushed up through one of the holes at the bottom of the potted plant.

Some individuals simply curl a length of yarn in the bottom of the pot before filling with the non-soil mix.

We find that if the wick is not drawing up the water properly, it can be located it where it emerges from the soil. Watering along the wick can reinstate the drawing capacity.

Pre-soaking the wick is always advisable before installing in the pot.

It must be emphasized again that the reason for converting to this system is that the plant receives the correct amount of water and fertilizer all of the time.

A leaf can be started in nearly the same way. We use a 2 1/4" pot and a smaller wick (fingering or baby yarn). Fill the pot with wet soil. Insert a pencil-like device into the wet soil at a shallow angle. Cut the stem of the leaf at a very sharp angle because this tends to be more effective in starting baby plants. Dip the end of the stem in Root Tone, insert it in the hole and lightly tamp down the surrounding soil. There are techniques such as covering the leaf with clear plastic to provide a terrarium-type environment with consistent dampness and humidity, but those techniques are beyond the scope of this article. A reduction by half of the usual amount of fertilizer per gallon of water is recommended for starter plants.

In our experience, there have been very few people not having success with this method.

The word "reservoir", that has been casually used here, can actually be containers of many varieties.

Eight and sixteen ounce deli containers are very popular. Obvious other selections might be cottage cheese or oleo tubs. Two holes can be punched or cut in the lid of the container approximately 1/2" in diameter. The wick is inserted in one hole and the other hole is clear of the bottom of the pot and can be used for refilling.

The fertilizer water mix is quite critical. We use 1/4 teaspoon of powdered fertilizer with one gallon of water. Special African violet fertilizer with the number 12-36-34 is preferred. Many people have equal success using the more readily available 15-30-15 fertilizer. In a proper mix, the water in the gallon jug has a pale blue color. Two plants that had been called to our attention because they were dying, had a bright blue color in the reservoir. That indicated over-fertilization. It is important to reemphasize that the amount of fertilizer added to the gallon of water is critical.



One of the presumed drawbacks of the system is that the reservoirs are rather ugly. That objection can be easily overcome by placing the reservoir and plant in a decorative basket. Other ways of handling the matter might be using a fancy mug that will hold the lip of the pot firmly at the top. The mug is first partially filled with the fertilizer water but the bottom of

the pot must not be touching the water directly.

Using the system tends to solve a number of problems, some of which might not be readily apparent. A bachelor friend swears by the system because it is never necessary to worry about when to water; he just checks the reservoir once in a while. Carrying on that idea, overwatering or underwatering tend to be two of the major problems in the success of raising African violets.

Using the system for vacations eliminates the need for employing "plant sitter" to be certain they are watered periodically. For extended vacations such as the winter-long trips retirees may take, larger reservoirs may well handle the situation. At the very least, a plant sitter need only refill a standing reservoir every couple of weeks. We heard of one case where a shallow rack was built to fit into a bathtub. The plants were held off the bottom about 6" and the tub was filled up to about 5 1/2" with fertilized water. Of course if the plants are located during the winter in a home in the north climate and the heat goes off, there is absolutely nothing that will save the plants.

Wick watering can be a time-saving, convenient method of providing your African violets with water and fertilizer.

ISOLATION – An Ounce Of Prevention

by Montie Watler – Etobicoke, ON, Canada

Yes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", is an ancient adage, but one that is well applied when you have obtained a new plant.

Many a collection of indoor plants has been dispatched to the garbage bin because an infested plant was placed among healthy plants. Consequently, the answer to this problem is - ISOLATION.

Whenever you obtain a new plant, make certain it is placed away from your healthy plants, and keep it in this locality until you are sure that it is not infested with any insects. Eight to ten weeks should be the minimum time to keep it in isolation. Once satisfied that it is clean, then it is time for repotting. The plant should be removed from its container and as much of the soil as possible taken away from the roots. The roots should then be washed clean under a gentle flow of warm water, at the same time inspecting the roots for any

signs of abnormal swelling. If this is present, it could be a sign of nematodes and the plant should be discarded. If it passes the test and you are satisfied that the plant is healthy, repot it in fresh soil and a clean pot.

This whole operation should take place in an area away from the plant room. Once repotted, the plant may be sprayed with an organic insecticide or with any other insecticide which you normally use. It is now ready to be placed among your other healthy plants. It is advisable to let the plant become established before fertilizing, although if the root structure is frail, a weak solution of root stimulating fertilizer may be used.

*Reprinted with permission
from "Chatter", Journal
of the AVS of Canada*



Optimara Little Crystal
from the Best Holtkamp Coleccion

AVSA 1996 National Show

*Grown and Exhibited by: **Palma Trapp***

*Hybridized by: **Holtkamp***

Miniature

*Photo Credit: **Daemon Baizan***

Memories With African Violets

by Anne Herbatuk
Canada

I have been a fan of African violets since I was a teenager. My mother took my two sisters and I to see an African violet exhibition in Montreal. That local club is now called the African Violet Society of Greater Montreal.

Mother grew African violets on her bay window sill, mostly pink and blue flowers. It was a spectacular window, and when Mother had visitors, they always went home with a little blooming violet.

One snowy afternoon, Mother decided to visit the current president of the club. By the time we arrived at her house, we were in the middle of a real snow storm. We spent a while looking around the greenhouse and chose three boxes of plants.

Dad hadn't been allowed to join us on this expedition. How many times had we heard him say "That's enough, there's no place to put them, be reasonable." Mother never seemed to hear him, and never responded. When we trudged out with our boxes, we were knee deep in snow, but we didn't mind at all. (It was another story when Dad saw us coming in with three boxes of violets!)

I've been a club member and grower for many years. My goal, in the beginning, was to win Best In Show. At

that time it was called Queen of Show. I did win, with my "Snows of Kilimanjaro". (I'd love to find a leaf now.) My prize was a cup.

When I was awarded "Queen of Show", Mother was standing beside me, her happiness reflected in her smile and the three pats on the head that she gave me.

Back in those early years, the prize for "Best Arrangement" was a teaspoon, engraved with the club name and the date of the show. I have a few of them from the sixties. Eventually, they no longer gave teaspoons, just ribbons. At club meetings and shows, back then, tea and refreshments were served from a silver tea pot and fine china. How times have changed! Now it's a coffee urn and styrofoam cups! That's progress, I suppose.

I still enjoying creating arrangements, but I must be careful not to enter an arrangement for every category listed in the show schedule! I get so much enjoyment now from giving demonstrations and lectures on African violets and other gesneriads. What pleasure there is in seeing a beautiful African violet that you've grown brighten someone else's life! After every show, I give my plants away and start all over again!

PERMANENT MARKER ON YOUR POTS?

by Elizabeth Frigstad
White Bear Lake, MN

Those lovely white pots invite you to write directly on them to identify your African violets. Are you frustrated with trying to remove the permanent ink so you may reuse the plastic pot? After trying a variety of things, many of us have found that they just did not work, and often the effort involved was too great.

There is one more solution you can try, and it's something most or you already have in your home. I have used it for years to remove ball point pen ink from clothes, but not until I had a recent sleepless night did I make the connection with our African violet pots.

HAIR SPRAY! Just spray it on, and when the ink starts to run, rub it vigorously with a paper towel. Occasionally, two applications may be necessary. One stubborn pot required a little more. I sprayed it, covered it with plastic and let it stand overnight. There does appear to be a

difference in the porosity of the plastic, or the type of mold release used in making the plastic pot.

Less expensive hair sprays work just fine. I have had success with several of them. It may be the solvent used in the manufacturing of the hair spray. I look for dimethyl ether, isobutane or propanol in the ingredients listed on the containers.

The hair spray that did not work, I now use on my hair, and the color lasts longer.

Hair spray, even unscented, makes a nice alternative fragrance to fish emulsion in our growing area. And, more importantly, we can now recycle the used pots back into our African violet growing, instead of adding to the landfill.

Happy growing!

SOME THOUGHTS ON GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE

by Pat Richards
Olathe, KS

Many articles in our magazine focus on the culture of African violets, but very few actually describe the process of getting them to show once we have grown them to their fullest potential. To maintain them at their peak, certain procedures must be followed well in advance of, shortly before, and on the way to the show.

Well before the show, the boxes used to carry the violets can be prepared. For the small violets, I prefer rectangular boxes at least 15-18" wide, 32-36" long and 7-8" deep. This will accommodate at least eight plants, possibly ten or twelve. Boxes this size are easy to carry without wasting too much space. Remember too, the more uniform in size they are, the easier it is to load your car. For the standards, square boxes ranging from 15-24" and at least 10" deep are the most useful. If your box is too large, you can always put small violets in the corners. Avoid boxes that are too small; after working so long and so hard to get them to show, the last thing you want to do is damage leaves before they even leave your house.

Inside the box goes a mat of carpet foam. This provides extra shock absorption, especially on long journeys. For small violets, the next step is to put a 3" layer of shredded paper to nestle the plants in. The small ones are so light and small, they will not tip over or move in the box once they are nestled into the paper. The standards are a different story. For each plant, a cardboard box (cereal box, etc.) is firmly anchored into the bottom of the larger box. Then a hole the size of the plant's pot is cut into the inner box. This "anchor" prevents the plant from sliding and ruining leaves. Shredded paper or soft plastic is placed around and on top of the anchor box to cushion the leaves. Another safeguard is to rim the pots with plastic tubing to prevent damage to petioles during the trip.

Your plants can also be prepared early. Wash all plants 10 weeks before the show and again before the blooms begin to open. During the final watering (1-3 weeks before the show), conduct a thorough grooming. As each plant is watered, its leaves are brushed, plant and pot size checked, and suckers, peduncle stubs, and spent blossoms removed.

A final step is to get your slip or "cover" pots ready. For each possible show plant, select an absolutely clean pot to cover its own. Make sure it's of the right color (check the

show schedule) and same size and shape as the plant's pot. In the bottom of the cover pot, place a square of aluminum foil large enough to cover the plant's pot about a quarter to one half way up the sides. When you begin to box the plants, form the foil to the bottom of the plant's pot and slip the whole thing into the cover pot.

The week of the show, the boxing actually begins. This may surprise you, but I begin to box five full days before the plants are judged. If your plants are healthy and boxed well, this will not present a problem. Begin boxing those plants that are least perfect or in full bloom and don't need to be kept under lights. As each box is pulled out, spray the inside lightly with Lysol to prevent the sudden formation of mildew. When a plant is taken from the shelf, it is placed in its cover pot, given a light grooming where it is again checked for size, suckers, etc.

Watch the size carefully: there are some semis and minis that push the size limit and after having spent a few days boxed up will grow! Sometimes you can shape the plant once again with your hands by gently cupping them over the foliage and gently forcing the leaves down. The slight pressure and heat from your hands will sometimes bring them back into size. Some will not, and come entry time, guess what? A few leaves will need to be stripped! If you think a plant has the potential of doing this, plan ahead at home, where you can do something about it.

Here's a critical step: right before placing the plant in the box, place a toilet paper wrap around the blooms to cushion them during the trip. Roll off a length of tissue long enough to go around the circumference of the blooms. Roll the paper lengthwise to make a cushion, and gently place it under the blooms, sometimes between the bloom clusters, if there's a chance they'll rub against each other. Some plants won't need it, however, most do. This is time consuming, but it is worth it.

Next, each plant is placed in its box, making sure it and its blossoms do not touch any other plant or blossoms. Once a box is full, take it to a holding area: some place cool, but not cold, and brightly lit, where it will not be disturbed by kids, pets, husbands, wives, etc. Lightly spray with PT1300 and close the box overnight. The next day, open the box and keep it open until the night before you

go. On that night, give the plants a second light spray of PT1300 and again close the lid.

Pack your boxes carefully in your vehicle. Keep your best plants away from windows and sunlight. Be sure to place them over the center of your vehicle to reduce vibration. You may wish to place extra foam on the floor of the vehicle to reduce vibration. On some vehicles, you may have to watch the placement around the driveshaft. The heat that builds up over a period of time is great and may be detrimental to your plants. Also, place a white sheet over any boxes that might be in sunlight to deflect heat.

Transporting your plants to the show should be done as if you're carrying unpacked eggs. Watch the road more carefully than ever before. On freeways and interstates stay in the left lane as much as possible (it really is smoother!). Stop infrequently and run your AC/heater as necessary for your plants, not for you. Remember though, the boxes

provide something of an insulating effect.

Once at your destination, get the plants entered as soon as possible. The only show I've traveled to and not entered within a few hours was Denver, where the plants sat unopened in my hotel room for almost 24 hours. Needless to say, they suffered a little. Think of it; at entry time they had been boxed for 3-5 days, and had been unopened for 2 days. A few violets had begun to open up (pull their leaves upward to find light), but not to the extent that they were no longer blue ribbon winners.

If this process seems detailed, think of this, you have spent many months preparing for this event. Don't let a few minutes deprive you of showing the best plant you possible can.

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the Missouri Valley AV Council News*



In Memory

GAIL RAKES

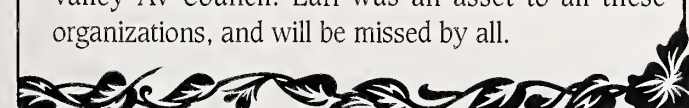
Gail Rakes of Suffolk, VA passed away in June, 1996. A member of AVSA, Gail was an active member of the Tidewater AVS, having served the club as Librarian. Gail's love of African violets and her generosity were an inspiration to all.

MARTHA PAGE

Memphis AVS was saddened by the death of their Treasurer, Martha Page of Memphis, TN, in November, 1996. Martha was a member of the Mid South AVS since the early 1980's, and joined the Memphis AVS when Mid South disbanded. A member of AVSA, she was also an active charter member of the Volunteer State AV Council.

EARL WALKER JACKSON

Earl Walker Jackson passed away in August, 1996. Earl was a dedicated member of the AVC of Greater Kansas City, Mid-America AVS, Heart of America Gesneriad Society, the Inner City Violet Club, the Metropolitan St. Louis AVC and the Missouri Valley AV Council. Earl was an asset to all these organizations, and will be missed by all.



GOOD IDEAS FROM CALIFORNIA

Compiled by Sue Haffner
Clovis, CA

- When you wick-water with large, common reservoirs, the water/nutrient mix becomes more concentrated as the fluid evaporates. By the last day or so of use, your plants may be imbibing a solution that is 10 times the recommended strength. Some growers recommend that the reservoir be emptied and the fluid replaced when the fertilizer water has fallen to half-full.
- Do you bake potting soil in the oven to pasteurize it, but don't care for the resultant odor? Try using those plastic baking bags intended for turkeys. It seals in the odor, and you can ventilate the cooked soil outdoors after the process is finished. The soil may also be stored in the bag.
- Keep your gesneriad seeds dry, and they can last a long time. We recently read of seeds germinating after having been in storage for 22 years! The seeds were kept wrapped in tissue, enclosed in small glassine envelopes, and stored in a refrigerator. Paper is best for keeping seeds. Plastic bags tend to keep them too moist, encouraging decay. Put seeds in paper envelopes or tissues, and keep them in a lidded jar in the refrigerator.

*Reprinted with permission from the CA Council News,
joint publication of the Northern and Southern CA AV Councils*

Hooked on Gesneriads

by Peggy Payne
Hallsville, MO

I have fellow club members who grow beautiful violets, but hesitate to try the "other gesneriads". Their main objection is that they sprawl, take over, flop over, or, are just hard to grow.

This can be true of episcias, which, if allowed to grow in an undisciplined fashion, can develop a real urban sprawl. Kohlerias can flop over, columneas and *Aeschynanthus* lose lower leaves and develop bare stems. Mini sinningias go dormant, *Streptocarpus* sulk through hot weather and sometimes disappear. Why bother with them?

I'm hooked on gesneriads, and some of my club members have become hooked, as well. We have managed to develop some techniques for growing gesneriads successfully.

I keep my episcias under control by starting over with new stolons, or by cutting through the stem on bigger plants and treating it as a stolon. A fellow club member grows her episcias on reservoirs and allows the stolons to touch the shelf below. Any other stolons are removed. Another member grows her episcias in hanging baskets and keeps putting the stolons back in the basket, while a fourth member grows beautiful episcias in a 12" pan.

One of our club members discovered a neat method for growing mini sinningias and other plants which like constant humidity. She cuts a circle of matting and puts it in a dome terrarium. (There are sources for these in the AVM.) Then, she puts eight to ten 2 1/4" pots in the terrarium. They grow beautifully and bloom like mad. Terrariums can be rotated on the shelf, or moved in and out of the plant stand. The top can come off to accustom plants to outside air. This is my favorite way of starting episcias. Yes, I adopted her method. I found it easy to take a single plant out of the terrarium to show. I'd struggled with moss in ivy bowls and other containers, and with dirt on the sides of the bowls.

I don't despair over bare-stemmed columneas, *Nematanthus*, and *Aeschynanthus*. I cut them back ruthlessly. The cuttings are plantable, too. I took *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly' to the Missouri State Fair in August to use in a demonstration. I gave cuttings away

and brought the plant home with 2" stubs. By November, I had a beautiful, shiny, heavily budded, compact plant. It had come back in three months.

Kohlerias are very easy to manage. Just cut through the stem and plant top down. It will bloom as a shorter, more compact plant. If the stem is woody, scrape it as you would an African violet neck. The rhizomes in the pot will produce new growth. Kohlerias may also be pinched back.

I found a way to get my *Streptocarpus* through the summer. I kept them under-potted and stuck a moist ball of sphagnum moss in the pot. Then I set them in a plastic-covered ten gallon aquarium on the floor, under lights. I didn't lose a single variety. Now, they are repotted and out of the aquarium on a shelf, under lights. I think that streps like pan pots, rather than the traditional African violet pot.

I've heard growers complain about plants getting so tall. Why do they need to? I've cut *Nautilocalyx lynchii* back and started it over several times. I recently cut *Drymonia* 'First Peach' back, too. I'll see what happens.

Mini sinningias are easy to start over. Just take the tops off and treat like a plant (in those high dome terrariums, of course). The tubers will put up new growth and the tops will be blooming by the time the tuber re-sprouts. 'Cindy Ella', my favorite compact *Sinningia*, is so easy to propagate this way.

The true gloxinias, another favorite of mine, especially 'Medea', respond beautifully to pinching. So do *Achimenes*. They propagate so many ways, why not try them?

Do I grow African violets? Yes, I do. In fact I won Best In Show with a trailer at our last show. But I wanted to expand into the other gesneriads and found how much fun it is to grow them, as well.

I've managed to interest other members of our club in them to the extent that most members grow at least one of them. The only problem now is that they're winning Best In Class with plants I've given them or encouraged them to buy!

Don't be afraid to try the "other gesneriads" and take charge of them. You just might find yourself with a blue ribbon plant, and hooked on the "other gesneriads", too!

"And the winners are..."

Ruth Goeke
4851 Pieper Road
Brenham, TX 77833

MID AMERICA AVS, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Hot Chocolate, Irish Flirt, Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, Best species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bright Honey, Ness' Red Flash, Ness Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer, Pride's Pink Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Mid America, **Ruby Cox**. Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Jim Britton**. Best Gesneriad: *xCodonatanthus 'Aurora'*, **Johnnie Proctor**. Best Design, **Marsha Eckhoff**.

LONE STAR AVC, TX - Winners: Best Amateur AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Picasso, Party Print; Best in Show/Best Standard, Party Print, **Martha Turner**. Best Amateur AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Be, Dean's Arctic Frost, Sassy Shirley, **Verna Lawrence**. Best Commercial AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Victory, Rodeo Country, Mary Craig, **Lenora Munk**. 2nd Best Commercial AVSA Standard Collection: Peach Puff, Rain Man, My Wicked Ways; Best Commercial AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Classic Rock, Rob's Whodunit, **Hector Becerra**. 2nd Best Commercial AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, Spin-Out, Magic Blue, **Hortense Pittman**. Best Semiminiature: Dean's Aquarius; Best Miniature: Dean's Ivory Lace, **Kay Gregg**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandtii*, **Richard Nicholas**. Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Margery Clive**. Best Design, **Bill Foster**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**.

LACO, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Ontario, Lela Marie, Rodeo Country, **Mary McFarland**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pilgrim Hope, Moonlight Lady, Victorian Velvet; Best AVSA

Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeyman, Irish Flirt, Rob's Gal Vikki; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Beacon Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea 'Nelly'*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lucy Menard**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Red Bandito, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Hot Tamale; Design Sweepstakes tie, **Penny Brenner**. Best Miniature: Night Magic, **Elmer Godeny**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Denise Lindsly**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes tie, **Nancy David**.

BLUFF CITY AVC, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Georgia Lover, Tommie Lou, **Helen Stauffer**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Muffy, Blue Mink, Rapid Transit, **Gwendolyn Brown**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Irish Flirt, Rob's Megan Lynn; Best in Show: Alamo Sunshine; Best Miniature: Wichita Baby; Best species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George McDonald**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sno Fun; Best Gesneriad: *Gloxinia 'Double White Swan'*, **Kathryn Steele**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

MID-ATLANTIC AVS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Private Stock, Grandma's Zach, Harbor Blue; Best species: *Saintpaulia magungensis var. minima*, **Pat Knight**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Boolaroo; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Ralph Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Cloudy Skies, Rob's Fe Fi, Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Miniature: Swing Kid; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Monkeyshines; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus 'Saturn'*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sidney Sorano**. Best Design, **Sue Hoffmann**. Design Sweepstakes, **Beryl Wood**.

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Ct.
Claremont, CA 91711

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Cultivar names have been changed to upper and lower case letters for easier reading and to match the format of the new *Master List of Species and Cultivars*, 7th Edition.

REGISTRATIONS

*Barbara Elkin - Auburn, CA

***Gertrude Frances** (8483) 10/21/96 (Elkin/J. Eyerdorn) Semidouble light lavender wavy pansy/dark orchid eye, fantasy edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

***Intrepid** (8484) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble dark red two-tone star/fuchsia-pink shaded edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, wavy. **Standard**

***Jane Ellen** (8485) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single red-blue star/raspberry sparkle edge. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. **Large**

***Lori Ann** (8486) 10/21/96 (Elkin/J. Eyerdorn) Semidouble-double white star/light lavender marking. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***Quiet Delights** (8487) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Semidouble plum-fuchsia two-tone sticktite ruffled star/pink-fuchsia shaded edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

***Quiet Expressions** (8488) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble dusty rose-fuchsia wavy star/violet shaded band, white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***Quiet Passion** (8489) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Double dark magenta-wine frilled star/red eye, violet-blue shading, green edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***Quiet Sensations** (8490) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single dark coral sticktite star/fuchsia shading, pink ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

***Quiet Thunder** (8491) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble light fuchsia wavy star/violet fantasy, dark fuchsia edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***Rebecca Jane** (8492) 10/21/96 (Elkin/J. Eyerdorn) Single light pink large star/blue fantasy, raspberry speckled edge. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. Sucker propagation only. **Large**

Sidney Sorano - Dolgeville, NY

***Adirondack Moon** (8493) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/yellow blush, mottling. Variegated green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***Age of Innocence** (8494) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double white star. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***Aloha Orchid** (8495) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark lavender star/dark orchid sparkle edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**

***Artist's Palette** (8496) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink large star/blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, ovate. **Large**

***Bashful** (8497) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/fuchsia mottling. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***Best Friends** (8498) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink star/rose overlay, variable thin white edge. Dark green, plain, ovate, quilted/red back. **Standard**

***Blue Beacon** (8499) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium blue star/darker fantasy. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***Blue Jeans Baby** (8500) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium blue pansy/thin white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***Blue Silhouette** (8501) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light blue two-tone pansy/variable white, green. Black-green, plain, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**

***Boo Man** (8502) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light blue frilled pansy/white-feathered top petals, variable green. Black-green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

- ***Broadway Dancer** (8503) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double pink star/rose sparkle edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Burgundy Beau** (8504) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble burgundy pansy. Medium green, plain, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Christmas Glitter** (8505) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double pink star/rose sparkle flecks, blue fantasy, rose sparkle edge. Variegated green and white, plain, ovate. **Standard**
- ***Cookie Man** (8506) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white star/medium blue mottling. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- ***Dancing Lady** (8507) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/blue fantasy. Variegated medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Standard**
- ***Dancing Rainbows** (8508) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/blue fantasy. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Dangerous** (8509) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double red pansy/mauve overlay. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- ***Designer Star** (8510) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light plum star/pink fantasy, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Large**
- ***Diamond Girl** (8511) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite star/pink-blushed eye, light rose sparkle marking, rose-pink edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Flashy Angel** (8512) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink pansy/red eye. Variegated medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Frosted Denim** (8513) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light blue pansy/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Miniature**
- ***Golden Dawn** (8514) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white star/red eye, yellow blush. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Guardian Angel** (8515) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double pink star/blue fantasy. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Large**
- ***Hearts Aglow** (8516) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia star/ivory blush. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Hot Foot** (8517) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble rose-fuchsia star/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Island Hideaway** (8518) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/blue-purple blushed eye, edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Kisses of Gold** (8519) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double white ruffled pansy/yellow rays, mottling. Medium green, plain, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***Lace Shadows** (8520) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white pansy/dark pink fantasy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Lil Rich Girl** (8521) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/red sparkle frilled edge. Variegated medium green, white and pink, plain/girl foliage. **Semiminiature**
- ***Little Ebony** (8522) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Little Lexi** (8523) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink pansy. Variegated dark green, white, and variable rose, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Little Redhead** (8524) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink pansy/mauve tips, overlay. Variegated dark green and white, plain, pointed. **Miniature**
- ***Lyon's Crown Jewel** (8525) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera fuchsia star/white stripe, bright green ruffled tips. Medium green, plain, ruffled. **Large**
- ***Lyon's Gold Rush** (8526) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double white pansy/yellow blush. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Lyon's June Bug** (8527) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Lyon's Pink Cadillac** (8528) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink large star. Dark green, ovate, quilted. **Large**
- ***Lyon's Pirate's Treasure** (8529) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink pansy/wide red ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Lyon's Sashay** (8530) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink ruffled pansy/green-edged mauve top petals. Dark green, plain, ruffled/red back. **Large**
- ***Lyon's Victorian Valentine** (8531) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia-red star/white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, ruffled. **Large**
- ***Lyon's Wine Drops** (8532) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double wine pansy. Variegated dark green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Meteor Showers** (8533) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium blue star/pink and rose fantasy. Dark green, ovate, quilted/red back. **Large**
- ***Midnight Tease** (8534) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark wine pansy/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Midnight Velvet** (8535) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double dark blue star/variable near-black overlay in center. Dark green, plain, ovate/red back. **Large**
- ***Moonsilk** (8536) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white frilled pansy/random lavender two-tone blush, mottling. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***New Attitude** (8537) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink frilled pansy/blue-fantasied light mauve stripe. Variegated dark green and cream, plain, pointed, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Night Fever** (8538) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble burgundy pansy/variable darker streaks. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Oksana** (8539) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender pansy/variable darker-tipped top petals. Medium-dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Painted Desert** (8540) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Single salmon-pink sticktite pansy/ red-mauve top petals; dark

red band, white edge. Medium green, plain, ovate.
Standard

***Party Streamers** (8541) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double lavender-pink star/blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

***Persuasive Pink** (8542) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**

***Pink Playmate** (8543) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***Pink Pussycat** (8544) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**

***Pink Satin Pillow** (8545) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink frilled pansy/blue stripe, flecks. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, quilted. **Standard**

***Porcelain Doll** (8546) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double pale lavender star. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***Powder Keg** (8547) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red large star/white edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Large**

***Private Dancer** (8548) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue pansy/light raspberry ruffled edge. Variegated dark green, white, cream and pink, plain. **Large**

***Pure 'n' Innocent** (8549) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***Red Lantern** (8550) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble red large star/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**

***Red October** (8551) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark red star. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Large**

***Royal Commotion** (8552) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue star/raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**

***Sassy Sister** (8553) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double dark pink pansy/green ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, wavy. **Semiminiature**

***Satin Dancer** (8554) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue cupped star. Dark green, ovate/red back. **Standard**

***Sequins 'n' Ribbons** (8555) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink large star/red sparkle flecks, red edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Large**

***Sketches** (8556) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Single chimera pink frilled pansy/blue-fantasied mauve stripe. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

***Smooth Sailing** (8557) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender-blue frilled pansy, shaded to white-blushed edge. Medium green, plain, wavy. **Standard**

***Stargate** (8558) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble plum star/pink fantasy, lavender band, white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**

***Sultan** (8559) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark rose-fuchsia two-tone pansy/light wine-blushed top petals, pink-blushed white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**

***Sunlit Velvet** (8560) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble rose-fuchsia star/pink ruffled edge. Dark green, quilted, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

***Sunset Ridge** (8561) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble coral-mauve pansy/variable red flecks; dark burgundy-red sparkle band, white edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**

***Sweet Cherub** (8562) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Double rose-pink star. Variegated medium green, white and rose, plain, ovate, spooned, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***Sweet Thing** (8563) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink cupped pansy. Variegated medium green, white and pink, plain, pointed, glossy. **Miniature**

***Swing Kid** (8564) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender pansy/variable purple tips. Variegated medium green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***That's Show Biz** (8565) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/red sparkle fantasy marking, edge. Dark green, plain, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**

***Twist of Fate** (8566) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink star/blue stripe, fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

***Victorian Elegance** (8567) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red-mauve star/pink edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**

***Wild Irish Rose** (8568) 11/9/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/wide green edge. Variegated dark green, cream, tan and pink, pointed, wavy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Darryl Hoover - Fullerton, CA

***Joy's Pink Halo** (8569) 11/26/96 (D. Hoover) Single-semidouble pink sticktite pansy/variegated dark green, white and pink, plain, quilted, pebbled. **Semiminiature**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

Lil Runaround (7965) Change to **Semiminiature trailer**.

NAME RESERVATIONS

Pat Hancock - West Chester, OH

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Buckeye)
* Added Touch * Bravado * Broidery * Butterflies * Cat's Meow * Colorama * Confetti * Cosmic Colors * Crown Jewels
* Custom Made

Robert Mack - Norridge, IL

*Robert's Hope

Guidelines for Advertisers

Commercial Membership • Non-Commercial • Classified

Diane Richardson • 9207 Ravenwood Road • Baltimore, Maryland 21237

VISA or Mastercard

AVSA now accepts VISA or Mastercard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for six consecutive ads (one full year) either by check or charge, and take 10% off the total bill. Note that most rates have been rounded off to ease bookkeeping for both the advertiser and the AVSA staff. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This new ruling is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Existing AVSA members, as well as non-members, may take advantage of this new change. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than that of our commercial membership. Unless they are already a member of AVSA, they would not receive a copy of the AVM, nor would they be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) as non-commercial will pay an additional \$18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White Non-Commercial	\$379.50

One year (six issues) a non-commercial will pay an additional \$207.00 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, you can't afford those big ads every month so once or twice a year will have to do?

The Classified Advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

Rates for Classified Advertising

\$15.00 minimum, 15 words - \$1.00 each additional word, series or groups of numbers count as a word. Checks to be made payable to AVSA. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. In order to take advantage of the 10% discount listed above, the same ad (NO CHANGES) must be run for all six (6) issues. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section:**

Jan/Feb issue	Oct. 15	July/Aug issue	Apr 15
Mar/Apr issue	Dec 15	Sept/Oct issue	June 15
May/June issue	Feb 15	Nov/Dec issue	Aug 15

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

M. Diane Richardson, Advertising Manager
9207 Ravenwood Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237

Phone: 410-686-4667 after 6 p.m. ET

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4") B/W

AVSA Commercial Member Rates			Non-Commercial Member Rates
Rate	Per Column Inch	Total	
1"	30.00	30.00	33.00
2"	25.00	50.00	55.00
3"	25.33	70.00	77.00
4"	22.50	90.00	99.00
5" to 9-1/4"	22.40	per col. inch	

One-Fourth Page - Black & White

1 col. x 4-1/2" or 2 col. x 2-3/16" 95.00 104.50

One-Half Page - Black & White

1 col. x 9-1/4" or 2 col. x 4-1/2" 175.00 192.50

Full Page - Black & White

6-3/4" x 9-1/4" 345.00 379.50

Full Page - Four Color

6-3/4" x 9-1/4" 595.00 654.50

Customer provides color separations

Half Page - Four Color

1 col. x 9-1/4" or 2 col. x 4-1/2" 475.00 522.50

Customer provides color separations

10% discount if six (6) consecutive ads are paid in full advance.

Check made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. Need not be a commercial member to advertise.

Membership - \$30.00 per year - USA. Check made payable to AVSA. Membership check should be separate from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

African Violet Psalm

African violets are my hobby;
I shall have no other.
They maketh me to lay down my mop
and broom.
They restoreth my peace of mind
and lead me into strange
places, more violets to find.
Yea, tho' I'm alone with my pots
and soil, I feel no loneliness.
The snip of a sucker, and a turn
of a plant, they comfort me.
I prepare my plants on the shelf,
sit and look while my dish pan
runneth over.
Surely I will have fertilizer in
my cereal for breakfast
And I will dwell in the state of
confusion forever.

Unknown

The THRIPS FAMILY ROBBINGSOME

by Brenda Naroznick
Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada

Well, I rode many mile on the back of that cat
And I couldn't believe the place we were at!
Blossoms, all colors, with pollen sacs ripe
I jumped from the cat and tried the first bite!

Juicy and tender, and sweet as fresh clover
I wasn't long calling my family over
Soon siblings and cousins, uncles and aunts
Arrived with enthusiasm and picked their
own plants.

What a picnic we had, what a wonderful
feast!
Until on the horizon, we spotted a beast!
Raid! (Kills bugs dead)...

This small poem has ended, unexpectedly,
mid-rhyme,
With the help of a grower, who arrived just
in time!

VIOLET OBSESSION

BY KYLE COLEMAN
FT. WORTH, TX

You might be obsessed with African violets if:

You use Funginex fungicide to prevent bathroom tile mildew and cure athlete's foot.

You don't understand why people at work are not impressed with your autographed photo of Hortense Pittman.

Your pots, soil mixes, insecticides, and other violet necessities take up more room in your garage than your car.

Your worst nightmare is being on the *Price is Right* and selecting the custom Jaguar behind Door #1 instead of Door #2 and the unnamed African violet seedling with bright orange double blossoms.

You haven't been to a family reunion in five years, but you haven't missed an AVSA convention or local show in ten years.

You think *Schindler's List* is the list of the latest cultivars by a German hybridizer.

You have violet stationary for every occasion; white for Christmas and weddings, sky blue for Hanukkah and birthdays, and dark purple for sympathy.

You think an AVSA convention is the ideal place to pick up chicks.

You can't remember which you were married or how old your children are, but you can name all 29 species plants in reverse-alphabetical order in less than 20 seconds.

Disclaimer: The people described above are fictional. Any similarities to real people, living or dead, are unintentionally conspicuous.

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the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter

"White Stuff" continued from page 7

pathogens. Soak it in vinegar to remove any of the built-up scale of minerals. If you like short-cuts, rinse the pot and put it in the electric dishwasher. You may still have to soak in vinegar to remove the scaly build-up.

"What is that white stuff in my soil?"

That could be two things. If it is hard and the size of small gravel, it is perlite, which is often a key ingredient in potting mixes. If it is moving slightly and squishes when you squeeze it, it is soil mealy bug.

Soil mealy bug (also called Pritchard mealy bug) is a near cousin to foliar mealy bug, but it depends on the roots for its food source. It also builds web-like masses where the eggs are laid, but in the soil instead of on the leaves. They live for two to four months and reproduce rapidly. Often, the bugs may be detected floating on water in reservoirs or on dark colored matting. They easily drop through holes in the bottom of pots and may spread when violets are lifted off the shelf and over other plants.

Soil mealy bugs feed on roots, but can live in harmony with your violets for a long time if you provide very good

culture. When the bugs finally start to reveal themselves because the plants are looking ill, they are usually well established. African violets will look wilted and the leaves often lack luster and have a dull look. As time goes on (and the root system is systematically destroyed), outside leaves will begin to yellow and fail. There will be fewer blossoms and they will often have a smaller size than usual.

These are also difficult to eliminate without concerted effort. There are several recommended chemicals that will work. Many growers would suggest that it is best to take leaf cuttings from any affected plants and start over. If you do this, remember to dispose of the sick plants and infested soil in a place far from the violet room.

"What is that white stuff on top of my fluorescent lights?"

Okay, well, that is just dust. It needs to be wiped off once in a while. It sure seems to accumulate fast, doesn't it? Lots of good growers enjoy looking at and handling their plants much more than they enjoy dusting. If you're like that, just remember to watch out for the white stuff that is making your violets miserable. The sooner you fix it the happier your plants will be. The dust? It'll wait!



Dear Editor,

Your Nov./Dec. issue asks we readers to write for our magazine. Well ready or not you have encouraged this novice writer and violet grower to take up computer and set to paper my short history of an amateur's incursion into violet growing. Let me preface this article by saying I have 18 plants, do not know the name of any of them, and bought them because I liked the color of foliage.

Frustration was my motivating factor. After years of buying violets for my wife and watching them die slow deaths; I made a trip to the local library, scanned a book about growing violets and determined that what was needed was a grow light. Without any further research a growlight was purchased and set up in a spare room in the house. The result was that the flowers bloomed longer, however the plants continued to wither and die. Another trip to the library to read the second chapter in the book lead to the purchase of wicked pots, violet fertilizer, Physan 20 and potting soil.

Within a few weeks I was rewarded with a dozen blossoming plants. Thus encouraged I began to coddle the plants slightly. The results were more blossoms per plant and very vivid colors. At this point in time I could no longer enjoy this solely by myself and felt compelled to erect a shelf the length of the living room (south facing) picture window to place the creme-da-le-creme for viewing by the passing world.

The grand opening of this display was about mid May of 1996. I had on the self eight very beautiful plants. Some of the passing world even stopped to "ooh and aah" and fill my big

head with flattering compliments regarding my green thumb prowess. Most of the comments were about the number of blossoms on the plants; a minimum of 40 to 75.

I was able to continue basking in my gardening moment of glory until about the beginning of October when I noticed a subtle sort of lackluster attitude in the plant's behavior. Couldn't quite put my finger what was happening, but began to suspicion it might be the decreasing amount of light the plants were receiving. This revelation occurred to me around the same time the furnace began activating in the evening hours. "BROWN THUMB" alert. In less than 10 days all but one* of the plants began showing brown wilting of the blossoms and I was in a panic. I reacted by removing all the flower stems from the plants and returning them to the protection of the grow light.

HELP!!!! What do I do now? What really happened to my plants? Do I need to repot? I need a whole lot of education and I'm sure my very deflated big head is ready to absorb any and all assistance your readers can provide.

Being a hard learner I think what I really need is a book or set of instructions that will outline in simple terms what I need to do and when to maintain my plants.

*The one plant seemingly unaffected has double deep purple blossoms with Geneva (white) edging and a yellow center, foliage is spooned. This plant is still on the window shelf and appears quite vigorous in growth.

Frantic novice needing to learn,

Ernie Ziegler

Ernie Ziegler

8605 242nd St. SW • Edmonds, WA 98026

ROOTING METHODS

by Iris Keating
Claremont, CA

There are several ways to propagate African violets and their gesneriad cousins. Years ago violet leaves were rooted in water-filled jelly jars on window sills. Later we were advised that water roots were not sturdy, and the rooted leaf or plantlet had to replace them when planted into soil mix.

The best leaves for propagating are taken from the middle rows of a violet plant - not the bottom rows because those leaves are old and past their prime, diminishing the rate of success. Plants should have been recently watered so that the leaves are turgid.

The leaf should be washed in mild soap suds in tepid water to remove any dirt, mildew, or critters and then thoroughly rinsed. The petiole (leaf stem) is cut at a 45 degree angle with a clean, sharp knife or razor blade, making sure the slant - where the plantlets will grow - is at the front of the leaf. If the slant is at the back of the leaf, the emerging plantlets will be shaded by the leaf.

The leaf is then allowed to dry or "harden off" for 30 minutes to form a callus on the cut end. This reduces the chance of the leaf rotting instead of forming roots. Some growers successfully stick the leaf end directly into the moist rooting mix or even regular potting mix without any drying time, but allowing the stem end to dry first eliminates much of the chance for failure.

A violet crown is re-rooted in much the same manner. It is severed from the plant with a sharp knife and the outer leaves removed, leaving only about two rows - or six - leaves. Shorten the stem to about 1" and **gently** remove all brown crust with your thumb nail, a sucker plucker, or similar tool. Give the crown and harvested leaves a soapy bath, rinse and turn upside down on the counter to harden off. Plant in starter mix and place in baggies or a clear plastic box.

Starter mix - what is it? A popular formula is equal parts of #2 Perlite® and vermiculite with some horticultural charcoal added to keep it sweet. Some growers use straight Perlite®, others use all vermiculite, or various combinations of each. I use the first one with 30% to 50% of my regular potting mix added. It is still a very light mix, but there is just enough potting mix added to give the plantlets a good start.

Leaves can be rooted between layers of dampened paper toweling or enclosed in sealed plastic bags with stem ends in

moistened cotton balls, paper toweling or tissue and either propped up on the light shelf or hung along a taut string with clothespins or paperclips. Methods are as endless as one's imagination.

Two new methods warrant trial. Mary Pat Weber of Moorpark, CA, had an interesting article in the Nov./Dec. 1995 AVM entitled "Instant Sucker Nursery". She uses recycled plastic containers and paper toweling to ensure nearly a 100% success rate.

Mary Pat uses clear plastic bakery or deli containers to create miniature terrariums. A few layers of damp paper toweling - not napkins or other paper products as they tend to rot - are placed in the bottom of the container. They should be kept moist but not dripping wet.

Cut leaf stems straight across instead of at an angle and prop them along the sides. Broken leaves or fragile suckers from miniatures and semiminiatures root well using this method.

The paper toweling is kept moist, and the "terrarium" is always handy to quickly add leaves or cuttings without having to drag out potting supplies. Leaves and suckers root much faster using this method than those planted in conventional starter mix.

Root system development can be observed through the clear container. Roots will spread and attach themselves to the towel. When transplanting, simply remove as much paper towel as possible. Any remaining paper will harmlessly disintegrate in the soil.

Plantlets can be kept this way for several months until you are ready to pot them. After plantlets form, keep the paper towel moist with a few drops of fertilizer solution.

This method is similar to the one that I use for rooting *Streptocarpus* leaves and would probably work well for rooting other gesneriad cuttings and stolons.

The Central CA AVS' May newsletter, *African Violet-ter*, contained an article from the Greater New York AGGS *Glox News* about rooting multiple cuttings without a propagation box. Using a folded strip of plastic kitchen wrap, place prepared cuttings on a layer of damp long-fibered sphagnum moss on one half of the plastic. Place another layer of moss on top of the cuttings, and fold the plastic over it. Roll it up like a

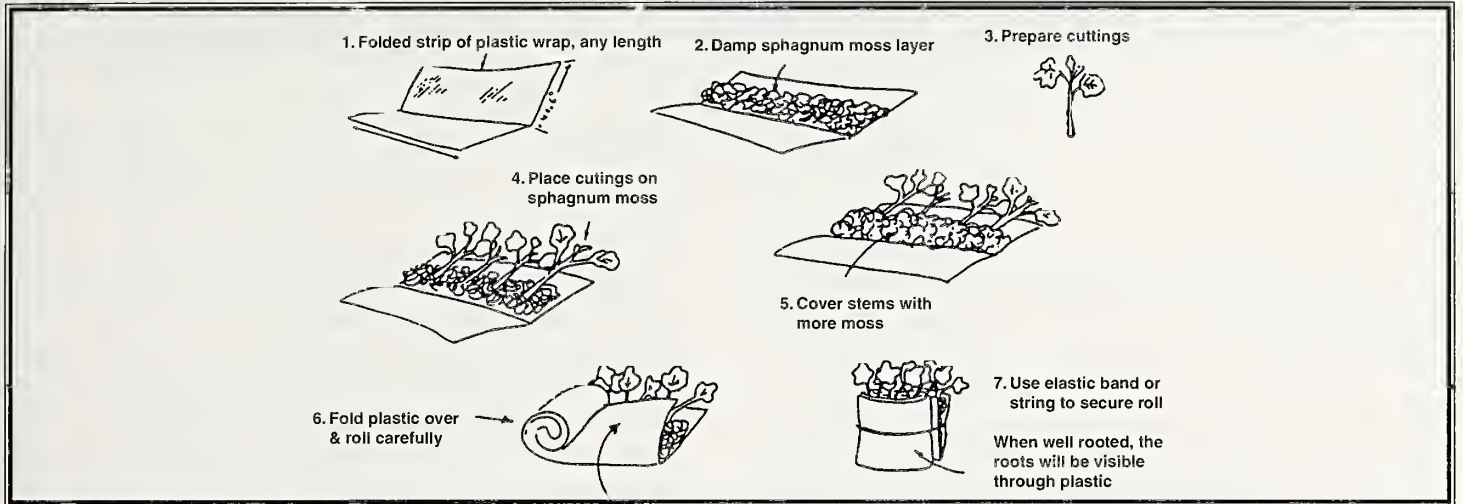
jelly roll, secure with a rubber band or piece of string, and place it under lights.

The roll can be easily inspected through the clear plastic for adequate moisture and for developing roots.

The sphagnum moss should be sterilized before using by pouring boiling water through it. Cuttings should also be given

a soap suds bath and rinse to remove any dirt or critters.

This method should work very well for *Episcia* stolons and cuttings. Remember - use leaves, cuttings, or stolons from only one variety of any plant in any one roll to avoid mix-ups. It can be difficult to attempt identification later!



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WHY IS MY PLANT NOT FLOWERING?

by Sue Gardner

This question is the most asked at our meetings. People buy a lovely flowering African violet and then it stops flowering. As the main reason they grow these plants is because of the beautiful flowers, it is a frustrating time.

There are several reasons why African violets do not flower, but the real secret is that "happy, healthy violets" grow and flower for most of the year. To produce a happy healthy violet we need comfortable conditions - light, mild temperatures, enough food and water, a good home (ie. pot) and cleanliness. A little love helps! Ask yourself the following questions.

1. Does my plant have enough light?

If your violet is stretching its leaves towards the light, petioles are elongated or leaves are yellowing the indication is that there is inadequate light. Windows facing the morning sun, or north facing windows are best in Melbourne. However, a bright window in another location may have sufficient light. Avoid hot sunlight to prevent burning of foliage.

Plants need at least 10-12 hours of light each day to stimulate flowering. If you do not have a light stand, you can achieve reasonable results by placing your plant under a fluorescent desk lamp for the required time. Place your plant so that there is a correct distance between the top of the plant and the lamp. Remember also that a dark period of at least 8 hours stimulates the flowering cycle.

2. Does my violet enjoy correct temperature and humidity?

African violets prefer constant temperatures. If you are

comfortable your plants should be. Humidity of 50-70% is best for good healthy blossoms. Melbourne usually obliges. Low humidity causes the blossoms to be small or dried out, and high temperatures cause the flowers to be paler and smaller than usual.

3. What about food and water?

If a plant is starving it will not flower. Likewise, if the plant does not receive a regular supply of water small buds will dry out and die before they develop. Wick watering ensures that your plant receives constant food and water. A good balanced fertilizer added to the wick watering reservoir will be best for flowering.

4. Can I see signs of pests and disease?

Keep an eye on your plant to detect any pests or disease as a sick plant does not flower well. Thrips are the greatest pests of blossoms. Powdery mildew is the most common fungus disease of blossoms. Deal with these problems quickly to avoid infecting all your plants.

A few points to keep in mind are:

- Allow your plant a short rest period between flowering of at least a few weeks.
- Make sure it is not too close to a natural gas appliance as the pollution can affect growth and flowering.
- Choose a plant that is known as a good bloomer!

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The Early Morn AV Group, Inc. Newsletter Australia*

GETTING READY FOR SHOW

Marilee Beam
Harbor City, CA

Now we're getting down to the real excitement of the show. This is the schedule I follow ... perhaps some of it will be helpful to you.

- 14 weeks:** Install 1 new fluorescent lamp. Lights on for 12 hours. Disbud all plants. Foliar feed with Fish Emulsion. Fertilize with RA-PID-GRO 23-19-17 or Peters 20-20-20. Variegates are fed Peters 12-36-14 and NOT foliar fed. Miniatures and semiminiatures are 6 inches below the lights.
- 10 weeks:** Increase light to 13 hours. Disbud. Remove damaged and small size leaves.
- 9 weeks:** Disbud heavily variegated plants for the final time. Start Bloom Booster fertilizer (Super Bloom 12-55-6 or Peters 5-50-17).
- 8 weeks:** Disbud all doubles for the final time. Fertilize with Bloom Booster.
- 7 weeks:** Disbud semidoubles for the final time. Fertilize with Bloom Booster. Check for suckers, necks, off-size leaves.
- 6 weeks:** Disbud singles for the final time. Increase light to 14 hours. Fertilize with Bloom Booster for the last time. Do not foliar feed from here on. Wash foliage under a sink spray or with a sponge by hand. Miniatures and semiminiatures: Final disbudding and raise to 5 inches beneath lights.
- 4 weeks:** Fertilize with RA-PID-GRO 23-19-17 or Peters 20-20-20. Variegates still get Peters 5-50-17 or 12-36-14.
- 2 weeks:** Miniatures and semiminiatures are 4 inches from tubes.
- 1 week:** Remove spent blooms, peduncles and pedicel stubs. Brush off dust and pet hair. Fertilize with 1/2 teaspoon of Sturdy ... this helps the plants and blooms to hold up well during the stress of a show, I believe.

Now, step back and evaluate your proposed entries, but do not judge them too harshly.

When I first began showing I'd leave many nice plants home because they had a marked leaf or a spot here or there. I was SURE that no other grower would have those problems. NOT TRUE! We all have those problems.

Two things that helped me evaluate more objectively were **Bill Foster's** sheets on judging and re-reading the AVSA Scale of Points in the *AVSA Handbook*. Unfortunately, Bill's sheets are too large for the size of our magazine but, some of the highlights are listed below. I am not a judge, but the *AVSA Handbook* has helped me enormously.

Remember: Keep them clean!
Keep them fresh!
Keep them symmetrical!

Below are highlights from Bill's sheets. Please note:

1. "Condition" applies to the cultural aspect and grooming of the plant at the time it is judged.
2. "Symmetry" is the shape of the plant.

<u>Problem:</u>	<u>Points deducted for each Instance:</u>
marred leaf	up to 1 point under condition
dust & soil	up to 1 point under condition
broken leaf	up to 1 point under condition
spent blossom	1/2 point under condition
gap between leaves.	up to 3 points under symmetry
plant not centered in pot	up to 3 points under condition
plant that is overpotted	up to 3 points under condition
plant that is underpotted	up to 3 points under condition
neck	up to 3 points under condition

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EXCERPTS FROM "BASICALLY VIOLETS":

Growing & Grooming Tips

From Australia

from *The African Violet*

Publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

The grooming of your plants can be thought of in two ways; as the final touch-up the plants need before a show, or as a systematic and ongoing way of making sure that your plants always look their best. The more you groom the plants on a regular basis, the less effort you will have to make at the last minute before a show.

Cleanliness

Many growers choose to remove dust and other grime with a soft brush. Select a brush with bristles stiff enough to move the dust, but soft enough that it will not mark the leaves. Carefully brush from stem-end outwards.

Some growers give their plants a shower bath. Run warm water freely over the leaves, making sure not to wash the potting mix out of the pot. This method is not recommended in cold weather, and NEVER use cold water.

Dead Flowers:

Any flowers which are no longer fresh should be removed as soon as possible. Early signs that the flower is old include a crepe-like appearance in the petals. Also, remove as much flower stem as possible with the flower. When the last flowers on a stem have finished, take the entire stem off, eliminating the opportunity for rotting, and to keep the plant looking neat.

If you leave dead, or near-dead flowers, on the plant they only hide other, fresher flowers which are about to open. In very humid weather they may become moldy and can mark any leaves they are touching.

Leaves - Which to Remove

Although we all would like to achieve a really large plant, not all leaves should be left on the plant. Older leaves often become yellowish, paler and have less strength and vitality than younger ones. Not only do they not look good, they are of no benefit to the plant. Outside leaves are those most at risk of damage. Remove all badly damaged leaves. Sometimes it's better to remove leaves all around the plant to keep it symmetrical. Reducing size, perhaps, but improving quality.

Remove leaves right at the base, taking care not to leave a little stub. Remove any side-shoots as well.

Potting Mix

After a plant has been in its pot for a length of time, the mix may settle, and you will need to top it up. Do this carefully, avoiding getting your potting mix on the leaves and stems.

Training the Plants

African violets always look better if the leaves and flowers are evenly distributed around the plant. You can often achieve this by gently putting them in place. If the leaves are reluctant to take that perfect shape you are aiming for, use stakes and leaf forms until they naturally continue in that position.

African violet plants benefit from constant grooming. They respond with better health, quicker growth and more flowers. They always look their best, so you can easily find a plant which is "just right" to enter in the show.



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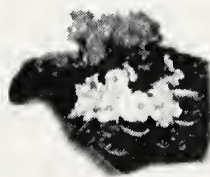
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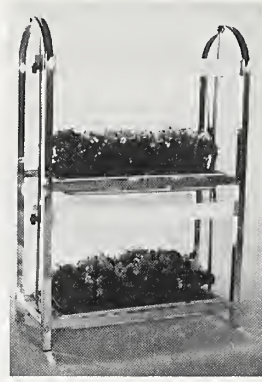
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Dean's Brandywine, Moonsilk, Baby Darryl, Ness' Tiny Flame, Raspberry Delight, Rob's Antique Rose, Apache Stars, Alamo Gold Rush, Cathedral, Suncoast Artist Fantasy, Painted Desert, ACA's Canadian Wonder, Von's Christmas Toy, Jeremie, Alexina. So many pretty new plants to add to your collection. Its time to send for our new catalog and get a full description of these and the many other varieties that we have available this year. **OUR CATALOG IS AVAILABLE FOR \$1.00. It will be sent out the day after we receive the request.**

TRAILERS - 38 varieties! Some new and many older ones that we feel are worthy of collecting. We only keep the best on our shelves.

Weather permitting, we ship your orders as soon as possible after we receive them. Orders are mailed on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday of each week.

LEAVES - SHIRLEY'S CHOICE---CURRENT RELEASES: 24 FOR \$24.00.
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Leaves of the customer's choice: \$1.50 for new releases and \$1.25 for older varieties. Shipping on leaves is \$6.00 for up to 50. Over 50, add 10 cents per leaf.

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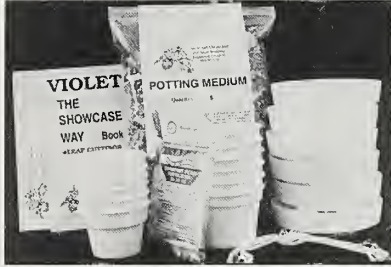




VIOLET SHOWCASE SPECIAL OFFER



Violet Showcase Plant Assortment - Six different standard sized starter plants will be chosen for you from our available stock when your order arrives. We will choose an assortment of leaf and blossom types and bloom color in each shipment. All plants will be husky, well-rooted, named, labeled varieties in 2 1/4" pots. A \$28.50 value - our choice of varieties - **only \$15.00** which includes packing and Priority Mail shipping, and a free catalog/list, or \$27 per dozen plants. *Minis, trailers, and variegated foliage types available upon request. We ship plants May thru October.*



Violet Showcase Basic Supplies Kit - All of the supplies necessary to try wick watering (a great way to grow violets!) PLUS step-by-step instructions. Includes a 1 oz. pouch of Volkmann Bros Constant Feed Fertilizer (15-30-15), a 3 quart bag of Potting Medium (especially mixed for wicking), 6 Volkmann Bros. wicking saucers, six 3" tub pots, six 3 1/2" tub pots, 6 yds of wicking cord, and our best-selling **VIOLETS THE SHOWCASE WAY** booklet. A **\$24.50** value for **only \$15.00** which includes UPS shipping and handling, and a free catalog/list. We ship supplies year round. Pots will be brown, not white as shown in photo.



Send for your free complete catalog/descriptive plant list of supplies and violets.



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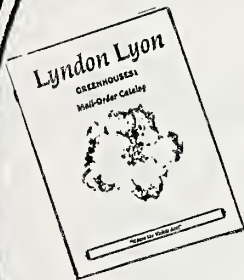
The Violet Showcase

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ALAMO DOVE
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ALAMO LADY
ALAMO SWEETHEART

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PETITE BLARNEY
PLUM PRETTY
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LITTLE SHIMMER
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ALSO LYONS 1995 VARIETIES AND OUR OWN HYBRIDS & OTHER NEW RELEASES. Please list a few substitutes to help rush orders.

1996-97 Plants - \$3.50 ea.; All others \$3.00 ea. Please add \$6.00 or 15%, whichever is greater, for First Class Shipping.

Shipping starts April 1st - weather permitting. Orders shipped in order received. Greenhouse open 7 days a week, please call first.

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
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PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANENT TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	1.50	8.50	16.20		
	4.75	27.00	51.00		

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;

3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of

Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies

Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.

Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone

Number

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PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	
		4 oz.	8 oz.
12-36-14	African Violet Special	\$1.60	\$3.00
5-50-17	Variegated Special	1.60	3.00
		4 oz.	12 oz.
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	1.25	3.00
		4 oz.	16 oz.
20-20-20	General Purpose	1.25	3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
			2 lbs./\$1.75
Dolomite Limestone			40 oz.
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	3.25
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	
		4 qts.	16 qts.
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.75	5.00
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss		432 cu. inches	\$3.75

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

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6" - 9" - 13"

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16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$3.97

2 oz. - \$4.55

4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
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KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



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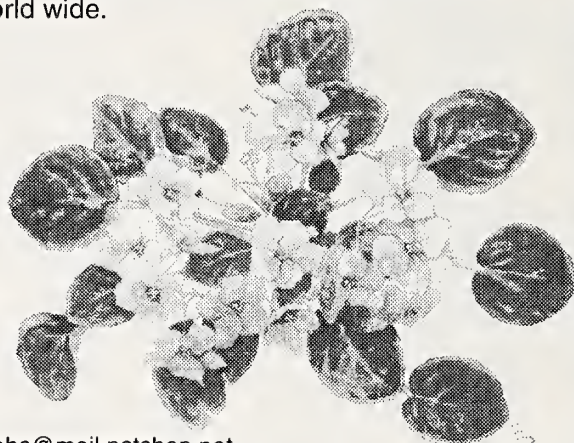
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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
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FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 3.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

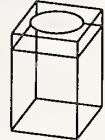
Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30
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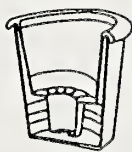
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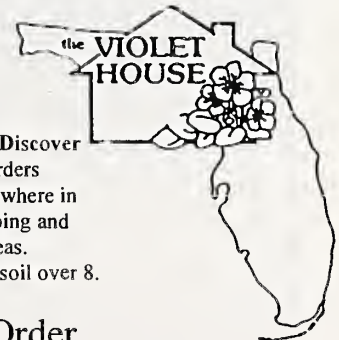
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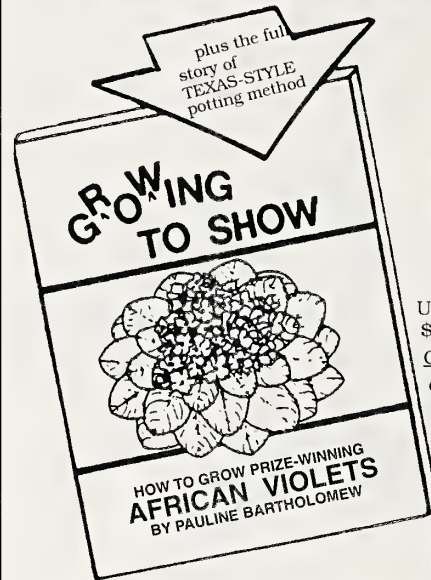
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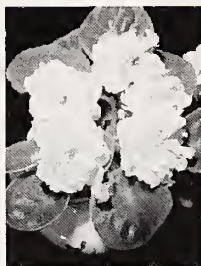
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African Violet

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

May • June 1997

Volume 50

Number 3



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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

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African Violet

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

May • June

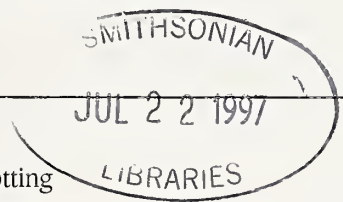
Volume 50

Number 3

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| In Memory Of Nell Sue Tyson | 4 | Managing A Marathon Repotting
Session! - Barbara Pershing | 36 |
| Overcrowded or Room To Spare - Linda Golubski | 9 | A Real Winner - Sue Hill. | 37 |
| Attention Affiliate Club Presidents and Members | 11 | This Wonderful World of Violets - Ruth Goeke | 38 |
| Focus On The Future - Georgene Albrecht | 14 | Important Notice: Senior Judges - Frances King. | 39 |
| Show Time Blues - N. Kalaya Steed-Guidry | 21 | Color Photograph: "Rafting On The Chattahoochie" | 40 |
| Lincoln AVS Experimental Evaluation of Soilless Mixes. | 22 | Underwater Arrangements | 41 |
| Selecting A Good Plant From A Description - Sue Gardner | 23 | Six Lectures Presented At The Famous
Philadelphia Flower Show - Anne Tinari. | 42 |
| How Designs Are Point Scored - Joyce Stenger. | 24 | Cedar Valley AVC Way Of Preparing Plants And
Leaves For Sale | 42 |
| How To Prevent An African Violet Insect
Convention - Lynda Welchel. | 26 | Once Upon A Time - Debbie Stout | 45 |
| My Adventures With Cody - Darryl Hoover | 30 | 1997 Vacation Guide - David Buttram | 48 |
| Before You Bring Your Plants
To The Show - Emory Leland | 31 | Project Violet: Experiments &
Investigations - Kyle Coleman | 51 |
| Where Did Those Babies Come From? Some Thoughts on
Hybridizing With J.C. Munk - Judy Carter | 32 | Tips For Terrific Terrariums - Betty Tapping | 52 |
| Other Uses For African Violet Growing
Techniques - Don Geiss | 34 | Attention Commercial Members and Other Advertisers | 53 |
| Disbudding To Grow Larger: Science Fair Project Using
African Violets - Nat Stork | 35 | | |



DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| Index Of Advertisers. | 2 | Showcase. | 28 |
| Officers & Staff. | 2 | Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck | 39 |
| President's Message - L. T. Ozio | 3 | In Memory. | 43 |
| Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey | 4 | Coming Events. | 44 |
| Office Memo - Cindy Chatelain | 5 | "And the Winners Are ..." - Ruth Goeke | 46 |
| Shows & Judges - Bill Foster | 6 | Coming Events Form
(use for submitting show information) | 50 |
| Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens | 7 | 50th Anniversary Book & Pin. | 50 |
| In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith | 8 | Membership Application | 53 |
| Thinking Small - Pat Richards. | 10 | | |
| Question Box - Ralph Robinson | 12 | | |
| Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin | 15 | | |
| AVSA's Most Wanted - Barbara Elkin. | 15 | | |
| AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons | 15 | | |
| For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork | 16 | | |
| Registration Report - Iris Keating. | 20 | | |

CONVENTION

- Attention Hybridizers: Slides Wanted - Jackie Jones 14
- Come To St. Petersburg, Join In the Fun - Anne Tinari. 19
- St. Petersburg Convention Update - Ann Miller 27
- Awards For the St. Pete Beach 1997 Convention. 43

COVER

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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations	57
Alannah's African Violets	64
American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society	57
American Orchid Society	56
AV Enterprises Press.....	60
AVM's For Sale.....	55
AVS of Canada	57

B

Bayou Violets	55
B.B. Violets	58
Belisle's Violet House.....	55
Bluebird Greenhouses.....	54

C

Cape Cod Violetry	61
Cryptanthus Society	57

D

Dyna Gro	58
----------------	----

E

Episcias Only	56
---------------------	----

F

Florals of Fredericks.....	60
----------------------------	----

G

Grow Lights	55
Growing To Show.....	60

H

Hattie Baggett's African Violets ...	56
Herbal Gardens Ceramics.....	58

I

Indoor gardening Supplies	56
---------------------------------	----

J

J & F Industries.....	56
-----------------------	----

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents	55
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.....	59

M

Mighty Minis	57
--------------------	----

N

Neptune's Harvest.....	55
------------------------	----

O

Optimara	25
----------------	----

P

Pat's Patch	57
Pat's Pets	57
Plant Oasis.....	55

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets ..Inside Back Cover	
Rozell Nursery	58

S

Schultz.....	58
Shirley's House of Violets	62
Sonja's African Violets	56
Source Technology-Phyton 27.....	55

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund.....	54
Teas Nursery	59
Tinari Greenhouses.....Back Cover	
Travis' Violets.....	54

V

Verilux	59
Violets by Appointment.....	58
Violets Etc., Inc.	55
Violet House.....	63
Violet House.....	62
Violet Showcase	64
Vision Violets	56
Volkman Brothers	60

W

Jim Wildman	62
Worldwide Classifieds	55



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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 and Friends,

I hope those of you planning to attend the 51st Annual AVSA Convention and Show in St. Petersburg, Florida this June, have sent in your registration form. Those of you who are thinking about attending, I urge you to get out the January/February 1997 issue of the AVM, turn to the purple pages, and register soon. I assure you that the good Florida members hosting the convention are working exceptionally hard to make this convention a "fun" one, as well as a productive experience for all attending.

My term serving you as President of our African Violet Society will soon come to a close as our newly-elected president is installed for the coming term.

To the Officers, Directors, Chairmen of Standing Committees and Special Committees, and to all of you who have graciously contributed to the success and well-being of our Society, I express my sincerest gratitude. Your willingness to serve during my administration is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to our Office Manager, Cindy Chatelain and Office Secretary, Jenny Daugereau, for their assistance and support. Also, to our AVM Editor, Ruth Rumsey, our typesetter, Kay's Composition, and Becker Printing Company. Their efforts made it possible for our membership to see and read about the activities of our organization and the African violet world. And, thanks to all of our membership for being a part of our wonderful Society.

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

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

My friend, **Ruth Goeke**, has turned over the show winners column, "...And the Winners Are..." to the very capable hands of **Mary Loewer**. Mary's first column will appear in the July/August AVM.

Please direct all show results to Mary at the following address:

Mary Loewer
3504 Parkhaven Dr.
Plano, TX 75075

Our Library Chairman, **Jackie Jones**, has announced a new slide program, "**Trailers - Making Them Do What I Want Them To Do**", by **Bev Promersberger**. Call the Beaumont office to reserve this interesting program, (number 182L).

The Florida convention is just around the corner and I know that everyone is gearing up for all the excitement. The convention will mark the end of our current President's term in office. I want to thank **L.T. Ozio, Jr.** for all the guidance, support, and wisdom he has shared with me throughout his two years in office. It has truly been a pleasure working with L.T. and getting to know his lovely wife, **Yvonne**.

In this issue, you'll find an interesting article by **Nat Stork**, son of **Kent** and **Joyce Stork**, our "For Beginners" columnists, which highlights his Science Fair Project, "Disbudding To Grow Larger" (page 33).

Darryl Hoover contributed a fun piece for this issue, "My Adventures With Cody", (page 30), which details the trials and tribulations of baby sitting and hybridizing.

David Buttram, Commercials Chairman, has

compiled a list of our commercial members who are looking forward to seeing you this summer. Read their remarks to find out the hours they're open and whether or not you need to call ahead for an appointment. (page 48).

One of our members not on the list is the **Volkman Brothers Greenhouses**, 2714 Minert St., Dallas, TX 75219. (214) 526-3484. Be sure to visit them if you're in the Dallas area.

We've had several visitors at the office recently. Our friends, **Don** and **Maxine Geiss** drove down from Michigan again for the winter, and took the time to give an interesting program for the AVS of Beaumont. Our "Thinking Small" columnist, **Pat Richards**, stopped by for a visit with her kids, and **Kathy Spissman**, one of our hostesses from the Atlanta convention last year, came to visit and take a look at the office. We really do like to have visitors, and want you see the beautiful building that houses AVSA's National Headquarters. Call ahead for directions, we're very easy to find.

For those of you planning to attend the convention, be sure to get your registrations in soon. On page 19, read **Anne Tinari's** article on some of the special things the convention has to offer this year. Also, read Convention Director, **Ann Miller's** convention update (page 27).

For those of you with the responsibility of sending in club event dates to our "Coming Events", please make photocopies of the form on page 50 of this issue, and use it to send me your information. I try to give all of our clubs as much time as possible to get their notices in the AVM. If you cannot type the information, PLEASE PRINT.



In Memory of Nell Sue Tyson

The African violet world was saddened to learn of the death of Nell Sue Tyson on March 24, 1997. Nell Sue will always be remembered by her many friends for her devotion to AVSA. She actively promoted AVSA, often winning the Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award for obtaining the most new members in a year.

Working tirelessly as chairman of the Building Fund, Nell Sue raised funds for the purchase of the AVSA headquarters in Beaumont, Texas. She was active in the Hi Hopes AVC and the Rocky Mountain AV Council and was an AVSA judge, and was always willing to share her knowledge of African violet culture.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Memor

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager

2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702

The 1997 annual convention in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, promises to be one of the greatest ever. Located on the beautiful white beaches of Florida, the TradeWinds Resort offers recreational facilities for every member of the family. It's not too late to register for a week of beautiful plants, great tours, white beaches, delicious food, and most of all, getting together with all of your AV friends.

After each issue of the magazine is mailed, we receive dozens of notices from the post office stating that the AVM was not delivered to the address on the label. The primary reason is because the member moved and failed to send the office a change of address. Each returned label costs the society fifty cents and the member does not receive the latest copy of the magazine. Please send in your change of address to insure that your magazine will be received without interruption and to help AVSA save money on postage. We normally send a replacement issue if requested but postage costs continue to rise and we may not be able to do so in the future.

I also mentioned in a previous column that we have experienced problems with delivery of the AVM since reclassification and reform at the post office. We continue to experience some problems in that area. Members who have received the AVM for years at the address we have in our database are now having that address changed by the postal software and then the post office does not deliver the AVM to the new address. I am told the bugs will be worked out of the software soon, so we have to be patient. If you don't receive your AVM after a reasonable period of time, call the office and we will mail you another copy.

I usually issue a reminder to Affiliates in the May AVM to be sure and send in a change of officers by the end of June. We prepare the list for the September insert beginning in July, so please make sure your officers are current in our records.

This is a special request to all Affiliate and Commercial Members. Please check any information, membership applications, etc. that you use to promote membership in AVSA. We receive membership applications every week with the wrong amounts on them. AVSA appreciates your efforts to enroll members but please take steps to insure that the membership applications you give out contain the correct dues information. Some people have even accused us of false advertising and demanded their dues be

refunded because they were given outdated membership applications and we later billed them for the balance due. Thanks for you help in this matter.

My apologies to Judy Ellis of Bartlett, Tennessee. She was left off of the list of judges in the September insert. Please add Judy to your list if you are responsible for securing judges for your local show in the Tennessee area.

Our web site is experiencing a great number of visitors. In the last two months, I have seen a tremendous amount of interest in our site. We are averaging at least four information requests per day and an average of five new members per week. I also receive a lot of requests for general information on growing, local affiliates, where a certain plant or product can be purchased, and comments about how wonderful it is to know about an organization such as ours. The internet is a great place to share information about African violets and AVSA with people around the world.

Have you ever wondered where the money that you donate to Booster fund goes? Last year, because of our members' generous donations to Booster fund, we were able to purchase an IBM lap top computer. This marvelous little piece of equipment is used at convention to register members on site, record additional meal and tour tickets purchased and make name tags. We also use it to make signs and write memos, speeches, etc. It is a gem and was definitely needed. Thanks to all of you.

African violets not only give us a great deal of pleasure because of their beauty, they also enrich our lives through the violet friends we make by participating in clubs, shows, and conventions. I have made many friends because of my interest in growing African violets but one of the dearest was Betty Lovett, of Nederland, Texas. Betty and I joined the Mid County African Violet Club at the same meeting. We participated in local shows, sales, and roomed together at the 1988 Dallas convention. Betty served as president of the Mid County club and was always willing to work wherever needed. Her love for African violets was remarkable and she grew beautiful plants. Several years ago, she had to quit growing due to health problems but continued as an AVSA member until her health failed. Betty passed away on April 14, 1997. I will always remember her love for this beautiful plant and the friendship we shared because of the African violet.

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150

I hope to be seeing many of you in St. Pete Beach shortly! Here is a minor correction to the 1997 AVSA Convention Schedule. Please turn to page A-3 (the schedule) in the January 1997 AVM. Find rule 5 under Amateur Rules and Regulations and delete the word "white" from the second sentence. We are mystified as to where the word "white" came from. It is not on the copy submitted for publication and it was not on the 1996 schedule. Oh well, mystery makes life interesting!

Please delete AVSA, the last item on page 35 of the HANDBOOK and "Affiliate Chairman", the first two words on page 36. Replace "Affiliate Chairman" with "Schedule Approver". This should have been changed before. We try very hard to make all the changes when corrections are made but some of the items are repeated so many times it is sometimes difficult to catch all of them.

Page 39-Under Classification committee, in the second paragraph, delete "the Miniature and Semiminiature Master Variety List". This is no longer published.

Here's a couple of questions:

Q. *Is it permissible to enter project plants without blossoms in an AVSA Affiliate show?*

A. No, this would not be in accordance with AVSA rules. AVSA rules state that all African violet exhibits must be in bloom. The only alternative would be for the Affiliate to display their project plants "For Exhibit Only". This means that these plants would not be judged or counted as entries in computing for the SSA award but merely on display for the public's viewing.

Q. *Could an African violet trailer, without blossoms, be used in any arrangement as a replacement to a simple green plant? I think they could serve well as a little green bush.*

A. I am uncertain as to what is considered an arrangement by the writer. AVSA rules define an interpretive flower arrangement as a design using fresh-cut African violet blossoms with other plant materials or manmade materials other than artificial plant material. An interpretive plant arrangement is basically the same except that a blooming African violet plant, removed from the pot, is used instead of fresh-cut blossoms. Foliage, cut from a trailer, could be used but the entire plant would be inappropriate. Now, if the writer means "arrangement" as container gardens, a non-blooming trailer could be used as "a little bush" as long as one or more blooming African violet plants, as per the rules, has been planted in the garden. For that matter, a blooming trailer may be used in the container gardens. Perhaps the writer is thinking of "Creative Plantings" which were a part of our AVSA design classes at one time. Creative Plantings were replaced with Interpretive Plant Arrangements a number of years ago.

Thanks to those of you who have sent in applications to judge or clerk at the AVSA Convention Show. I look forward to seeing you. The September/October column will report discussions from the Shows & Judges Committee meeting and the Judges Breakfast.

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
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What an honor it is to be asked to write the gesneriad column! Georgene Albrecht is a hard act to follow. Not only is she a knowledgeable gesneriad grower, but she's an artist. I decided if I demonstrated my limited drawing ability in this column, no one would want to own a gesneriad. When line drawings are needed, I'll be asking a variety of artists to draw for fun and no profit. Any volunteers?

Who is Dale Martens? It's hard to toot one's own horn, but here it goes: In addition to writing this column, I'm the new editor of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association's newsletter, CrossWords. I've judged at both AVSA and AGGS shows and conventions. At the 1995 AGGS convention I introduced my xPhinastema intergeneric, won Best Species for *Neomortonia nummularia*, won Best Artistic for *Episcia 'Silver Skies'* grown on a trellis, and won Best in the Arts for an emu egg decorated with photos of gesneriads. At the 1995 AVSA convention in St. Louis I won Best Tuberous for my hybrid *Sinningia 'California Sunset.'*

ASK THREE PEOPLE

I owe my success to dozens of friends who generously taught me everything they knew about growing gesneriads. Now that I've recently moved from a desert environment in California into the heat and humidity of Southeastern Texas, my motto continues to be, "Ask Three People." I corner a grower and ask them how they grow their plants. Then I ask another ... and another. I always try to ask 3 people the SAME question. I examine what facts all three agree upon and follow that. If there's no agreement, then I pick one view and try it. If it doesn't work, I try it another person's way. Whenever a novice asks me a question, I tell them everything I know. Then, I point out two others in the club and insist the novice ask them the same question. That's my plan for this column, to give you an expert's view. In addition to various updates on gesneriads, I'll be contacting one or two experienced gesneriad growers to share their expertise on some aspect of growing gesneriads.

GESNERI-ADVICE: Growing from Seed

At both the AVSA and AGGS conventions this year I

will speak on gesneriads and show slides of my hybridizing efforts with violets and other gesneriads. Here's my advice on growing from seed. To sow violet and other gesneriad seeds, I place moistened 50% perlite and 50% sterile violet mix in a plastic container with a lid for 100% humidity. Seeds are sown on top of the mix, and they usually sprout from 3 to 30 days later, although my xPhinastema intergeneric didn't sprout for over 3 months!

When the seedlings are 2 to 3 weeks old, I transfer them using a wooden toothpick into plastic cells, like those "six pack" containers in which nurseries sell plants. I put 4 or 5 seedlings per cell in the same 50-50 soil mix. Most gesneriad seedlings LOVE having their roots jostled. They continue to be grown in 100% humidity.

Thirty days from their first transplanting, I again transplant each seedling to its own plastic cell or small pot. Before transplanting, I CUT OFF those two tiny leaves, the cotyledons, near their roots. Then I plant the seedling in the 50-50 mix so that they are slightly deeper than where those cotyledons had been. That gives each seedling another place from which to produce roots. You would not believe how they suddenly grow when I do that. Again they continue in 100% humidity.

Thirty days from their second transplanting, I begin to "harden" them to natural air without a covered lid. Each watering throughout this whole process uses one of a variety of fertilizers at 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. You'll need to use your own judgment as to when to transplant them again to whatever mix or method of growing you normally use. That's usually when the plant begins to outgrow its cell or pot.

The Internet

For those of you with access to the Internet, consider joining the Gesneriphile list where about 400 growers share information. Also, you must check out the incredible gesneriad photos on Ron Myhr's web site: <http://www.pathcom.com/~rmyhr/>

Contact me by mail or e-mail for more information about gesneriads on the Internet or the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

From time to time I receive a question that takes more than a simple answer because of the complexity of the cross or the traits involved. A detailed reply explaining what is involved is usually sent to the individual. Just for fun, this column will start with an example of such a cross. Most of the genetic traits have been discussed or illustrated in previous columns and each by itself is easy to understand and work with. What makes this cross so challenging is the hybridizer's goal of combining several different genetic traits together into one offspring.

Q: *My goal is to get the "puff" fantasy of 'Galactic Dancin' in red or yellow, ideally having yellow spots on red. I have crossed 'Galactic Dancin' X 'Golden Threads' and 'Galactic Dancin' X 'Tomahawk'. I then bred offspring from these crosses together. Many of the resulting offspring are similar to 'Galactic Dancin' but none have red or yellow in them. Why is there no red or yellow showing in the offspring? Is it possible to get red or yellow expressed by using these plants in future crosses?*

A: This cross is challenging because of the number of genetic traits that are being manipulated. A summary of the traits and their mode of inheritance is as follows:

1. Fantasy - a genetic dominant to non-fantasy flower pattern.
2. Blue Flower Color - A genetic dominant to all other colors even if expressed as the background color in a Fantasy plant. Red and yellow are both recessive colors to blue.
3. Coral Red - the shade of color in 'Tomahawk' is a genetic recessive to non-coral shades of the same

color. 'Galactic Dancin' and 'Golden Threads' have the dominant non-coral shades of color.

In order to have puff fantasy in red or yellow, the plant must have the dominant Fantasy gene, the recessives of red and/or yellow for flower color, and the recessive coral shade. The goal of the hybridizer will only be achieved when this combination of traits are successfully placed within one plant.

The reason that the hybridizer produced only plants that looked like 'Galactic Dancin' is that the offspring have received dominants for all of the genetic traits. 'Galactic Dancin' gave the dominants for fantasy, blue flower color, and non-coral shades to all the offspring. Apparently 'Galactic Dancin' does not carry hidden recessives for red or yellow flower color and the coral shades. In order for the offspring to express the recessives for red or yellow flower color and the coral shades, both parents must have the trait to pass on to the offspring. If one parent (in this case 'Galactic Dancin') does not have the recessive traits, the offspring will not be able to express them. The expected outcome, therefore, is that many of the offspring should look like 'Galactic Dancin'.

Here are a couple of suggestions made to the hybridizer for future crosses:

1. Cross the offspring of 'Galactic Dancin' X 'Golden Threads' to a plant with strong yellow flowers. About half of the offspring will have the Fantasy trait. Since both parents have at least one recessive gene for yellow color, some of the offspring should express yellow. A few offspring should have the yellow color combined with fantasy. None of the offspring will be red or have the coral shades.
2. Cross the offspring of 'Galactic Dancin' X 'Tomahawk'

to a plant with coral red flowers. About half of the offspring will have the fantasy trait. Both parents carry the recessives for red and coral shades so some of the offspring should have either red color or coral red. A very few offspring may combine all of the traits of fantasy, red and coral shades together. No yellows would be expected from this cross.

3. Cross the offspring of 'Galactic Dancin' X 'Tomahawk' to a plant with coral pink flowers. About half of the offspring will have the fantasy trait. Pink is a genetic recessive to red, so some of the offspring will be pink instead of red. The coral shade gene is present in both parents and about half of the offspring could be expected to show coral shades of color. A few offspring should combine fantasy, red and coral shades together or have a combination of fantasy and coral pink. No yellows would be expected.
4. The plants from 'Galactic Dancin' X 'Golden Threads' crossed with 'Galactic Dancin' X 'Tomahawk' are the only plants in this series that carry the fantasy trait, and the recessives for red and yellow colors, and coral shade traits. Crossing two of these plants together or self-pollinating the best plant should produce seedlings with the hybridizer's original goal. A very small number of these seedlings would have the proper combination of dominant fantasy, recessive red and yellow, and recessive coral shades. If 200-300 seedlings were produced, probability suggests that perhaps 2-3 might

have the proper combination of traits.

No matter what cross the hybridizer attempts, other genetic traits such as double flowers, good foliage, and high bloom count should also be maintained. If not, when the combination of genetic traits that produces the goal is achieved, the plants would be nearly worthless to growers.

Q: I have produced a seedling that has very nice coral red flowers with darker red markings. Unfortunately, the flowers are single droppers. What can I cross this plant with to maintain the color, but make the flowers non-droppers?

A: Congratulations on your success. I'm pleased that you are considering how to improve the plant before releasing it.

This will be a simple cross that should give you results in just one generation. Cross your plant with a good coral red or coral pink plant that has semi-double or double flowers. The double flower trait is inherited as a dominant and should correct the dropping problem in most of the offspring. The choice of coral red or coral pink colors will maintain your original flower color. The markings of your original plant should also be conserved as this pattern is often inherited as a genetic dominant. Good Luck!

Have a genetic question, but no time to write? You can reach me by electronic mail by using the address: O6JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

Overcrowded or Room To Spare

by Linda L. Golubski
Blue Springs, MO

Are you bringing an extra box to Convention to bring home all those wonderful new violets that you just can't live without? I'd like to offer you a practical solution to overcrowding your plant shelves when you get home.

If in that empty box you bring two miniature or semi-miniature violets, or gesneriads, or maybe a design, you will have less space for new plants. Now, our commercial members are going to read this and say "Hey, what about our sales?" Not to fear! If you really want new varieties and you're flying, you can (1) order in advance and have them shipped to your home or (2) if you're like me and need "MORE" plants, take your two show plants, after you have removed them from the showroom on Saturday night, and

gently fold up their leaves rolling the pot in newspaper. Presto! Instant space! A copier paper box fits nicely under an airplane seat. I once took five show plants to the convention in one box and took home those five show plants and twenty new varieties - all in the same box! Where there is a will, there is always a way!

If you need help packing them at the Convention ask me, I'll show you, or tell you, how it can be done. If you're driving you should have plenty of space for those show plants.

Won't you consider bringing a plant or a design to the Convention this year?

Let's beautify St. Pete Beach with gorgeous violets!

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004

Readers Write

With this issue I'm adding two new sections. "Readers Write" is the first one, where AVSA members share growing tips with us. To lead off, Pat Soares of California removes her small ones from underneath the lights a few days before repotting. According to Pat, this causes them to reach up, forming the "dreaded V shape (making them) much easier to pot without breaking leaves (and) they will return to their flat pretty shape in only a few days." Thanks for the great suggestion, Pat!

Gotta Grow

This second new section will review a few plants you may want to try. My recommendations for this issue are three by Don Ness of Midland Violets: "Ness' Cherub's Smile," "Ness' Frosty Etchings," and "Ness' Stardust Glitter." The first one has brilliant bloom coloration, even under cool white lights! This striking beauty has vibrant, glowing hot pink-fuchsia blooms with a darker, lightly ruffled edge. They are set off against very dark foliage! "Ness' Frosty Etchings" has vibrantly colored fuchsia blooms with dark fantasy markings. Its foliage is smaller than on "Ness' Cherub's Smile" and just as dark. "Ness' Stardust Glitter" has large, double light pink blooms with a dark mauve-pink fantasy/edge that covers nicely forming dark tailored foliage. With these three, you'll really light up your growing area!

Propagation

Just as there are different ways to grow small ones, there are different ways to propagate them: our discussion topic for today! Fortunately, African violets are among the most easily propagated house plants, ranking right up there with philodendrons and mother-in-law's tongue (well, not that easy).

To begin, select a healthy small one that is free of pests and disease. Remove a leaf, being sure to remove any petiole stub remaining on the plant to lessen the effect on

symmetry. Because the most desirable leaves come from the middle row, a very good time to put down leaves is when the small one needs repotting. The lower row/s can be thrown away, the middle rows can be used for propagation purposes, and the upper, newer rows remain for replanting.

The disposition of the leaf stem remaining on the leaf is a great source of debate. First, it should be cut 1/2 to one inch long. Many growers claim cutting the stem at an angle facing toward the leaf results in the production of more plantlets. Others have written that slicing the stem upward for no more than 1/4 inch results in more plantlets. Recently it was suggested that just as many plantlets were produced if the stem was cut flat. I'll leave you to decide what method is best for you and your goals, but I will mention this: some varieties are prolific and others are not, and no matter how you cut the leaf, it will not affect overall plantlet production. Also, if the stem is cut at a slant toward the back of the leaf plantlets will emerge underneath and to the back of the leaf. These plantlets will be weaker because of the lack of available light, so avoid doing this at all costs. Another area of disagreement is whether to "rootone" or not. Some argue in favor of the practice while others believe African violets root so easily it is unnecessary to use a root growth stimulant. Do what works best for you!

The Rooting Medium

Leaves can be started in several different mediums. Our violet growing ancestors started their leaves in water using glass jars, drinking glasses, etc. The advantage was that you could actually watch the process of root growth and monitor the leaf's readiness to be put into soil. When enough roots were established to sustain plantlet growth, the leaf was transplanted into soil. If you've never observed this phenomenon, try it (Biology 101 again!) However, roots formed in water are different from those formed in soil and starting leaves directly in soil reduces the transition

necessary for "water" roots to adapt to soil. As a result, it is recommended that leaves be started in soil.

Now the problem of what type of soil to use. Many growers use a leaf-starting mixture composed of one part perlite to one part vermiculite (fine grade) to which charcoal can be added. This mixture is fine and light enough to allow tiny root hairs to form; its disadvantage is that the rapidly developing plantlets soon need a source of nutrients to continue developing and this mix offers minimal nutrients. For this reason, some growers use basic African violet soilless mix (1 - 1 - 1 peat, perlite, and vermiculite mix or something similar) to root leaves. Unlike the soils of old, this mix is very light and has the advantage of reducing the "shock" plantlets go through when transplanted. It also has sphagnum peat moss which has nutrient-providing ability. Those who try this method observe that their plantlets are sturdier than those started in a leaf mix.

The Container

Many growers put their leaves into the same pots/cups they grow their plants in, with the number of leaves per pot dependent on the size of the pot. The pots are then put in trays or on reservoirs. The leaves are clearly labeled using a permanent marker on plant stakes (or cut up plastic as stakes). The leaves are propped up against the stakes (again, a distinct advantage of small ones is that their leaves are much easier to handle as compared to standards). Some people also use masking tape as labels and tape the label directly onto the leaf. Be careful of this practice with small ones because the tape will diminish the leaf surface exposed to light! An alternative is to put all leaves into a large tray, placing stakes behind each leaf. My kids used to call this "mom's graveyard" for obvious reasons.

I'm going to propose an alternative method that has a lot of merit: use clear plastic deli containers because they

create a miniature terrarium environment ideal for small ones! (Growers of standards, don't despair: an inverted cake container from a bakery provides the same effect!) About two inches of rooting medium is put into the bottom half of the deli container. Leaves are planted in the medium in rows, using a permanent marker to label the top of the container immediately above the leaves, for example: "Little Pro - 3" meaning three "Little Pro" leaves are planted in that row. If one dies, the change should be noted to avoid confusion later on. The container is then snapped shut! It doesn't need to be watered until plantlets start showing up (unless the container leaks, but again, they don't have to be closely monitored because they are still relatively airtight).

Light

The leaves should be placed in the same light as your violets, approximately the same distance from the lights. They can be placed in lower light or even natural light, but may take longer to produce plantlets than if placed in a premium growing area and once plantlets begin to form they should be placed in better lighting.

Nutrition

Caution is used with fertilization because it is very easy to burn the tender plant tissue that is being produced. Rooting leaves need not be fertilized, especially if grown in regular soil mix. Once plantlets start showing up, weak fertilization can be started, watering at slightly half the normal strength solutions of diluted fish emulsion or a fertilizer higher in phosphorous than nitrogen (remember, nitrogen stimulates foliage growth, phosphorous is for blooms and roots). If you're using the "deli container" method, one watering will last until the plantlets are ready to pot up.

Next time we'll briefly discuss potting up the plantlets and then move on to miniaturizing. See you then!

ATTENTION AFFILIATE CLUB PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS

Have you had an interesting plant problem, question, culture tip, or growing advice discussed at a recent club meeting? Why not share this with other AVSA members? Send questions, advice, and ideas to me, and perhaps it can be addressed in a future article or column in the AVM.

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
African Violet Magazine
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702

Question Box



James Smith
1449 Paloma Lane
Dunedin, FL 34698-4317



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

Again, my apologies to those who've written and haven't received a reply. I do read all of my mail, but am usually too busy to answer it. As always, I'm happy to answer phone calls, since cordless phones allow me to work as I talk. I'm also willing to read any e-mail sent my way at RobsViolet@aol.com or check out my new 'web site' at www.robsviolet.com

Before I continue, a short testament to the toughness of gesneriads, our favorite plant family. In particular, the survival ability of *Streptocarpus*. As those who've met me know, the streps are personal favorites of mine. I grow as many or more of them as I do violets. Anyway, I returned yesterday from a flower show in Virginia Beach, to temperatures at home that were positively frigid, with heavy winds. Overnight temperatures were as low as 10 degrees, with wind chills well below zero. Today, while removing what I thought were empty boxes from the van, I found a carton of over 2 dozen streps. It still was brutally cold. Certain that the contents would be nothing but black mush, I tossed it aside to discard later. As it turns out, only one of those plants was dead, and just a couple of others showed any noticeable damage. The remainder are now back on the shelves with their 'friends'.

I've done this once before, leaving a *Sinningia* (mistakenly) in a box on an unheated front porch for most of a winter. It too survived, but with the advantage of being tuberous, and accustomed to dormancy, unlike violets and streps. I've also seen streps sprout from out of my 'compost' pile, where I toss my old soil and discarded plants, but never in the winter. All of this just makes me feel more guilty when I lose a plant due to my neglect or poor care. It's hard to make excuses or pass the blame, when you've managed to kill a plant that even mother nature couldn't seem to.

QUESTION: *I am new at propagating African violets. My question is: how long does it take for them to sprout? The leaves aren't dying or anything, just sitting there.*

ANSWER: How many plantlets a leaf produces, and

how quickly it does so, depends upon a number of things. First, the age of the leaf. It's best to use leaves that are mature, but not old. This usually means leaves taken from, say, the third row. Leaves much older than this have petioles that are "tougher" in texture. If the petiole is hard or "leathery", it will likely be slower to produce plantlets. Leaves that are too young also propagate less well. For this reason, it's best to avoid using the undersized, "baby" leaves that appear first on a very young plant. I've found that plantlets can be removed from the mother leaf and individually potted anywhere from 3-5 months from the date the leaf was first put down.

Other factors are rooting medium, your growing conditions, and variety. It's best to use a very light rooting medium. A light mix can be kept moist without rotting leaves, and is loose enough so that roots are easily developed and this enables the plantlets to make their way to the surface easier. For this reason, many growers use some combination of vermiculite and perlite as their medium. Personally, I like to use a little sphagnum peat moss, since this seems to keep the mix more evenly moist (75% coarse vermiculite, 5% perlite, 20% peat moss). Leaves also seem to produce plantlets more quickly when they are kept covered, say, in a plastic box or baggie. When doing this be sure not to over water the medium. Put the rooting leaves in a bright area (not in direct sun), that's neither cool nor warm - 65 to 75f degrees. Bottom heat is **NOT** necessary. Too much warmth, particularly if medium is kept too moist, can lead to rotting of the leaves.

Variety is also a factor, as it is with almost anything. Some varieties are just more prolific than others. As a general rule, green foliage varieties propagate better than variegated varieties, particularly those with crown, or 'Champion' type variegation. This said, some of the best propagators are heavily variegated (an older variety of mine 'Rob's Blue Light' is one of the most prolific I've ever grown, even when using leaves that are heavily variegated). When propagating variegated varieties, it's best to select leaves that are the least variegated (i.e. greenest).

The babies will still be variegated.

A couple of final tips. Don't cut the petioles too long and don't bury them too deep. Most plantlets are produced from the cut end of the petiole. The further this end is beneath the soil surface, the longer it will be before plantlets appear. I cut petioles to about 1/4" to 3/8" in length, and root the leaf so that the bottom of the leaf blade is level with the surface of the rooting medium. I also find that it speeds things along to cut-away the tip of the leaf blade. This keeps the leaf itself from growing, and promotes more rapid root and plantlet development. Finally, add a little fertilizer to the rooting medium, though some might disagree with this. My feeling is that every growing thing needs food. After all, we wouldn't think of withholding food from an expectant mother or newborn.

QUESTION: *I'm new to violets, and plan to grow them in self-watering pots. I've just purchased a soilless mix from a commercial grower. Will this work?*

ANSWER: It depends upon the mix. As a general rule, the wetter the plants are going to be kept, the lighter the soil mix needs to be. For this reason, a lighter soil mix is needed when plants are grown in "wicked" or other self-watering (e.g. "Moist-rite") pots, or on capillary matting (i.e. wet blankets). Never use any soil mix bought in your local supermarket or department store if you plan to water your violets this way - even if the bag says "African Violet soil". These mixes are just too heavy, and retain far too much water for constant watering methods. Most of the soilless mixes available from AVSA commercial growers are quite good, since it's often the same mix as used for perhaps thousands of this grower's own violets.

Even these soilless mixes, however, aren't formulated with constant watering methods in mind, and should be made even lighter. From past experience, I've found that the soil mix should contain at least 50% perlite if a self-watering method is used. Most commercial soilless mixes contain less than this amount, in which case some may need to be added. A final suggestion: ask around in your local club, if you belong to one. Find other growers who grow their violets as you would like to - i.e. using self-watering pots. What soil mixes do they use? Using this as a reference point, compare your growing conditions to theirs and make minor adjustments if necessary.

QUESTION: *As we like to travel, we have set up large trays, 2" deep, with grids, upon which sit the plants with wicks dipping into the water. This method has been very successful. However, I have one problem - a spectacular array of algae. Is there anything I can put in the water to retard the growth of the algae, and still be harmless to the plants?*

ANSWER: Bright light and water mean algae. Using dark-colored trays will help, since less light is reflected off the tray. I used to have the same problem on the blankets that I use as capillary matting for many of my violets, made worse by the fact that cheap acrylic blankets seemingly can be found only in lighter colors. Those blankets could get real ugly, real fast, even when cleaned regularly. I've never found the algae to be harmful to violets, even when the blankets were greener than the beautiful violets sitting upon them. It is very unsightly, though.

To remedy this, I began adding Physan 20 to the water used to wet the blankets. Not much is needed, far less than the recommended dilution, in fact. I add about 1/2 to 3/4 tsp. per gallon of water, once every three weeks. Doing this, I've had virtually no evidence of algae since, and there's been seemingly no effect on the violets. In addition, the product is relatively safe to use and has a not unpleasant soap-like smell. I've been told by those growing on wicks that it works just as well in keeping reservoirs free of algae. This product is available through a few of the commercials advertising in the AVM.

QUESTION: *If I grow under fluorescent lights, how long should they be left on? How far should the plants be from the tubes?*

ANSWER: Usually 12-13 hours each day, though the time depends somewhat upon how close plants are kept to the lights, there being a trade-off. I personally, keep lights on 13 hours a day, year-round, and have all lights on lamp timers to turn them on and off automatically at the same time every day. Minis and semiminiatures are grown about 10-11" below tubes - measured from tubes to leaf surface. Standards are grown further away, about 18" below the tubes. Many growers will grow their violets closer to the tubes, but usually keep lights on for only 11 or 12 hours each day. Also keep in mind that there is less light toward the end of light fixtures, as well as on the shelf edges. Older tubes also produce less light than newer ones. I should also note that this rule of thumb applies for the traditional 40-watt tube we've grown used to - many of the tubes sold currently, produce more or less light, more or less efficiently (I'm not able, and don't want to, discuss all the possible ramifications of the new E-pact standards).

Whatever you've decided, it's always best to make adjustments based upon the performance of your violets. If growth is spindly and upright, then more light is likely needed (don't overcrowd!). If growth is bunched and/or hugs the pot rim, less light is called for.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

Focus On The Future

by Georgene Albrecht
Oakdale, PA

The object of this article is to encourage AVSA chapters to focus on the future. Dwindling membership seems to be the concern of most organizations. What does an organization have to do to keep and increase membership? We have to have FUN. We have to offer something a computer can't; people enjoying each others company and beautiful plants. We need to use ALL OF THE RESOURCES in the area. This may mean teaming up with a garden center, botanical garden, other plant society or horticultural organization. You many even have to seek out other locations, a florist, a quilting bee, a community center or a senior citizens center. We need exposure to entice growers to try the ultimate challenge, a giant Saintpaulia with a huge head of bloom.

Let me tell you what wonderful things our local chapter is doing. In 1990 Pittsburgh did not have an AVSA chapter. On May 17 and 18, 1997 twenty five members of the Pittsburgh Violet Society are going to have a new kind of show in a grand gallery under glass in a glorious, old, Victorian house of Phipps Conservatory. How did this happen?

Well, for one thing, it became quite clear, after we hosted the MAAVS convention, that unless we did something to promote our chapter, it was going to vanish. In 1996 the new leadership of Phipps Conservatory asked us to participate in a "Plant Society Weekend" during the heat of August. Well, against all odds, we got many new members from that venture.

The Hosta and Daffodil Society had a successful show there last spring, so we asked to have our show there. Now, at this time I must say that it is essential to have two or three members who are willing to devote time to your

organization. Without these basic "workers" no organization can succeed. Now, Dorothy Maruscak, our show chairman, came up with the idea of having a mini-show. It will be the most simple schedule we can do and still be considered a show. Keep it simple, keep it FUN. Laugh a lot. Smile even more. We have a contingency plan for judging, also. If we can't invite judges, we will create teams from our own membership and allow one of our three judges to lead it. No one can vote on their own plant. We can also do "People's Choice" awards.

We keep our social functions as much fun as possible with as little "work" as possible. Our meetings start out with Daryl James giving ten minutes of horticulture, a business meeting, conducted by yours truly, then, refreshments (provided by two of us each month) and finally a program. We also have a raffle and a show and tell if plants are presented.

We try to do a field trip each year. We have had shows in the Library where we meet, in a shopping mall, and the ballroom of a Holiday Inn. The glass house at Phipps should be the ultimate as it is in conjunction with a "Top 100 Houseplant" display. The admission is under \$5.00, and there are 2.5 acres under glass displaying premier tropical collections as well as the largest Bonsai display anywhere. We will be selling our extra violets and other gesneriads, too. Come see us. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Museum of Art, and the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms are a short walk away. Call me, if you need more information. (412-693-8666)

ATTENTION HYBRIDIZERS Slides Wanted:

Photo slides of New Introductions are needed for the Saturday Luncheon at the 1997 Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. This years narrator will be Kent Stork. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant, one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a written

description of each slide, marked with a corresponding number for clarification.

Send your slides before May 10, 1997, to:

**Jackie Jones
607 14th Avenue, Box 34
Durant, IA 52747**

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

Christmas in May. Yes, it's like a Christmas gift when one of the most gifted hybridizers in the African violet world notified me of the fact that he was emerging from a self-imposed sabbatical. Winston Smith, father of the Maverick and Wrangler series, is back in the business again.

Unfortunately, most of his original plants are no longer in his possession. The AVSA Most Wanted list was alerted,

and you the growers, returned quite a few of his marvelous plants. However, you will note in the current list that there are some he is still looking for. Fellow members, keep your eyes open and if you see a Wrangler or Maverick think of Winston and let him know where it is. By the way, don't forget to look at the rest of the names on the Most Wanted List.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Berry Splash	Mini Minx	Silver Wings	Lady Lee
Bryte Angel	Miss Beautiful	Sugar Plum Fairy	Lady Vallin
Bryte Bells	Moon Silver	Summer Spice	Lavender Lasso
Cinderella (from the Flower Pot)	Niagara' Pink Beacon	Vulcan's Treasure	Moon Dance
Corpus Christie	Night Fever	What Now	Moonshine
Easter Egg	On Edge	White Feather	Pardner
Etna	Optimara Pennsylvania	White Wedgewood	Prairie Fire
Floral Fantasy	Ness' Minnesota Splash	White Whisper	Ricochet Romance
Illini Deb	Paragon	and the following	Rough Rider
Leprechaun Daydream	Priscilla	Wrangler's:	Round Up
Lithe Lassie	Rainbow's Tequila	Buckboard Bounce	Silver Spurs
Maverick's Young Love	Sunrise	Campfire	Sioux Nation
Mighty Honda	Ravishing Ruffles	Candyland	Sonuvagun
	Rosy Winter	Double Pleasure	Yankee Yodler

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 DECEMBER '96 - 31 JANUARY '97

AVS of San Francisco, CA	\$25.00	Ethel O. Spurin, Mililani, HI	\$10.00
Scott Ewing, Shrewsburg, MA	\$25.00	Marie T.Gail, Tucson, AZ	\$ 5.00
Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	\$25.00	Irma E. Mejia, Manassas, VA	\$ 5.00
Christine Davis, Harrison, ME	\$10.00	Edith Yeager, Helena, MT	\$15.00
Stella A. Richardson, Riverside, CA	\$ 5.00	Maurice & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	\$50.00
James T. Kuczma, Sterling Hts, MI	\$25.00		
Bob Kurzynski, Clifton, NJ	\$ 5.00		
Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA	\$25.00		
		Total	\$230.00

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

ROUTINELY CONSISTENT

People who know us well know that Kent is a perfectionist who pays close attention to details. Joyce, on the other hand, is a bit flightier, focusing on the big picture and less concerned about fine points. Guess which one can grow beautiful show plants! That's right ... Kent does. Joyce's plants never have the perfection, size or vigor that Kent's do. Violets respond to consistency and the ability to focus.

Growers who are naturally detail-oriented and well-disciplined almost always grow more successfully than the flighty and undisciplined (but often charming!) growers. Nonetheless, the less disciplined can improve their skills when they set a schedule for violet care and make it a priority.

CONSISTENT WATER

The first chore with which to become consistent is watering. African violets by nature are capable of surviving droughts and floods, but they certainly don't thrive on that lifestyle. Every time they undergo either extreme, some of the roots die back. Older leaves in outside rows are especially sensitive to the effects of wilting from a lack of water. The leaves of a dry plant will usually freshen up again after the plant has been watered, but often develop spots and burned edges. Furthermore, tiny flower buds that are just beginning to form may wither.

The easiest way to be completely consistent with watering is to set up a constant water system. There are a number of choices that all work successfully. Wicking involves using a cord of manmade material (such as acrylic yarn or nylon string) as a wick to draw water from

a reservoir below the pot into the rootball. Matting is a similar method in which the potted plant sits directly on a damp capillary matting material, which again is made of manmade fibers (for example acrylic blanket fabric, quilt batting, or foam carpet padding). There are also a number of specialized pots designed especially for growing violets. All of them have a system of storing extra water that becomes available to the rootball gradually, allowing for constant watering to take place.

Do be aware, if you have never tried constant water before, that the potting medium must be a properly mixed balance that is able to absorb water efficiently while still allowing tiny air pockets to exist throughout. Without this balance, soil can become either too dry or too saturated. It is good to experiment with several different potting mixes or recipes to find which one works best for you in the type of system you have chosen. Once you find it, stick with it.

CONSISTENT LIGHT

African violets were found growing quite near the equator. As a result, they quite naturally thrive on equal light and dark periods each day. They will tolerate shorter light (eight hours of light to sixteen hours of darkness, for example), but they often do not bloom readily under those circumstances. They will also tolerate longer light (eg. sixteen hours of light to eight hours of darkness), but leaves may begin to bleach as they are over stimulated by excess light. This light must also be fairly intense to be really effective. The sunlight available at most windows varies in intensity from summer to winter, being most intense when the sun is more overhead during the summer. Unfortunately, the winter intensity is often too weak to be adequate, especially when complicated by shorter daytime hours.

In order to duplicate, consistently, the quantity and quality of light that violets need, many growers have turned to using fluorescent lights regulated with timers. This artificial method does a good job of providing the proper intensity of light when fluorescent tubes are set approximately eight to twelve inches above the foliage. Timers are set to turn the lights on and off on a regular daily schedule. Violets receiving this consistency of light will have a dramatically improved appearance over violets grown in the more variable window or greenhouse light!

CONSISTENT FERTILIZER

Most higher forms of life need to eat regularly. Animals and plants can survive feasts and famine, but they do best on a diet that is consistent and dependable. When violets are receiving proper light and water, they can grow fairly quickly, providing that they have the nutrients needed to support that growth.

Many successful growers use fertilizer that is mixed into the water supplied to their violets. When this is used in combination with a constant watering method, the benefits can be very satisfying.

Should you always use the same fertilizer? We usually do. We have used exactly the same fertilizer brand and formulation for many years. Occasionally we have tried something new on a few plants, but year-in and year-out we have not changed what is used on most of our plants and have had good results. Other excellent growers prefer to vary the brands and types of fertilizers throughout a year. They believe there are benefits in using a variety of different formulations in case one might be lacking some particular nutrient. Regardless of the philosophy on this issue, we all believe that it is very important to provide nutrients regularly. Starvation is hard on your plants.

Feasting is also hard. Over fertilizing is one of the more common causes for ailing violets. A small amount, consistently, is much better than a big dose occasionally. One common symptom of over-fertilization is the development of small spots around the perimeter of the outer leaves. Another symptom is the build-up of tiny crystals on the center leaves or crown. This build-up will sometimes have an orange color. When fertilizer burn becomes really serious, roots and outside leaves will decline, and ultimately the entire plant will be dead.

Faithfully being on the look-out for symptoms of overfertilization can help you recognize varieties of violets that are very sensitive to fertilizer. For whatever reason, some plants do not benefit from the usual full dose of nutrients. Instead they allow the excess to build-up, resulting in root and foliage damage. These plants need very sparing amounts of fertilizer and benefit from regular

leaching of the soil.

CONSISTENT TEMPERATURE

African violets have probably become such popular indoor plants because people are most comfortable at the same temperature as violets. They are the perfect home companions, requiring very little more than the average comfortable living space provides.

Temperatures that stay above 65 degrees Fahrenheit and below 80 degrees, will allow for even steady growth. When it is warmer, the plant cells divide more quickly... plants grow faster. When it is cool, the cells divide more slowly resulting in very slow growth. As the temperature sinks below 60 degrees Fahrenheit, growth will nearly cease. If these changes occur in cycles throughout the day – first very hot then quite cool – the irregular cell division results in a toughened appearance. This is the look that violets have which are produced in greenhouses with widely varying temperatures. Often these are the violets offered by mass merchandisers at low prices. Given more even temperatures, these plants can turn into much prettier plants.

When trying to grow more perfect violets, it is very helpful to maintain temperatures very close to an ideal 72 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year. Each successive row of new leaves will mature to a size similar to previous rows. Blossoms will develop in a regular and predictable pattern. Variegated leaves will have a similar amount of variegation to previous leaves. Overall growth will be even without tightness in the center or open spaces between rows of leaves. The growth pattern will be as consistent as the temperature.

CONSISTENT WATCH

Everything mentioned so far can almost be built into your growing method. Many growers across the country already do these things routinely. Now we are going to address those consistencies that require personal dedication. This is where the attention-to-details grower begins to shine.

- Paying attention to violets mentally on a daily basis is one of the most difficult but rewarding habits an African violet grower can develop.
- Remembering that the violets are there and growing
- Knowing what day will be set aside to water.

- Thinking of the effect of temperature change on our plants.
- Observing the seemingly insignificant differences between varieties, as well as plants of the same variety
- Noticing which plants seem to need more light, and which need less.
- Observing the first hints that there may be a disease or pest present.
- Observing and acting on the need to repot plants.

And it goes on and on.

If you've ever visited with a grower who has won a major African violet show, you'll remember the details they seem to know about their plants. They know every hybrid that they grow, not just by color, but by the shape of the flower, the size and type of foliage (down to the amount of quilting and how scalloped the edge is), by the number of flowers it produces per stalk, and how long it takes to come into bloom, just to mention a few. It always amazes Joyce that Kent is able to recognize virtually every plant in our collection just by looking at the foliage. Without looking, Kent can say at exactly what location on the shelf virtually every plant is. Top, very disciplined growers, know their violets like a mother knows her baby's cry.

This sense allows the best growers to recognize the subtlest plant behavior. It is especially important when growing plants for competition. One variety might need six weeks to come into full bloom after disbudding, while another requires twelve weeks. Good notes might help, but a disciplined grower will remember which is which. That grower will also note which violets have sturdy blossoms that travel well to show, and which happen to look the best in the lighting in the showroom. Seeing those details is part of the routine.

Can the flightier personality ever master this conscientious behavior that comes so naturally to a perfectionist? Taking notes about details can help. Referring to those notes is even more important. Setting goals and priorities in your growing habits should also result in improved violets. Will it ever be easy or seem natural? It never has for Joyce! Perfectionists just have an advantage here.

WHATEVER IT TAKES

Often there are situations seemingly beyond a grower's ability to control. If you are willing, however, you can rise

to the challenge and emerge victorious. We have heard from several growers who have gone to amazing lengths in order to handle difficult situations.

A favorite story was from a young woman in Tucson, Arizona who loved African violets but had once experienced a toxic reaction to pesticides. Since she was no longer able to use the pesticides, she had found an original way to eliminate the thrips (bugs that feed on pollen) in her flowers. Every morning she would carry her plants one by one into her kitchen, from her plant room. Then she would wipe down the shelves to get rid of any insects that might be present. Finally, she methodically blew on every blossom forcing any thrips that were seen to fall into the sink where they were washed down the drain. After the plant was blown clean, she returned it to the plant room. Her thrips eventually disappeared completely! She did whatever it took, and it worked.

Another story we love comes from a grower who stops in to see our violets occasionally. He grows at his office, where he has a broad window sill, file cabinets and desk top covered with violets. He became aware of the differences between the violets growing in interior space and those at the window. The window violets seemed to bloom better, but they also developed a distinct tilt toward the light. Now when he arrives at work each day, he moves each plant to the next space giving each a one-quarter turn. In one month's time, the plants move down the window sill, over to the filing cabinet, then to the desk and back to the window sill again, always rotating a bit each day. Now the plants are growing more consistently, and he feels better about it. He does what it takes!

A third tale comes from a gal who remembered her mother's passion for violets in a small home. Every morning, as a young girl, she had to make her bed, then put a board down on the covers and put her mother's violets on the board. This was because her bed was beside one of the few really bright windows in their home. Mom wasn't going to waste one good spot, no matter what!

ROUTINELY PERFECT

Keeping violets growing well year-in and year-out can be an awesome task, especially in a fast-moving world. Setting up an automatic growing system can greatly improve the results of any grower regardless of their personality. Violets can survive unexpected personal crises and can thrive when your life is going well.

If you are a detail person like Kent, you ought seriously to consider entering violets into a show. Your built-in thought processes make you a likely blue-ribbon winner. The world deserves to see how well you can grow!

Come To St. Petersburg, Join In The Fun

by Anne Tinari

Membership and Promotion Committee Chairman

*Reservations made, all plans laid,
Fly a jet, board a train.
Bring an entry, fashion a design,
Join the competition and the line
To a "Florida Fantasy."*

With great anticipation members receive the January issue of our beautiful magazine. In this issue we scan the lavender pages in the centerfold to read of "A Florida Fantasy" to prepare for our 51st Annual Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Our Convention Chairman, Ann Miller, does a fabulous job in laying out the details of all scheduled activities from June 1st, with the opening of registration, to our last board meeting on June 8.

Careful observance assures us there is something for every member attending. Valuable knowledge can be gleaned from the ten presentations and workshops offered.

The tours, which begin on June 2, give members an opportunity to visit unusual gardens, greenhouses and interesting historical areas, plus a boat cruise and dinner theater.

The first social hour takes place on Thursday, June 5, when Nancy Hayes shows slides from the previous convention (our 50th) often revealing most unusual settings when pictures are taken at random. This is followed by the first presentation, the "Growers Forum" with audience participation.

"Growing Gesneriads" by Dale Martens, start the activities of June 6th, followed by the interesting subject of Container Gardens and later the presentation on the ever-popular miniatures by Ralph Robinson.

A new presentation from which we can all learn and benefit will be given by Phyllis J. Wood on Parliamentary Law. This one should be most interesting to all members of affiliate clubs.

Dr. Cole once again delivers a program on plant hunger and the always popular lecture on Pests and Diseases, helping us to understand and find answers to our many questions.

The next segment is on Design by Sandra Mims, another favorite subject in which many of our members show great interest.

Our favorite columnists, Joyce and Kent Stork, present a program entitled "Fantasy of a Perfect Violet."

One of the awaited events of the convention is access to the sales room which opens at 7:30 on Thursday morning. Many new cultivars and old favorites are available along with other attractive merchandise. This also gives you the opportunity to visit with the many commercial growers you read about in our magazine.

The opening of the Showroom takes place on Friday evening at 9:30 after the first banquet. The thrill of attending a national convention becomes a reality. One can never forget the thrill of the showroom in all its splendor! Commercial members display their attractive new cultivars and exquisitely groomed plants. All divisions of the horticulture and amateur show display African violets in perfect form and many in full flower. One marvels at the row upon row of miniatures, semiminiatures and trailers.

It is most difficult to decide where to begin your memorable tour of the showroom. The beauty displayed is breathtaking and presents a real challenge to any grower.

Along with all the excitement are the promotional tables which include: AVSA Information and Sales, The Building and Promotional Table, The Sacramento Promotional Table, The Booster Fund and the Membership & Promotion Table. As Chairman of this membership committee I wish to announce that our committee will have several attractive items to raffle off; a large African Violet Stamp Flag, a beautiful lavender ceramic pitcher & bowl set and other ceramic items.

The AVSA awards and other honorary awards are always a great highlight of our activities. The new cultivar introductions are viewed at our noon luncheon on Friday followed by the important Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum.

We wind up the week on Saturday evening with the President's Reception, the Installation Banquet and entertainment.

Then the opportunity for one last look at the fabulous show room and a sad goodbye for another year with fond memories of a "Florida Fantasy."

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

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.

REGISTRATIONS

Joseph and Jennifer White - Noraville, NSW, Australia

***Jays' Aussie Belle** (8570) 12/26/96 (J. White) Semidouble-double hot pink sticktite frilled star/raspberry fantasy, edge. Medium green, plain, serrated. **Standard**

***Jays' Candy Gal** (8571) 12/26/96 (J. White) Single dark pink sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green and cream, plain. **Semiminiature**

***Jays' Elizabeth Rose** (8572) 12/26/96 (J. White) Semidouble dark fuchsia sticktite pansy/white frilled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Semiminiature**

***Jays' Flossy** (8573) 12/26/96 (J. White) Semidouble hot pink sticktite frilled star. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***Black Plum** (8574) 1/16/97 (D. Harrington) Semidouble dark plum ruffled pansy. Variegated medium-dark green, cream and yellow, spooned, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**

***Duluth** (8575) 1/16/97 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink two-tone shaded sticktite pansy. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***Fantastic Fantasy** (8576) 1/16/97 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble chimera pink pansy/darker pink stripe, purple fantasy. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***Layered Gown** (8577) 1/16/97 (D. Harrington) Double red-violet frilled star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***Minneapolis** (8578) 1/16/97 (D. Harrington) Double light pink/red eye, variable darker pink edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**

Pat Hancock - West Chester, OH

***Buckeye Beauty** (8579) 1/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pale raspberry-lavender large ruffled pansy/dark raspberry and purple fantasy, variable purple edge. Variegated dark green, rose and cream, plain, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Bewitched** (8580) 1/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double bright pink ruffled pansy. Variegated medium green, pink and cream, plain, pointed, glossy. **Large**

***Buckeye Blame Doris** (8581) 1/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink-fuchsia pansy/variable thin white edge. Variegated dark green, rose and cream, heart shaped, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Bouquet** (8582) 1/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double lavender-pink ruffled/raspberry and purple fantasy, variable raspberry edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, pointed, serrated. **Large**

***Buckeye Bravado** (8583) 1/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double light purple ruffled star/darker fantasy. Variegated dark green, rose and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Butterflies** (8584) 1/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender two-tone ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, plain, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

*Alice Corinne * Dolores' Antoinette * Judith Karen * Night Vision * Purple Cloud

Pat Hancock - West Chester, OH

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Buckeye)
*Can Can * Carioka * Celestial * Cherry Pink * Color Magic * Colossal * Coronation Purple * Cotton Candy * Cranberry Sparkler * Cranberry Swirls

Show Time Blues

by N. Kalaya Steede-Guidry
New Orleans, LA



Members of Jefferson AVA Louisiana

As our show draws near I cannot help but think back to this same time last year. One year ago my husband took me to an African violet show, here in Metairie, LA. I had never seen so many beautiful violets, nor was I aware that there were so many varieties. I saw Fantasys, bi-colors, and even a RED one! I could go on forever about the many different violets I saw that day. I purchased a whole box full of plants including the vibrant Tomahawk. I hoped to grow large African violets like the ones I saw at the show that day. I knew then that I had to join the local club. Their meetings were held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. WHOA! On a weekday! There was no way! I had work the next day! But I knew if I wanted to grow like the pros I had to at least give it a try. So there I was at a meeting, first as a guest, then as a member and now I'm secretary! And there are only 3 more days until show time!

This would be my first show experience. Last September I had chosen the plants that I was going to show, including Tomahawk. I had been giving them lots of TLC and they were doing fine just where they were.

Then came the big move to our new home in November. Tomahawk was looking great with a diameter of 12 inches! But after the move, just a month later, Tomahawk's bottom row of leaves started to yellow (along with some other plants). The next thing I knew, I was struggling to keep my whole collection alive for the next three months! It seemed that there wasn't enough humidity, and the nights were cold and drafty in our new home. My plants are all doing better, now that my husband covered the stands with vis-screen to keep them warm in the evenings. But, not in enough time to save Tomahawk. His diameter is now 8 inches and he's not in the mood to show.

That seems so long ago and now it's show time. What will I show? I'm think I'm lucky if I have even one plant to enter. One of the advantages of being in the Jefferson African Violet Association is that the members were willing to come over and survey my plants. Well, it seems that I have more than one plant to show after all! (Thanks, Genelle and Al!)

Friday, the BIG day before the show, I took three plants to register. Only one, Rob's Calypso Beat, was entered in the Novice class. I was very blue that evening, and discouraged, thinking that my mini African violet was not good enough for show, regardless of what my fellow African violet friends thought.

Saturday, at show time, I came in after the judging was finished and anxiously looked for my plant. I had no idea where it was! To my amazement all the hard work paid off, for there was MY Rob's Calypso Beat sitting on a pedestal all by itself with a Blue Ribbon and Best in Class! I was so thrilled! Later that day I also received a Rosette for Best Novice! That day was the best day of my life because I had never competed for anything. Now I can't wait until next year!

I'm glad I joined the Jefferson African Violet Association. Not only have I made great friends, but I look forward to our meetings each month and have learned so much! My love and gratitude goes out to every one of them! Thanks JAVA!

Lincoln African Violet Society

Experimental Evaluation of Soilless Mixes

A Club project was initiated to evaluate different soilless mixes, since several of these are used commercially and soil is more variable. Seven persons participated in the project. The constant factors in this project were genetically uniform plant material of about the same age and the use of growing mixes from a single batch. The variables in this project were numerous. Light regimes varied from natural light to 12-hour, cool-white fluorescent lighting. Some growers wicked their plants; others did not. Some treated their plants with insecticide; some did not. Temperatures were variable and not recorded. Water supplies differed among the growers. Fertilizers used were all 15-30-15 from different suppliers. Monthly readings were recommended, based on an instruction sheet (see next page).

The plants of Marching Band (1) LLCh-12 (2) and Impostor (3) were all donated by Kent Stork. These plants were propagated in tissue culture by Susan Schoneweis. Plants were well-developed for transplanting the week of June 5. Plants were roughly in two groups: about 2 inches long x 0.5-1 inch diameter top and 2-3 inches long x 2-3 inches diameter.

The soilless mixes tested were:

- A. Scott's African Violet Soil: regionally formulated from peat or forest products or compost, sphagnum peat, perlite and a wetting agent. pH 4.5-6. Purchased from Target.
- B. Metro Mix 510. Sphagnum peat, vermiculite, composted pine bark, processed bark ash, granite sand, wetting agent and nutrient charge. [Nutrient charge is starter fertilizer]. Coarse texture-pH 5.5-6.8. Purchased from Poinsettia Plantation.
- C. Metro Mix 702. Canadian sphagnum peat, vermiculite, perlite, moderately coarse, composted pine bark, wetting agent, and nutrient charge. pH 5.3-6.5. Purchased from B & B Greenhouse.
- D. Volkmann's Regular Mix. Peatmoss, vermiculite, perlite, dolomite lime with trace elements (manganese, iron, copper, zinc, boron, and molybdenum). All sterile material. 'Proper pH'. Purchased from Volkmann Brothers, Texas.

- E. Volkmann's Plus. Same as regular mix but with 20% large perlite. For wick watering and self-watering pots. Purchased from Volkmann Brothers, Texas.

Conclusions and Observations:

1. Several members took copious notes; no one followed all the instructions! Only one person mentioned the color of the blooms.
2. Plant health seemed more related to the plant than to the medium in that Impostor (#3) grew better than the other two cultivars in almost all cases.
3. A better evaluation system could be used. The rating system and scale could be improved; no two people appeared to use the same system.
4. A. Mix C was the only mix that was rated highly by multiple growers for more than one plant cultivar.
B. Mix B was preferred by one grower and gave the most variable results.
C. Mix E was preferred by two growers.
5. It was extremely useful to have genetically uniform plant material of about the same ages. The plant material and growing media obtained from the same batches were the principal constant factors in this evaluation.

Disclaimer:

Persons in other locales may have different results with the same media. Our choices were based on availability of media and plants.

*compiled and interpreted by
Anne Vidaver*

LAVS EVALUATION OF SOILLESS GROWING MIXES

Plant Code	Vigor	Health	Symmetry	Color & #Blooms	Comments
A1 (3)	2-3	2-4	2-3	None	Light leaf; Leaf spots
A2 (4)	1-2.5	2-3	2-3	None	Washed out; dead, leaf spots
A3 (7)	2-3	2-3	2-3	Good blooms Wine-red; white edge	
B1 (2)	1-2	2	2-3	Good bloom Two-toned red	Very pale
B2 (3)	1	1-2	1-2	Fair bloomer Red; white edge	
B3 (8)	1-4	2-4	1-4	Blooms well	Leaf spot; rot
C1 (4)	2-4	1-4	1-2	Poor good blossoms	
C2 (3)	3-4	3-4	3-4	Best bloomer (2)	Best grower (2)
C3 (6)	2-4	2-4	2.5-4	Heavy bloomer	Leaf spot
D1 (3)	1-3	2-2.5	2-2.5	Small blooms	Yellowing
D2 (5)	1-3	1-3	1-3		Suckers; leaf spot; dead
D3 (6)	2.5-3	3-4	2-3	Good bloomer	
E1 (3)	1-3	2-3	2-3		Good color; yellowing
E2 (4)	1-2	1-2	1-2		Poor appearance; resinous center
E3 (8)	2-4	2-3	2-3	Heavy bloomer	Dense, compact; resinous center

- Plant Code refers to Mix plus Variety (see text).
- Number in parentheses are the total number of plants. Not everyone had all experimental series and a couple of growers had more than one plant in a series.
- Rating: 1 = Poor; 2 = Good; 3 = Very Good; 4 = Excellent
- Mixes C, D and E seemed to dry out quicker than A and B for some, while F and E seemed wetter for others.
- Mix A seemed the coarsest to work with; not pleasant to handle and performed the poorest, except for 1 grower.
- Transient fertilizer salt build-up on D1 and E1, E2 and E3 for 2 separate growers.
- One grower reported 'black flies' arisings from some mixes (not identified).

Instructions For The Club Project Plants

Please make at least monthly observational notes on your plants during June, July, August and September. Turn your reports in at the October meeting.

Items to record in your notes

- General vigor and health
- Size relative to starting size
- # of blooms
- color of blooms
- date of first bloom
- general symmetry
- # (if any) deceased
- abnormalities
- Other comments and observations

Please indicate the watering method you use (wicked, etc.) and the lighting method and type (natural sunlight, fluorescent, etc.).

.....

Instructions

1. Treat all plants as equal as possible with regard to light, water, fertilizer and temperature.
2. Use only the fertilizer provided (Volkman's 15-30-15) at 1/4t. (level)/ gallon of water.
3. Do not add any of your soil, fertilizer or other ingredients to these plants until October 31.
4. If you need to repot, call designated club members to get you the needed soil(s).
5. Please take notes at least every 30 days starting in June.



SELECTING A GOOD PLANT FROM A DESCRIPTION

by Sue Gardner • Australia

When we want to obtain some new African violets, we often read the description in a list or catalogue, then wonder just what the plant will look like when we grow it. Here are a few tips to help you make a good selection.

We want to grow a plant that has lots of flowers. When we read a list, look for words such as "floriferous", "free blooming", "masses of blooms", "loaded with flowers", "prolific display", etc. Also look for words that tell us that the plant has strong bloom stalks. We all want a plant capable of holding its flowers upright over the foliage instead of drooping down onto the leaves.

Choose a flower color that appeals to you. Clear bright colors make an attractive contrast with foliage. Don't select several plants that are all the same color or all with white edges. Variety is interesting and you

will be able to enter more than one class in a show.

Now let's look at the foliage. I'm sure we all want to grow a plant with flat symmetrical foliage. When reading descriptions, look for words such as "symmetrical", "show quality" or "flat, tailored" to describe the foliage. Of course there are times when a flower is just so attractive we want to grow it despite its foliage!

When we buy a mini or semi-mini, look for a description which is similar to those above. Sometimes it includes "overlapping foliage".

If we have only window sills to grow on, it is a good idea to keep in mind which size plants it can accommodate. Tailor your selections to suit your growing conditions.

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By Jayne Stenger

October, 1997

Interpretive arrangements are exhibited to display African violets in an artistic manner. Flower arrangements have blossoms emphasized; plant arrangements have violets as the focal point. Consider these elements and principles when viewing or judging an African violet arrangement.

1. DESIGN ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES 40 Points

- **SPACE (5 points)**
Exhibit fills niche or area without crowding or touching.
- **BALANCE (5 points)**
Weight visually stable with focal point; symmetrical or asymmetrical.
- **PROPORTION (5 points)**
Agreeable quantities of color, texture, space, voids, and accessories.
- **SCALE (5 points)**
Appropriate sizes for colors, textures, spaces, voids, and accessories.
- **RHYTHM (5 points)**
Visual movement with pleasing line placement.
- **CONTRAST (5 points)**
Visually interesting use of colors, textures, sizes, and forms.
- **DOMINANCE (5 points)**
Strong impact for line, texture, or color; background is subtle.
- **COLOR (5 points)**
Communicates theme or mood; agrees with schedule.

2. INTERPRETATION 15 Points

Suggests mood or theme; each part conforms with title.

3. DISTINCTION AND ORIGINALITY 15 Points

Unusual and different; skillful application of imagination.

4. SUITABILITY OF MATERIALS 10 Points

Appropriate containers, plants, and accessories.

5. RELATIONSHIP OF MATERIALS 10 Points

Compatible colors, textures, sizes, and materials.

6. CONDITION OF MATERIALS 10 Points

Perky plants, clean accessories, fresh backdrops; no obvious mechanics.

TOTAL 100 POINTS

These items can eliminate the arrangement from being judged:

- Exhibits without a card listing African violet (plus other plant material, if known)
- Exhibits with an American flag, artificial plant material, or live creatures.
- Exhibits which are not the exclusive work of the exhibitor.

Read the AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges for more design details.



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Big Sky Violets
10678 Schoolhouse Lane
Moiese, MT 59824
406/644-2296

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679



HOW TO PREVENT AN AFRICAN VIOLET INSECT CONVENTION

by Lynda C. Welchel
San Antonio, Texas

Thinking about the best way to isolate a plant presents many problems and variables to the average plant grower. Far too many African violet growers dismiss the need to quarantine new plants. They think isolating plants is much fuss about nothing – that is, until they suffer a great loss of plants and find out the hard way.

If you are a grower of America's favorite flowering house plant and have just acquired a new plant to add to your collection, when you bring this lovely plant into your home, I hope you don't put it near your established plants. Doing so could give permission to all types of insects to have an "African Violet Insect Convention". Any lovely new cultivar could be an insect time bomb in disguise as critters lurk among the leaves, buds, in the soil, and even on the pot. Some insects and their eggs are much too tiny to see with the human eye. Perhaps you received this plant as a gift, bought it at an AVSA Show, ordered it through the mail, or rescued it from your local grocery store or garden center. It had healthy-looking leaves and lovely blossoms, but it may be hiding a multitude of problems. Even if a friend or fellow club member, known to have immaculate growing conditions, gives you a plant - ISOLATE that plant!. From the pest's point of view, your growing area has a nice hotel-like environment.

Even though the African violet you have acquired is in full bloom and looks quite vigorous, it won't take long for insects to contaminate your entire collection. Many growers have had to start a collection from scratch because they didn't isolate newly acquired additions.

Most non-commercial growers do not have separate rooms for isolation, and perhaps have only one plant stand. I have discovered a way to isolate your new plant, while still keeping it among your current collection.

At a local Container Store I found a two piece plastic cube measuring approximately 12" x 12". These cubes come in sizes ranging from very small to 3' X 3'. To use the cube, you slide one piece of the plastic onto the other and it's sealed. When I acquire a new plant, it is put on a reservoir and left in this closed container for at least 10 weeks. The container is then placed on the plant stand with the collection.

When the plant needs attention, it is taken out of the

violet room for any necessary care. The container is **never** opened in the plant room. Instead, it is moved to another part of the house for maintenance and grooming. When the care of this plant is completed, the cover is replaced, and the outside of the container is cleaned with glass cleaner before being returned to the plant stand.

After a 10-12 week period the plant is examined very closely under a magnifying glass, with good light, for any possible insects, diseases or other problems. If the plant is insect and disease-free, it is then repotted and placed in the plant room with the other plants. As an added precaution the plant is kept on a separate reservoir as opposed to a community watering tray.

Some of the easier pests to transfer to an African violet collection are Mr. & Mrs. Thrips. The Thrips family does not know the meaning of birth control. In just a matter of days your plants could be full of them. A good way to detect thrips is to look at a dark blossom, and if you see moving white spots you probably have thrips. Another way to tell if Mr. and Mrs. Thrips are paying your violet collection a visit is by looking for flowers that have become streaked and have a silvered appearance, or spilled pollen.

At the first sign of thrips remove the flowers and buds from ALL of the plants in your collection whether they show symptoms or not. Pollen is the main source of food for the Thrips Family. Then, treat with an appropriate insecticide. After a month, allow buds to appear again, but continue to inspect your plants for reinfestation. The Thrips Family have rasping and sucking mouthparts, and bristled wings. They are slender, and quite agile. Their coloring is light. Some of the things you can use to give thrips the boot are insecticidal soap, diatomaceous earth, or house and garden spray. Be sure to thoroughly read and follow all instructions concerning insecticides. Be certain that any product you select is safe for African violets. Follow the directions exactly and totally disbud your plants before spraying. Check your plants frequently after this. If Mr. and Mrs. Thrips are in residence you will have to go through the procedure again to eradicate these pesky insects. Thrips are a very common plant pest of the African violet and by



continued on page 27

ST. PETERSBURG BEACH CONVENTION UPDATE

by Ann Miller
Convention Director

Dear AVSA Friends,

In just one month we'll be arriving in St. Petersburg Beach, for our 51st Convention and Show.

May 5 is the cut-off date to register for the convention through the AVSA office, at a cost of \$35. After May 5 the cost will be \$40. The AVSA office staff will process all registrations, as well as making up the packets, and dealing with all changes and cancellations. Registering on time will allow them time to deal with last minute changes and details. However, we don't want to leave anyone out. If you do not think you can come, but it works out at the last minute, just send your \$40 and come down to St. Pete. There are usually some tickets left for tours and banquets.

The cut-off date for the TradeWinds Hotel is April 30. This means that if you call for reservations after April 30, you may not get the convention room rate. I tried, without success, to arrange a later cut-off date. The hotel will release our 'room block' April 30, after midnight, and will begin taking reservations from the general public. If you experience problems with the hotel, please call me, not the AVSA office. My phone number is (281) 355-7161, and my Fax is the same number.

It is very important that we all stay in the convention hotel. Heres why: When AVSA contracts with a hotel for our annual convention, we must guarantee them that we will fill a certain number of rooms for a certain number of

nights. This year it is 1,355 nights altogether. In exchange, the hotel will let us use the exhibit space and meeting rooms free of charge. If we do not fill 85% of this 'room block' we will be charged for the exhibit halls and meeting rooms, according to a sliding scale. Hotel ballrooms rent for a cost of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per day. So ... if we all stay in the convention hotel, we all do our part in helping pay for our convention and keeping our registration fee and hotel rates down.

If you need to share a room and expenses, contact the AVSA office and they will put you in touch with another person also interested in sharing a room.

Barbara Matthews wrote a good article entitled, "A Postcard From the TradeWinds", which appeared in the March/April AVM on page 27. Please reread this article. It addresses what to wear, what to bring, RV and camp ground information, as well as limo information from the Tampa Airport.

Remember that the TradeWinds is a resort hotel. We will be outside a great deal of the time so bring your walking shorts and shoes that you don't mind getting sand in. The hotel is directly on the beach. The Florida folks, (Bob Green to be specific) promised us great weather with a cool breeze blowing off the Gulf.

We're going to the beach! I can't wait!

Fondly,
ANN

"Insect Convention" continued from page 26

isolating your plants you can save yourself a lot of headaches, work, and quite a setback to your collection.

Having grown African violets and other gesneriads for over 15 years, I have had my share of creepy crawling critters, fungus, etc. My first encounter with a serious malady was not the usual thrips, but a case of mites. While at an AVSA Convention my spouse telephoned to tell me "your plants have confused centers." What he meant was that a plant had a tight center. I immediately told him to take the plant out of my plant room and isolate it in

another part of the house until I arrived home. I was hoping the plant was getting too much light, or maybe it had a lot of buds coming on, but that was not the case. It had mites, and I had to toss out my entire collection, sterilize everything and start again from scratch. I wish I had known the importance of isolating plants back then.

Do not give Mr. and Mrs. Thrips, or any other pest, a chance to attend an African Violet Insect Convention compliments of your plant collection. Instead, plan to attend an AVSA Show or Convention yourself. You will have a lot more fun. Remember, ISOLATE all new plants. Happy growing and showing to all!

Showcase

Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler

Grown and Hybridized by:

Pat Hancock

Pat's Patch

West Chester, OH

Standard



Bertha

Best Standard

and 3rd Best In Show

1996 National Show

Exhibited by:

Betty Ann Lewandowski

Hybridized by:

Bill Foster





Rob's Toorooka

Grown and Hybridized by:
Ralph Robinson
Rob's Mini-O-Lets
Naples, NY
Semi Mini Trailer



Rob's Humpty Doo

Grown and Hybridized by:
Ralph Robinson
Rob's Mini-O-Lets
Naples, NY
Semi Mini Trailer

My Adventures with Cody

by Darryl Hoover
Fullerton, CA

No, Cody isn't the newest African violet to hit the market. He's my six year old nephew. His mother called to ask if I could watch him for a week, and since Cody is my only nephew I could hardly refuse.

Cody fidgeted up the gang plank from his arriving flight, trying desperately to escape the grasp of the flight attendant who had been baby-sitting him.

"Uncle Darryl, they wouldn't give me any ice cream on the plane and I even said please." I chuckled a bit and thanked the flight attendant for her help.

"Well, Cody," I told him, "I'm sure we can find an ice cream store between here and home." His smile returned immediately and we were off.

We no sooner left the airport parking lot when Cody asked, "Can we go to Disneyland today? Please, can we?"

I really wasn't in the mood for Disneyland but somehow I couldn't refuse his request. "Okay, Disneyland it is, but first we have to go home and unpack."

I can't recall seeing anyone, child or adult, unpack as quickly as Cody. Within minutes his suitcase was empty. Where the contents of the suitcase wound up remains a mystery.

Disneyland was an exhausting experience, as was Knotts Berry Farm, Universal Studios and Sea World. (Somehow, I don't believe you're suppose to try to do all these theme parks in a week.)

Before I knew it, our time together was almost over. Reluctantly, Cody agreed that his last day would be spent watching videos while I tended to my violet chores.

I was enjoying the peace of hybridizing in my violet room when Cody poked his head through the door.

"Uncle Darryl I'm bored."

"How can you be bored with all those videos I just rented?"

"I've already seen them," he replied.

"But Cody, when I asked if you had seen....," I sensed there was no point in finishing the sentence and asked if he would like to help me. He was curious, particularly when I explained that I was making new plants.

"How do you do that?" he asked.

"You take these little yellow things and pry them open a bit. Then you dab them gently onto these long things that are sticking out of the flower."

"Uncle Darryl, is this where babies come from?"

"Uh....uh, not exactly Cody, you see, well... first....uh....why don't you ask your mom when you see her?" Fortunately, he agreed.

"Can I try one?" he asked.

"I don't see why not. Go pick out two plants with flowers that you like and we'll give it a try." In hindsight, I realized I should have said *select* instead of *pick*.

"Okay Uncle Darryl, I'm ready, now what?" I turned and there he stood with two handfuls of blossoms with immature seed pods dangling from most of them.

"Oh Cody, I didn't mean pick the blossoms! I meant pick out the plants!"

When he lowered his head with a sad expression I felt like a heel. "That's okay Cody," I told him, "those needed to be picked anyway. Now, lets pick out two plants for you to cross."

His first choice was *Mickey Mouse* and his second choice was *Mickey Mouse*.

"No Cody, you don't want to cross the same plants because you'll end up with basically the same colored blossom."

"But Uncle Darryl, I like this color."

"I'll tell you what, why don't we use one *Mickey Mouse* and one of these pinks over here. This way, you'll get blue but you may also get some pinks." Reluctantly he agreed and we managed, although at times I didn't think we would, to get some pollen of *Little Pro* onto *Mickey Mouse*.

"Okay Uncle Darryl, now what?"

"We wait."

"How long?" he asked.

"About four months," I replied.

"But I'm going home tomorrow!"

"Okay Cody, lets pretend that the seeds are ready to pick. Let's go into my desk and get a seed pod that's ready to plant and we'll pretend that it's the cross you made."

I selected a mature seed pod from my desk and we returned to our work station.

"Cody, go into the kitchen and fill this dish with warm water, and please try not to spill any on your way back." He zipped out of the plant room and to my surprise, returned with enough water to moisten the *Jiffy Pellet*.

"Drop this pellet into the water and watch what it

continued on page 31

BEFORE YOU BRING YOUR PLANTS TO THE SHOW

by Emory Leland, Washington

Avoid last minute slip-ups in preparing your African violet plants which you are bringing to the show by reviewing this check list:

1. Read the show schedule thoroughly. Make a list of your plants indicating the section and class of the show in which you believe each one should be entered. Be sure the plant name is spelled correctly.
2. Make sure the plant is in a clean pot, healthy and free of disease or insects.
3. Put the plant name, and your name, on the bottom of the pot in pencil or on a piece of adhesive tape attached to the pot bottom. Remove all leaf props, toothpicks, plastic sticks, pot markers, etc.
4. Remove all dead or faded blossoms and stems without blossoms, all yellow or damaged leaves, and any baby leaves. Remove all soil crumbs, dust, lint, dirt and stains from leaves and petioles.
5. Check carefully and remove all suckers (little new starts) at the soil line and from leaf axils. A sucker will disqualify your plant.
6. Remove any remaining stubs of old blossom stalks against the stem of the plant.
7. Check leaf symmetry of specimen plants and remove any leaf necessary to improve plant symmetry. Caution: Do not take off too many leaves and spoil the plant.
8. Do not leave any blossom stalk with only one flower on it ... unless the blossom is needed for blossom count.
9. Remove any leaf support collars after the plant is safely at the show and before you leave it at the entry table.
10. Bring along a pair of small scissors and a soft brush to make any last minute repairs before the plants are entered.
11. Measure the diameter of your miniature and semi-miniature plants to be certain they are not oversized. See the schedule. Remove some leaves if necessary.
12. Pack your plants carefully for a safe trip to the show. Do not crowd a plant into a box that is too small to accommodate the leaf spread. Mark each box with the name or names of the plants in each and save the boxes to take your plants home after the show.

Reprinted with permission from "Blossoms", publication of the Seattle AVC

"My Adventures with Cody" continued from 30

does."

"Wow, that's neat, can we do another?"

"No, one is plenty." I squeezed the excess moisture from the *Jiffy Pellet* and broke it up into the sowing container. I slit the seed pod and rubbed it between my fingers to harvest the seeds.

"Are those tiny black things the seeds?"

I nodded, and he asked, "Why are they so tiny?"

"Anytime God wants something really great," I explained, "he always starts it off in a very small package."

"Like me, Uncle Darryl?"

"Absolutely, Cody." I carefully sprinkled the seed over the peat and closed the container. I explained that in about two weeks they would sprout, but since he would be returning home tomorrow, we would pretend that two

months had gone by, the seedlings had sprouted, and were ready to be potted into their own pots. I grabbed a sowing container that had seedlings that were actually about four months old and showed him how to pot them up.

"When will they have flowers?" he asked, and after I answered that it would take another month or so, Cody said, "But Uncle Darryl I'm going....,"

"I know Cody, you're leaving tomorrow. So lets pretend that this flat of seedlings over here is your cross and we'll pick out the one you like the best and name it "Cody".

"But none of these are blue. Can't I have the one I first played with? Mom likes blue, too."

So I packed up *Mickey Mouse*.

As he boarded his plane the next day, with *Mickey Mouse* in hand, I wondered if someday he would embrace this wonderful hobby that has brought me so many wonderful times, including ... my adventures with Cody.

Where DID Those Babies Come From?

Some Thoughts on Hybridizing with J. C. Munk

by Judy Carter
Houston, TX

Our Spring Branch African Violet Club in Houston has always felt privileged to have as one of its members J. C. Munk who has been growing, showing and hybridizing beautiful violets for almost 20 years. Although he has slowed a bit recently due to health problems, this kind and gentle man, and his wife, Lenora, have kept up a vigorous schedule and continue to delight many growers with their lovely plants. J. C. generously serves as our club's program chairman and recently found himself, not surprisingly, filling in with a program. J.C. is knowledgeable on many fronts after so many years in business, but he has certainly earned his place in hybridizing and chose to talk on this subject. These are some of his thoughts on the preparation, the process and the results of hybridizing.

J. C. admits that he first approached hybridizing in a haphazard way. He had read the few articles he could

find, then dabbled blindly, finding his way by trial and error, to "see if he could do it". He was, at first, not choosy about his parent plants and produced rather mediocre offspring. After consulting with Winston Smith, hybridizer of the Wrangler series, J.C. felt encouraged and better able to proceed.

In preparing to create his new hybrids, J. C. had to study, more carefully, the plants that might become the "parents". Strong, symmetrical and compact foliage, blooms with many buds per stem and strong stems are desired. As a participant in many shows, he noted that the majority of winning plants had plainer rather than exotically colored blossoms above fairly flat, darker foliage, or foliage with regular, well-defined variegation. Multi-colored blossoms are showy and loved by the public, but they are often unstable and difficult to reproduce. It was also obvious that light, lettuce-green, extremely wavy foliage was hard to grow successfully. J.C. decided to stay away from this type as demonstrated with his Rodeo series of hybrids. He has always found variegated foliage attractive and has enjoyed working with it in his Apache series. After all, he says with a smile, "You should leave show plants disbudded for great lengths of time, so you might as well have some pretty foliage to look at while they are sitting there!"

Currently J. C. calculates that he has performed 314 crosses. One of the requirements of hybridizing is keeping accurate documentation. While his first notes were on odd scraps of paper and in simple ledgers, he has graduated to regular notebooks along the way. Whatever method hybridizers use, it is important to be faithful in recording your results. And don't forget that **hybrids must show stable growth through three successive generations to be considered for AVSA registration.**

Generally, the mother plant is chosen for its foliage characteristics and the father plant, the one donating the pollen, for its blooms. J. C. prefers to avoid the strong purple-blooming plants because the purple traits are so strong and dominant that it is often difficult to get many different-looking offspring until you progress through several generations. Therefore, he enjoys working with the pinks, lavenders and whites, as well as multi-colors to achieve various results.

In choosing the plants to cross, it is imperative that a strong, young mother plant be selected. The mother plant itself should be a young, but mature plant that is starting its second round of bloom and is freshly repotted. The size should not be too large as this plant will stay undisturbed for 4-6 months on your shelf, using space, lights, and food while the seeds develop. The smaller the plant, the less resources will have to be spent on it. Fresh soil is necessary because the plant should not be repotted during this time; to do so might cause the seed pods to drop due

to the stress of handling.

One of the critical things about hybridizing is to correctly gauge the age of the receiving blossom. J.C. allows the first bloom on a stem to open and then waits for the second bloom on that stem to become about half open before pollinating the first bloom. He proceeds to pollinate each bloom on that stem in the same manner. He always tries to use all of the blossoms that he possibly can on a mother plant, sometimes trying six or seven different crosses on one plant. Any undeveloped or unused buds that would take energy from the mother plant are then removed. After all, the plant still should sit idle for several months whether it has just one, or many, crosses, so go for broke!

The age of the pollen is not nearly as critical in this process; in fact, it can be harvested and saved in a plastic bag for days, even weeks, and still be viable. J.C. prefers not to deal with refrigerating pollen and the record keeping that would take, so he merely sets pollen aside on a shelf if he wishes to keep it for a few days.

To achieve the cross-pollination, J.C. says, with a mischievous twinkle in his eye, "I use my 'really expensive tools' - a sewing needle, small manicure scissors and my thumb nail." He first uses the scissors to snip off the anthers containing pollen from the mother plant bloom, eliminating the possibility of the bloom pollinating itself. Always keep alert for any self-pollinating blooms and remove them since a new hybrid is your goal. Then he snips off a pollen sack (anther) from the father plant and, placing it on his thumb nail, breaks it open with the needle, scattering the pollen grains on his nail. With his nail, or the needle tip, he gently places a few of the pollen grains on the tip (stigma) of the pistil of the mother plant. If the cross is successful, the ovary will start to swell within a few days. Remember that it only takes one grain to pollinate the bloom. One must be careful not to smother the stigma with too much pollen. And don't forget to tie an identifying tag onto each stem containing a cross.

Once you have been successful in producing a swollen pollen sack, you simply keep the plant fed and in a stable environment for at least four months, preferably five or six. If the bloom has pollinated, the petals on the bloom stem will dry up and the ovary, or seed pod, will swell. The bloom stem will stay alive to continue the development of the pod until it is ready to dry and drop off, or harvest. Once the whole stem has dried and at least the minimum amount of time has passed, J.C. plucks the dried stem and pod. He places them in a dry place (sometimes on top of a light fixture) with their attached tag, for an extra week or so to make sure they are completely dried and mature.

Once J.C. has harvested and dried his seed pod, he is

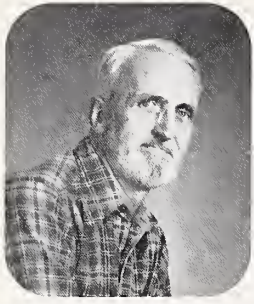
ready to "sow his crop." Again, his materials are inexpensive and easy to find. Into small plastic butter tubs, he crumbles a couple of "jiffy" pots, made of a peat material that will swell when wet. After a thorough wetting, he lightly tamps it down to minimize any crevices in the surface. The violet seeds need to be spread on top of the medium to successfully sprout. He then takes the pod and pinches it lightly over a sheet of white typing paper. This is the best way to actually see the seeds since they are so tiny and almost invisible. From the paper it is easy to pour the seeds onto the growing medium. An ID is attached and a plastic bag is tied around the tub. The tub is then placed on a shelf approximately four inches below the lights to incubate. A seed pod can contain many hundreds of seeds, so if there are a large number, it can take several tubs. It is up to the hybridizer just how many tubs of one cross should be planted. Remember, there is still a lot of culling to be done as the plantlets grow!

Plantlets should begin to appear in the tubs within 4-6 weeks. After at least four leaves appear on each baby, it is time to select those to grow to maturity. J.C. cautions that it is best to choose neither the largest nor the smallest seedlings, but those in the middle of the growing range. Of course, the smallest are the "runts", but the largest often grow to ungainly sizes and can have "leggy" or spaced-out foliage. His best success has been with the healthiest seedlings from the "middle of the pack." It is nearly impossible to grow all of the babies to maturity, so it is the hybridizer's choice as to which ones, and how many, to transplant. With a tiny scoop whittled from a popsicle stick J.C. lifts out his choices then plants them in small pots just like any other seedling. Then, it's just a matter of waiting until they grow and bloom. And don't forget to label those pots!

J. C. has every respect for those growers interested in the genetics and scientific studies that horticulturists perform while analyzing hybridization. He just prefers to skip the scientific detail and go "straight to the fun part!" He enjoys the random selections that occur in nature and is always amazed by the infinite variety - and surprises - of the results.

Always encouraging to new hybridizers, J.C. hopes that more violet growers enter this fascinating field. Whatever route you may choose as a fledgling hybridizer, J.C. Munk urges you to have fun with it and wishes you all the best of luck.

Reprinted with permission from the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter, Texas



OTHER USES FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

TECHNIQUES

by Don Geiss • Fredric, MI

Many house plants can benefit from the use of certain aspects of African violet growing techniques. The use of some methods can even have application in outdoor gardening.

The non-soil mix with some additives, Perlite and Vermiculite can be used as a growing medium for many house plants. Its advantage for those plants is that it permits roots to penetrate much more easily. This new soil then lends to the wicking method for that same plant. Ultimately house plants receive the benefit of steady watering and fertilizer. The plant may not look too attractive standing on top of a water-fertilizer filled reservoir in the middle or on the end of a coffee or end table. That situation can be easily resolved with the use of a decorative basket (see accompanying photo).

A few words of caution: very tall plants such as "mother's-in-law tongue" will not stand erect in the soil because they are too top-heavy. Another drawback is that plants requiring little water such as aloe will not thrive in this medium. If in doubt, the best bet is to try it, keep an eye on it, and if it wilts change back to a standard potting soil.

Some house plants that lend themselves to reproduction by starting from a cutting do amazingly well in the African violet medium using the wick method. The ivy shown in the attached photo was started in that manner.

To continue with the discussion of raising plants through cuttings, it can be pointed out that the writer has started many geranium plants in this way with almost 100% effectiveness.

Turning now to other outside garden uses for a potting soil mix, it is worthwhile to note that greenhouses use much the same mixture in starting flowering plants such as marigolds and petunias from seed. This information can be of value to the outside gardener who may desire, toward the end of winter, to start flowers and vegetables from seed.

The use of a wide window ledge or artificial fluorescent light over a table will serve as a greenhouse.

The advantages an African violet lover has in attempting these experiments is that the material is probably already available. It might be intriguing to find other uses of the multi-purpose material.



This English Ivy was started as a small cutting in this same pot. It was wicked and on a reservoir of fertilized water.



Nat Stork

Disbudding to Grow Larger

A Science Fair Project Using African Violets

by Nat Stork, 7th Grade, Trinity Lutheran School, Fremont, Nebraska

The Hypothesis:

That preventing an African violet from blooming by disbudding redirects food and energy to cause it to grow larger and stockier.

Procedure:

1. Assembled control and experimental groups October 12, 1995.
2. Watered and fertilized plants on weekly schedule. Fluorescent lights were on 12 hours each day about 12" above the leaves.
3. Disbudded experimental group as flower buds appeared.
4. Control group was left to bloom.
5. Measured the leaves' diameter from tip to tip at beginning and end of experimental period.

Controls:

All plants came off of leaf clumps separated on the same date. Both control and experimental plants of each variety came from the same clump.

Both control group and the experimental group had plants of *Kiss and Tell* (2 of each), *Tomahawk* (2 of each), and *Windy Day* (1 only).

Both groups were grown side by side, and received exactly the same care.

Conclusion:

My hypothesis was mostly right. The Experimental plants grew an average of 2" larger than the Control plants by February 1, 1996. The Experimental plants seemed stranger and appeared darker in color than the control plants.

A surprise result was the difference in overall appearance between the two groups. The Control Group's foliage was lighter in color and less sturdy than the Experimental Group at the end of the testing period. The Experimental group had thicker leaves that were much

shinier than the Control group's. The Control group leaves seemed to age faster (yellow and faded). The "quilting" or bumpy texture of the leaves was a lot more obvious in the Experimental group, and so was the red color on the back of the leaves.

The number of flowers and buds on a single stalk was much greater on plants in the Experimental group. In several cases, disbudded plants had three times more flowers per stalk than the non-disbudded Control plants.

Even the stems of the leaves and the bloom stalks showed differences. The Control group was lighter in color, thinner, and less strong than the Experimental group's reddish, thick, sturdy stems.

Windy Day plants seemed to be more immature than the other varieties and did not set buds on as often in either the Control or Experimental group. It appears that that resulted in a less noticeable difference between the plants of that variety.

After I ended this project, I kept growing the plants without disbudding. By October of 1996 it was not possible to tell the difference between the two groups. The Experimental plants lost the stronger look, especially in the new center growth. The disbudding really made a difference.

Resources:

10,000 Garden Questions, by F.F. Rockwell, 1959, page 240.

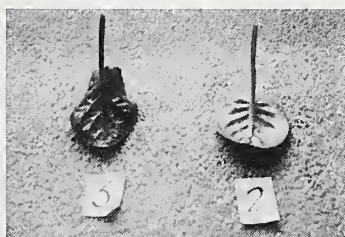
African Violet Magazine, Volume 42, Number 4, July-August 1989, "Disbudding or Deblooming?" by Kyle S. Coleman, page 32.

African Violet Magazine, Volume 43, Number 5, September-October 1990, Beginner's Column - "Getting an African Violet to Bloom on Schedule", by Kent and Joyce Stork, page 16.

Growing To Show, by Pauline Bartholomew, 1985, page 77.



Left: Control Group "Tomahawk"
Right: Experimental Group "Tomahawk"



Left: "Experimental Group "Kiss & Tell"
Right: Control Group "Kiss & Tell"



Left: Experimental Group "Tomahawk",
with 12 buds or blossoms
Right: Control Group "Tomahawk", with only 4

Managing A Marathon Re-Potting Session!!

Some Rules for Re-Potting African Violets

by Barbara Pershing
Cedar Falls, IA

I just finished repotting over 100 African violets in two days; you have a lot of time to think while doing this and you can make an incredible mess without half trying! I came to the conclusion that you should:

1. Send your family, especially your spouse, to "outer Mongolia" or outer space, or at least somewhere out of the house for the day if you plan to do a marathon repotting session!!
2. Decide before you start just how many plants or trays of plants you will do today. It seems that the newly repotted and groomed plants look so much better than the others so it is easy to say, just one more, and one more . . . until you are so tired you aren't doing things well; like accidentally breaking more than the usual number of leaves; forgetting to put in the wick . . . etc. and don't forget that someone has to clean up the mess, and my guess is that someone is you!!
3. There are always three parts to any job: **the get ready, the actual task, and the clean-up.** [I used to teach home management!!] A little time getting ready can save a lot of time in doing the second two parts of the job.

I. Get ready

1. Make sure you have enough clean pots of the right sizes. 2. Moisten enough soil for the session so you don't have to stop to do this (and become impatient and start using dry soil which will definitely make the clean-up more time consuming. 3. Have your knife, brush, perlite, systemic, etc. and all other favorite utensils and supplies together on your potting table. 4. Cut enough wicking to do

the job so you don't have to stop to cut more, which means washing your hands each time. 5. Cut enough newspaper pages in half so you have a clean piece for each plant; a plastic or metal tray with at least one-half inch sides and large enough for the half sheet of newspaper to help keep the old soil, leaves etc. off the counter and floor; wrap everything together with the newspaper and put it in the compost bucket (newspaper will compost). 6. Prepare a pail of soapy weak bleach water to disinfect your tools and your hands for working with each plant in order to eliminate potential transfer of pests or disease from one plant to another. 7. Fill a pail (5 gallon bucket works great) with soapy bleach water to put the dirty pots to soak (helps with the clean-up). 8. Have your labels and marking pen handy or better yet, make your labels before you start to repot (saves washing hands again!). 9. Paper towels are handy for cleaning the outside of the pots of loose soil before putting them back on the plant trays; have a stack of single paper towels nearby if you don't have a towel dispenser handy. 10. A piece of rubber backed carpet, where you stand, will help keep your legs and feet from getting tired and can be rolled up and taken outside to be swept (clean-up again!).

II. Repotting and Grooming (the task)

1. Look at each plant carefully for signs of disease or pests. 2. Remove all loose soil, especially the top layer since this is where the fertilizer salts migrate; notice there aren't any roots in this top soil layer. 3. Groom each plant as you repot it. 4. Have some general rules about removing blossoms, disbudding, symmetry of leaves, removal of leaves and pot to plant ratio for size; for example, a damaged leaf will not heal; might as well remove it now and let another move in to take its place. 5. Check for and

remove suckers. **6.** Remove outer leaves if desired (and it usually is) before you decide the pot size; many times it is desirable to keep the plant in the same size pot which may mean removing part of the root ball to eliminate a neck. Use scissors and cut the necessary amount of root ball off the bottom for the plant to fit into the pot. Feel the root ball at the base of the neck. If the old neck extends too far down into the root mass to allow the plant to fit into the pot, gently cut away part of the old neck with a sharp knife and pull away taking with it some of the roots. If you have done this right, you should still have a nice quantity of roots left. The plant will hardly notice this loss; not like cutting the neck close to the crown and having to start to root all over. **7.** Prepare your pot and insert the plant. My sequence is to put in the wick leaving 3 or 4 inches out of the bottom and leaving it long enough to reach the top of the pot; put a layer of sponge rock (or large perlite) in the bottom of pot; add a shallow layer of potting mix; add systemic; place root ball into pot and gently spoon moist potting mix around the root ball; tap the pot on the table to lightly pack the soil and remove air pockets. **8.** Label pot with name and date. **9.** Brush leaves to remove loose soil and/or wash the leaves under a stream of warm water from the faucet or a spray bottle. **10.** Replace plants to their spot on the light table or window but be sure the leaves are dry before putting them in the sunlight.

III. Clean-Up

"Oops, you mean I can't leave this mess until tomorrow?"

Well, if you did send your spouse and family to "Outer

Mongolia" and you want to face the mess tomorrow, OK, but it really shouldn't take long if you did the "get ready" before you started. Washing the pots is probably the easiest to put off. Would you rather buy new pots than wash them, until you run out of 5 gallon buckets! Remember the get-ready soaking bucket? Follow-up, and with the help of a nylon scrub pad, it will only take a few minutes to finish this job. One little tip about getting those sticky labels off of pots. A product called "Goo-Gone", which can be purchased at a variety of places, works great for this.

What is it that they say about "practicing what you preach!" As I was doing all of this repotting, I began to think about all of the times I had lectured my students about time management, planning ahead, getting organized, breaking tasks into smaller segments. . . . Yea, good advice!! Yes, it is good advice. I did pretty well with the get-ready, the task and the clean-up, but my next step is to get organized so that I set a schedule for repotting that is flexible enough to allow for individual differences in growth patterns of the plants and my less than structured retirement lifestyle so I don't have 100 + plants that all need to be repotted at the same time! And, my husband won't be prompted to say something like, "It doesn't seem very long since you did this!" or "Aren't you done yet!!"

Well, I guess I had better get started on my 'organized' plan but first, it's time to finish washing all of those, hopefully soaked-clean pots!

Reprinted with permission from the Cedar Valley African Violet Club Newsletter

A Real Winner

by Sue Hill • Independence, MO

At the St. Louis AVSA National Convention in 1995, I was walking by the Showroom at the closing of the show when an exciting thing happened. Mr. John Brownlie, an AVSA Commercial Member from ACA's Violet Tree in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, came striding out of the showroom with this large African violet plant in his hands. He offered the plant to some women in front of me, and they all backed away, saying "Oh, no, I could never handle that plant!"

I've never been shy, so I spoke up, and said I'd take it. Mr. Brownlie and I had never met, but he placed that plant in my hands and I thanked him before he walked away.

I would like Mr. Brownlie to know that "Optimara Oregon", which he had carried all the way from Canada to Missouri was a real winner at the Unpredictables AVS,

1996 Annual Show in Missouri. This beautiful plant, with well over 200 open blossoms and such beautiful symmetry won for me, my seventh award for Best in Show.



Sue Hill with "Optimara Oregon"

This Wonderful World Of Violets

by Ruth Goekle
Brenham, Texas

I have been growing African violets for well over twenty years. At first, I was so gung-ho, planting every leaf and carefully potting up each and every baby, even the little bitsy spindly ones. Finally, when we were threatened to be over run with the green monsters, and there was no more room for people, I did get better with tossing. (But, boy did that hurt at first!)

When I started growing the violets, I really enjoyed them and they did very well for me. I didn't even realize that AVSA existed and had no idea that there were actually "clubs" of people who met to discuss, of all things, African violets!

After discovering AVSA, quite by accident, and joining, I planned for years to attend the national convention in Austin, scheduled for 1978. Unfortunately, things didn't work out the way I had planned. Not only was there car trouble, but we had problems with a cow who gave birth to twins that morning. DeWane and I were only able to go for a few hours to see the show, (he may have planned it that way!), but I was certainly hooked after that. I decided then to make an effort to attend shows that were nearby. I find it ironic now to think back to those times when I never knew any of the club members, many of whom are now friends.

My young son had encouraged me to join the Brazos Valley Club, and I finally did. That was a major step for me, and that's when the "violet world" really got exciting. I remember the first time I met Linda Ray. I felt that I had met a celebrity!

Soon, I was participating in those shows, and in my first show, which happened to be the 1982 state show, I won a Best In Class and a blue ribbon with my two entries. I was in "violet heaven". Brazos Valley hosted the state show that year, and I met Hortense Pittman. It was comparable to meeting Elizabeth Taylor! (Of course, then there was meeting Mr. Pittman, and shall I say that was comparable to meeting Cary Grant, or perhaps Groucho Marx?)

At this same show, I remember seeing a gentleman in the hall, and I assumed he was waiting for his wife who I figured was off shopping for more violets. I remember feeling sorry for him, thinking he was there only because his wife had suggested he accompany

her to the violet show, and he'd really rather be fishing. Little did I know then that J.C. Munk was as involved with African violets as his wife, Lenora!

After about a dozen years of growing violets, I decided that the plants just weren't that much fun anymore, and had become a lot of work. My wonderfully delightful hobby had turned into a so-called business, and sadly, the fun was gone.

Now, don't get me wrong. I do still enjoy African violets and their cousins, and still get excited about new varieties and plants, attending shows, etc., but I realized long ago that the best thing about African violets are the wonderful people I have gotten to know. Some of my dearest friends are people I never would have known or even have come in contact with had it not been for a common interest in African violets.

Other than meeting and making friends with violet enthusiasts, I had opportunities for other interesting "adventures" because of this hobby (or business) of growing violets. Traveling to the AVSA and Dixie conventions has allowed me to see parts of the U.S. that I may not have seen otherwise.

African violets have presented me with many other interesting experiences. I have worked at Blue Bell Creameries (Blue Bell Ice Cream) for many years. A while back there was an article in the Dallas Morning News about my bosses, Ed and Howard Kruse, Chairman of the Board and President/CEO, respectively. In the article, they were asked who they would like to invite to dinner. Howard said he would like to have dinner with former President and Mrs. George Bush. Surprisingly, a few days after that article came out, President Bush contacted Blue Bell and set up a luncheon date with the Kruses.

It was an extreme honor for me when Ed Kruse asked me to fix up a basket of African violets for him and his wife to present to Mrs. Bush. Let me tell you, I can usually toss those violets in a basket, decorate with net and ribbon in about ten minutes ... well, preparing THIS basket took me an hour! I was shaking like a leaf in a strong breeze! How could I fix a basket that would be fitting for the former First Lady? Not to say that all my customers and friends aren't special, but this was a unique situation. I was a nervous wreck.

I finally got it together, and really wasn't sure how it looked. DeWane said it was pretty, of course, but he's obligated to say nice things!

The next day I took the basket to the office to give to Mr. Kruse, and when asked by the office staff who the violets were for, I replied, "Barbara." Barbara who? "Why Barbara Bush, of course!"

Mrs. Kruse later told me that when she presented Mrs. Bush with the violets, the former First Lady remarked that she really liked them and had needed a lift. Her day

hadn't been going all that well, and the violets were just what she needed!

So, you never know what will happen in this wonderful world of violets. Now, I guess I'd better go out there and dash a little water on the remaining survivors in my plant house. Wonder if I can come up with anything for the show? Is it too late to start something new?

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the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter*

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Senior Judges

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and Sept. 1, 1997. Send request to: Frances King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. Include check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA). Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination for grading must be returned before Oct. 1, 1997.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. King. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook:

1. List of all judging school attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned.

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included.

Applications postmarked after Sept. 1, 1997 will be returned and application may be made next year.
Completed exams postmarked after Oct. 1, 1997 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 1997) for grading and return of examination.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive
Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from November 20, 1996 - January 20, 1997

Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	\$ 10.00	Gina & Donald Czerwinski, Los Altos, CA	\$ 25.00
Memphis AVS, Memphis, TN	\$ 10.00	<i>In fond memory of Anna Marie Kadack</i>	
<i>In memory of Mrs. Martha Page</i>		Loveland Sweetheart Violettes, Loveland, CO	\$ 20.00
Esther E. Wells, Liberty, MO	\$ 10.00	Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM	\$ 25.00
<i>In memory of Kent Stork's mother</i>		Paumanok AVS, Greenlawn, NY	\$ 45.00
Maurice & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	\$ 10.00	<i>The club disbanded</i>	
<i>In memory of Kent Stork's mother</i>		Irma Estelle Mejia, Manassas, VA	\$ 5.00
Quannapowitt AVC, Cambridge, MA	\$ 5.00	Montgomery AVS, Montgomery, AL	\$ 15.00
London AVS, London, Ontario CANada	\$ 25.00	James T. Kuczma, Sterling, Heights, MI	\$ 25.00
<i>Donation for research on thrips</i>		Kathryn Carroll, Springfield, VA	\$ 10.00
Brigitte McKnight, Cupertino, CA	\$ 50.00	Douglas P. French, Centerville VA	\$ 20.00
Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO	\$ 10.00	Mrs. Greg AV Club, St. Paul, MN	\$ 10.00
<i>In memory of Ruth Longmier of Albuquerque, NM</i>		<i>In lieu of Christmas presents</i>	
<i>Her design talent will be missed in the violet world</i>			



“Rafting on the Chattahoochie”

Underwater Arrangement

by

Karen Cichoci

1996 National Show Entry

Underwater Arrangements

1. Select Container:

- a. Clear glass container: brandy snifters, large glass mugs, fish bowls, counter top storage containers . . .
- b. Have container sparkling clean.

2. Plan the arrangement:

- a. Consider the magnifying effect of water; your arrangement will appear to be twice its size and flaws will be more obvious.
- b. Work up the arrangement outside the container; experiment with your design.
- c. Keep the design simple; don't try for an intricate or complicated design.
- d. Arrangement must not touch the sides of the container.
- e. The arrangement must have a design.
- f. Keep accessories at a minimum and small; no living things, i.e., snails, fish.

3. Collect supplies:

- a. A base - heavy enough not to float; a rock, piece of slate; sea shells, needlepoint or frog; something to build your arrangement on.
- b. Floral clay
- c. Floral adhesive
- d. Green floral tape
- e. Thin wire
- f. Hot glue gun

4. Select foliage and line material

- a. Evergreens, ivy, ferns; use small leafed varieties, small branch . . .
- b. Wash foliage; everything must be clean to prevent water from becoming cloudy.
- c. Place tallest piece of foliage in base leaving about 1" below the top of the bowl.
- d. Remove and then form your line with the foliage, thin branch, or wire.

5. Select African violet blossoms

- a. Select blossoms that are on the small side;
- b. Practice with actual violet blossoms; be careful not to touch the blossoms; they will turn brown;
- c. Must be in proportion to other plant materials and your container.
- d. Use darker colored blossoms as the focal point; dark colors suggest weight; anchor your design.

- e. Use lighter colored blossoms to top to give an airy feeling and suggest height.

5. Prepare blossoms:

- a. Use fresh blossoms.
- b. Cut stems long and place in container of water.
- c. Recut stem under water; stem can absorb as much water as it needs.

6. Attach blossoms to arrangement:

- a. Wind thread around foliage and blossom stems to hold in place; tuck stem behind foliage.
- b. Cut and wrap soda straws with green floral tape; insert into floral clay 1/4" to 1" depending on the design and where you want each blossom to be placed; cut a piece of floral wire 1/4" longer than each straw; attach wire to back of violet and insert into the straw pushing it gently into the floral clay.
- c. Experiment with your own method of attaching blossoms to your arrangement.

7a. Insert the arrangement

- a. Cover bottom of bowl with clean gravel, rock, sand, marbles. Make an impression with your hand;
- b. Fill the container about half full with water from a watering can; pour against the side of the container to prevent the rock from being moved about.
- c. Insert the arrangement with a pair of kitchen tongs.
- d. Gently spread the rock over the base with the tongs to camouflage the entire base.
- e. Add a bit more water, very gently and carefully against the side of the container.

7b. Using floral adhesive:

- a. Make sure bowl is dry.
- b. Anchor needlepoint or base with a small amount of adhesive on bottom of bowl and firmly press base of design to anchor it securely.
- c. Cover base with rock . . . Mechanics must be covered. Carefully fill with water.

8. At the show:

- a. Take water from home to fill your bowl.

*Reprinted with permission from "The Bloom' Violet",
publication of Cedar Valley AVC, IA*

SIX LECTURES PRESENTED AT THE FAMOUS PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

by Anne Tinari
Chairman of AVSA Membership & Promotion Committee

An invitation from the office of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to participate in a new feature at the 1997 Philadelphia Flower Show, that attracts some 300,000 visitors, was received by the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Membership Committee.

After a hasty meeting with committee members we made a decision not to miss such an excellent opportunity to promote our national society. We then proceeded to make the proper reservations.

Six lecture spots were reserved for our promotion committee on a new program, "The Gardener's Studio".

On March 3, Bill Lyons, Chairman of the Booster Fund and a member of my committee, assisted by Kay Lyons and Joyce McCullen, gave two one-hour lectures with a question and answer period following. The subject of "Proper Methods and Various Ways of Watering African Violets" was well-received.

The second lecture series was given on March 5 by Anne Tinari assisted by Lil Ager and Clem Dix. The subject "Care and Culture of African Violets and the Ten Proper Ways to Successful Growing," was the topic.

On March 6, Kurt Eckard, President of the African Violet Society of Philadelphia, assisted by Linda Eckard and Alice Easter, gave the third lecture series on "Potting and Lighting".

Each series was met with great enthusiasm. Membership pamphlets and back issues of the African Violet Magazine were distributed with the cooperation of Cindy Chatelain, our Office Manager and Vice-Chairman of Membership & Promotion, who provided us with all materials needed.

The experience was unique and one of the lectures given by Anne Tinari was video-taped by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for their library.

We need to do more public exposure to acquaint the public to the joys of growing African violets.

One thing we discovered, but surely were aware of, is that "everybody loves African violets" and are hungry for lectures and literature to help them grow and enjoy these beautiful house plants.



Anne Tinari at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

The Cedar Valley AVC way of:



All leaves and non-blooming plants must have a label providing the **name of the plant**, **size** (miniature, semi-miniature, standard, large), **type** (trailer, chimera, fantasy, etc.) **blossom** (single, semi-double, double) and **blossom color/description** (i.e. pink and white two tone).

LEAVES should be in zip-lock bags, either side opening Ziploc Snack Bags or the top zip bags. In addition

to the descriptive label, all leaves should have the price attached to the bag.

PLANTS should have a plastic stake with the price of the plant to be removed at time of sale and a descriptive label (same as for leaves) attached to a small drink straw (like a flag) and inserted into the soil. This straw/label will remain with the plant. Hopefully, having the label visible will eliminate the need to pick up the plants to see the name/description on the side of the pot and will prevent broken leaves and damaged plants.

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Publication of Cedar Valley AVC, Cedar Falls, IA*

AWARDS FOR THE ST. PETE BEACH 1997 CONVENTION

\$50

Barbara Courson
First Lakeland AVS
Nancy & Floretta Willits

\$30

Dandy Enterprises

\$25

AV Association of Gardeners in Orlando, FL
AV Council of Southern California
AVS of South Bay
Columbus AVS
Barbara Elkin
Maurice & Jackie Jones
Mid-America AVS
Quad City AVS
Tara AV Club
Tri State AV Council
Upper Pinellas AVS
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs

\$20

Acree Creations
Baltimore AV Club
Margaret Condit

\$15

First AVS of San Antonio

\$10

AV Club of Greater Kansas City
AVS of Lower Bucks County
Judy Carter
Central Jersey AVS
First Austin AVS
Dale Jaraitis
Shirley Kilpatrick
Nite Bloomers AVS
OVAL (Office Violets & Lunch)
Pikes Peak AVS
Pittsburgh Violet Society
Potomac Council of AV Judges
Ventura County AVS

In Memory

ESTELLE CRANE

Estelle Crane was a pioneer in the growing years of the AVSA. She was a Lifetime Judge and Teacher, served the society as Treasurer from 1969 to 1974, and was Finance Chairman from 1976 to 1981. Estelle had received the following awards for her service and devotion to AVSA: One Year Honorary Membership in 1968, Honorary Life Membership in 1973, and the Continued Service Award in 1980.

ALICE T. YAWGER

Alice T. Yawger of Clearwater, FL, passed away in January, 1997. A teacher by profession, Alice taught for many years in her home state of New Jersey. When she relocated to Florida in the 1960's, she became a member of the Upper Pinellas AVS. Having been a member of the New Jersey Council of African Violet Clubs, Alice worked to have such an organization in Florida. In 1978, it became a reality, with Alice serving as the first President of the AV Council of Florida. In addition to being a Life Member of the Florida Council, Alice was a Life Member of AVSA and a Senior Judge.

BETTY BRENNING

Betty Brenning, a devoted member of the AVS of Beaumont, TX, passed away in February, 1997. Betty loved African violets and twice served as club President. She was also one of the club volunteers who looked after the large collection of African violets on display in the AVSA National Headquarters in Beaumont. Betty is greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

BEVERLY BULLOCK

Beverly Bullock, of Louisiana, passed away in December, 1996. Beverly joined the AVS of Alexandria, LA in 1978. By 1980 she had become Show Chairman and Treasurer, positions she held until her death. Beverly was also a member of AVSA, Dixie AVS, LA Council of AV Judges and Growers.

OLLIE HODGES

Ollie Hodges, of Birmingham, AL, passed away in December, 1996. A charter member of the Early Bird AVC of Birmingham, Ollie was also a longtime member of AVSA and the Dixie AVS. Always willing to help, Ollie is missed by all who knew her.

Coming Events



May 1 - 3 - CANADA

AVS of Canada 30th Annual Convention & Show
Toronto, Canada
Info: Betty Tapping (416) 621 - 1549
Doris Brownlie (905) 270 - 6776

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK

Hudson Highland AVS Annual Display/Sale
Union Presbyterian Church,
44 Balmville Rd., Newburgh, NY
May 3 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Mary Louise Miller (914) 831 - 7786

May 2 & 3 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS 35th Annual Show/Sale
Waltham Field Station
240 Beaver St., Waltham, MA
May 2 - 2pm - 8pm
May 3 - 10am - 4pm

May 2 - 4 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Annual Spring Show
Beechmont Mall, Anderson Township
May 2 - 1pm - 9pm
May 3 - 10am - 9pm
May 4 - noon - 6pm
Info: (513) 271 - 5678
(606) 384 - 4437

May 3 & 4 - LOUISIANA

AVS of Alexandria and the Verbeau AVS
Spring Show/Sale
Holiday Inn, Hwy. 171 South, Leesville, LA
May 3 - 1pm - 6pm
May 4 - noon - 4pm
Info: Jane Pippens (318) 442 - 4696
Eileen Stannard (318) 238 - 1584

May 3 & 4 - MISSOURI

Sho-Me AVC Annual Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Ctr., 5200 Pennsylvania Ave.
Kansas City, MO
May 3 - 9am - 3pm
May 4 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Sandy Burns (816) 761 - 7189

May 3 & 4 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council's
42nd Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Ardath Miller (314) 394 - 9190

May 3 & 4 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS 24th Annual Judged Show/Sale

Nature Center for Environmental Activities
10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 3 - 1:30 - 5pm
May 4 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570

May 3 & 4 - WISCONSIN

Milwaukee AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Southgate Mall, 3333 S. 27th St., Milwaukee, WI
May 3 - 10am - 6pm
May 4 - noon - 5pm
Info: (414) 255 - 1004

May 3 & 4 - WISCONSIN

Crosstown AVC Annual Show/Sale
East Towne Mall, Madison, WI
Mall Hours
Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221 - 2050

May 3 & 4 - VIRGINIA

Old Dominion AVS Spring Show/Sale
Green Spring Garden Park,
4601 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, VA
Info: Laurene Jones (703) 560 - 6134

May 3 & 4 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay, NY Rt. 51
West of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: (315) 455 - 2963

May 8 - 10 - CANADA

AVS of Calgary 11th Annual Show
Chinook Centre, at "The Junction", Calgary, Canada
Info: W. Salamanowicz (403) 281 - 3786

May 9 & 10 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Plant Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City, LA
May 9 - 10am - 6pm
May 10 - 10am - 6pm, or sold out
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

May 9 & 10 - NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Spring Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall, Goldsboro, NC
Mall Hours
Info: (919) 778 - 3179

May 9 & 10 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Mother's Day Sale
Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC
Hours: 10am - 7pm

May 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVS Spring Show/Sale
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church Parish Hall
3747 34th St., S., St. Petersburg, FL
May 9 - 9am - 4pm
May 10 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Retta Anderson (813) 866 - 3468

May 9 & 10 - WASHINGTON

Longview AVC Show/Sale
Triangle Mall, Longview, WA
Both Days: 9am - 5pm

May 9 & 10 - CANADA

AVS of Central Alberta Show/Sale
Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta
Info: Bertha Lawrence 347 - 0445

May 9 & 10 - OHIO

Parmatown AVC 37th Annual Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall
7899 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH
May 9 - 12:30pm - 9pm
May 10 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Tracy Lorence (330) 225 - 6967

May 9 & 10 - OHIO

Springfield AVC Show/Sale
Fairfield Commons Mall, Beavercreek
May 9 - 10am - 9pm
May 10 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Betty Bartley (937) 324 - 3630

May 9 & 10 - NEW JERSEY

Garden State AVC Show/Sale
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
E. State Street Extension, Mercerville, NJ
May 9 - 1pm - 8pm
May 10 - 10am - 4pm

Info: Rhona Thurman (609) 499 - 3395
Claudia Schaeffer (609) 448 - 2957

May 9 - 19 - CANADA

Canadian Tulip Festival
Ottawa, Ontario
Info: (613) 567 - 5757

May 10 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Exhibit/Sale
Southroads Mall, 1001 Ft. Crook Rd.
Bellevue, NE
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

May 10 - CALIFORNIA

Bellflower AVS Display/Sale
Stonewood Mall
Lakewood Blvd. & Firestone, Downey, CA
Hours: 10am - 7pm
Info: Sharon Coudyser (310) 804 - 2981

May 10 & 11 - MARYLAND

Baltimore AVC 43rd Annual Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall, Parkville, MD
May 10 - 1pm - 9pm
May 11 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Shirley Huffman (301) 953 - 7554

May 10 - ILLINOIS

Glenview/North Shore AVS Sale/Exhibit
Friendship Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Rd.
Des Plaines, IL
Info: (847) 729 - 1690

May 10 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Annual Sale
Coddington Mall, Guemville Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm or sold out
Info: Harriet Maddux (707) 523 - 1614

May 10 & 11 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza @ West Covina, Lower Level - Macy's Ct.
1200 West Covina Pkwy, West Covina, CA
May 10 - 10am - 8pm
May 11 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Cindy Cartwright (818) 969 - 1431

May 15 - 17 - TENNESSEE

Bluff City AVC Spring Show/Sale
Oak Court Mall, Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN
May 15 - 2pm - 9pm
May 16 - 10am - 9pm
May 17 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Iona Pair (901) 385 - 1148
Kathy Hildebrand (901) 386 - 0210

May 17 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Burlington County Annual Show/Sale
Burlington Center Mall
Rt. 541, Burlington, NJ
Hours: 1pm - 9pm
Info: Laurel Brown (609) 877 - 8696

May 31 & June 1 - CALIFORNIA

AVS of San Francisco Annual Show/Sale
San Francisco County Fair Bldg.
9th & Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA
May 31 - 10am - 5pm
June 1 - 10am - 4pm

May 31 & June 1 - CALIFORNIA

Orange County AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buena Park Mall, Buena Park, CA
Both Days: 10am - 6pm
Info: Dorothy Kosowsky (818) 333 - 1127

June 21 & 22 - INDIANA

Hoosier AVS Show/Sale
Crown Point Civic Center, 101 East St.,
Crown Point, IN
Both Days: noon - 5pm
Info: Lois Matusak (219) 663 - 2622

July 19 - CALIFORNIA

Northern CA Judges' Council Judging School
San Francisco County Fair Bldg.
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA
Pre-register by July 1: Gary Beck, 1155 Pine St. #4
San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 771 - 2342

ONCE UPON A TIME...

by Debbie Stout
Harlem, Montana

Dear Diary,

"There was an old woman who lived in a shoe; she had so many children she didn't know what to do."?

As I sit here, pen in hand, an old nursery rhyme runs through my mind. A blonde curly-haired head lies snuggled in my lap. Just moments ago, that beautiful baby mouth, now so still and sweet, was yelling those familiar words with all the power of two-year young lungs. Oh, the treasured silence in which I now find time to write!

I look up from my only child and grimace in the direction of a windowsill overflowing with a mass of African violets. Once I thought that particular Mother Goose rhyme was only nonsense. Now I've heard it through a child's ears and LIVED it through my violets. It's spring, you see, and I've again set at least one leaf from all my favorites. Soon I too will have "so many children".

I close this entry to carry the Little One to his bed. I wonder, as I always have, why the old woman kept her shoe.

Surely she could have at least found a larger one with room for all her wee tots.

Someday soon I'll provide a proper plantroom for MY family of violet babies.

Dear Diary,

I see my last entry was dated, oh, so long ago. Blueprints and piles of lumber seem to occupy my time now. Men in coveralls parade past the row of plastic-draped, and hopefully protected, violets. Saws and other power tools pour out a never-ending stream of noise

during the day. Tonight I sit here, writing by the light of a friendly summer moon, shining his light through the three huge south-facing windows of the new room. I think he's smiling with me.

Dear Diary,

I've only a few moments to spare tonight. Piles of catalogs lay scattered on the table before me. I have many orders to make and send off by tomorrow. The African violet photos on some covers are calling me and I won't tarry but a moment longer. Fall always makes me dream of beautiful violet blooms in the cold, otherwise colorless, months ahead. This winter should be interesting, after all the hard, but satisfying, work we put into the new addition.



*Debbie Stout
96*

Dear Diary,

For the first time in months, I'm writing this sitting in my own chair, keeping my old friends on the window-

sill company. Through the doorway of the new room, I see toy trucks and stuffed animals scattered over the floor. A little boy's head is bent over a large picturebook and I hear him singing a favorite nursery rhyme. The new furniture was delivered today and he's happy with his room. Looking up at the perky and blooming faces over the now, VERY crowded row of violets, I'd have to admit they're happy too.

"He put her in a pumpkin shell, And there he kept her very well."

P.S. Diary, "And all lived happily ever after."

"And the winners are..."

Ruth Goeke
4851 Pieper Road
Brenham, TX 77833

Ruth Goeke, who graciously stepped in and took over this regular feature of our magazine at my request, has turned the compilation of our show winners over to Mary Loewer of Plano, TX. I commend Ruth for a job well done, even though it was difficult with her busy schedule. Mary's first column will be in the July/August issue. Please send all of your show results to Mary Loewer, 3504 Parkhaven Dr., Plano, TX 75075. Welcome aboard, Mary!

FIRST NIGHTER AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Picasso, Louise Constant; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Martha Turner**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Shades of Autumn, Tomahawk, Party Print; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Shy Blue, Symphonette; Best Semiminiature: Symphonette; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Loewer**. Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Margery Clive**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Luv It', **Yvonne Acree**. Best Design: Bill Foster. Design Sweepstakes: **Craig Carpenter**.

SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Optimara Van Gogh, Old Dominion Sparkler; Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Dean's Plum Peacock, Heritage Frolic; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Irene Boro**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mikado Red, Suncoast Paisley Print, Tomahawk; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Boondoggle, Wee Be; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Standard: Mikado Red; Best Design: **Cathy Cornibe**. Best Miniature/Best Trailer: Brazos Belle, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Celine Chase**. Design Sweepstakes: **Thelma Walther**.

QUAD CITIES AVS, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Nortex's Valentine Haven, Rhapsodie Irene; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Linda Darnell; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch', **Celia Schafer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Everdina, Optimara Rose Quartz, Spring Peach; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Carol Boyd**. Best Standard: The Alps; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **John Jugenheimer**. Best Design, **Marlene Wright**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones**.

SAN JOAQUIN AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sugar Bear Pink, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's June Bug; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia speciosa* 'Regina'; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Vera Parker**. Best Trailer: Jet Trail, **Mary Lloyd**. Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Gladys Cartwright**.

LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Oklahoma, Optimara North Carolina,

Optimara New Mexico; Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Snuggles, Rob's Doohickey; Best Standard: Optimara New Mexico; Best Miniature: Rob's Romancer, **Ren Rein**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Ness' Forever Blue, Ness' Blue Velvet, **Jean Ness**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whippoorwill, Rob's Scooter, Little Pro; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Sugar Bear Pink; Best Trailer: Ballet Gumball; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Best Pink', **Kathy Lahti**. Best species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann**. Best Design, **Barb Wohlferd**.

DELAWARE AVS, DE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Party Print, Decelles' Fascination; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Tiptop, Precious Pink, Pat Champagne; Best in Show/Best Standard: Decelles' Fascination; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Chanticleer'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Bessie Pyle**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Optimara Dominica, Joelle, **Pat Webber**. Best Trailer: Patt's Cameo, **Andrea Pirone**.

SPRING BRANCH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Feathers, Rodeo Country, Apache Victory; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Victory; Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lenora Munk**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sedona, Picasso, Mary Craig, **J.C. Munk**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Design, **Judy Carter**. Best Miniature: Winsome; Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Jane Rexilius**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus parvifolius variegata*, **Elaine Click**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**.

CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, Blushing Ivory, Vintage Wine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Shadow Magic, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Blue Light; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Match Point; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Pink Mint, **Margaret Califano**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Paris; Best species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Esther Mason**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Vincent Ozimek**. Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Helen Gifford**.

DIXIE AVS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, *Saintpaulia difficilis*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha*; Best species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha*; Best Gesneriad:

Sinningia cardinalis, **Barbara Peterson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Little Pro, Dean's Plum Peacock; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Alice Grundy**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Dean's Aquarius, Precious Pink, **George McDonald**. Best Standard: Jungle Print, **Marie Burns**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Roger Peeler**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sharon Long**.

FANTASY AVC, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Shades of Autumn, Rhapsodie Betty, Christine, **Jim Duerstock**. Best in Show/ Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail; Best Standard: Everything's Rosy, **Ann Gramstorff**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Doohickey, **Pat Dupke**. Best Miniature: Knight Magic, **Fran Carson**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Sky', **Anna Horvath**. Best Design, **Trudy Duerstock**.

AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Northern Star, Astral Peace, Pensi Alpha, **George Starr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Ness' Firefly, Dean's Plum Peacock; Best Semiminiature: Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Little White Clouds, **Louise Merritt**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Cirelda, Beacon Trail; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Design, **Linda Lubé**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Jan Kurtz**. Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Jones**. Design Sweepstakes, **Sharon Howland**.

THE CAPITAL CITY AVS OF MONTGOMERY, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathe Denise, Magnolia, Cinnamon Spice; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Frosty Fun, Teen Sweetheart; Best in Show/Best Standard: Kathe Denise; Best Semiminiature: Frosty Fun, **Archie Boyd**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Optimara Helsinki, Rodeo Country; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's What Not, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Fun Trail; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Doris Till**. Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Linda Boyd**. Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Barbara Strook**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Alecia', **Myrt Sisler**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AVC, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Kimi, Harbor Blue, Dakota; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Katherine, Rob's Whippoorwill, Ness' Frosty Belle; Best in Show/Best Standard:

Bella Donna; Best Semiminiature: Little Katherine; Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lemon Drop'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Optimara Harlequin, Judie's Satin Doll; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Angel Babe, Cookie Man, Rob's Soliloquy; Best Trailer: Memphis Belle, **Betty Margetts**. Best Design, **Coleen Clark**.

GULF AVC, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, Evening Shade, Rose Picturesque; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Hippy Hop, Rob's Ooh LaLa; Best Standard: Illini Peace; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anna Marie Rinick**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Woodland Sprite, Tomoko, Georgia Lover; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Wichita Baby; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles Little Dreamer; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade', **Lillian C. Scott**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue **Myrtle Schneller**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes: **Eleanor Duerr**.

SWEET WATER AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Happy Freckles, Bud's Melanie, Suncoast Paisley Print; Best in Show/Best Standard: Suncoast Paisley Print, **Eleanore Hull**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Lela Marie, Victorian Ribbons; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Firefly, Rob's Denim Demon, Rob's Dust Storm; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ethel Twiford, Irish Flirt, Dancing Teen, **Eileen Montgomery**. Best Semiminiature: Teen Sweetheart, **Kathy Gavey**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Mildred Kiernan**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Sam Mednick**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Donna Boos**. Best Design, **Tina Pigart**.

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Beloved, Mary D, Picasso; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Ness' Satin Rose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marilee Beam**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Mary Craig, Call Me Friend, **Jim Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Angel Babe, Rob's Twinkle Pink, Rob's June Bug; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Mary Gregory**. Best Trailer: Trail Along, **Antoinette Luz**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol Luv It', **Hans Inpijn**. Best Design, **Everdina Inpijn**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jacque Eisenhut**.

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, Party Print; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Ness' Mini Sota, Pat Champagne; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita senensis* 'Hisako'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Dolores Gibbs. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whodunit, Definitely Darryl, Rob's Seduction, Jeannette Pursley. Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; Design Sweepstakes, Joyce Rimbro. Best Miniature: Spring Peach, Aloha Rhodes. Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, Nancy Goss.

ATCHAFALAYA AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Showgirl,

Optimara Ontario, Tomahawk; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Best Semiminiature: Dean's Cupid; Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George Ramirez**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Van Gogh, Ness' Sassy Lassy, Cajun Fiddler; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beacon Trail, Cirelda, Ramblin' Starlight, **Martha Dyson**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Faye Alfred**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Yvonne Ozio**.

TOP CHOICE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Frosty Belle, Optimara Little Aztec; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Toy Silver'; Best Design, **Vivian Kennedy**. 2nd Best AVSA Collection: The King, Favorite Child, Canadian Sunset; Best Standard: Pueblo, **Annette Westbrook**. Best Miniature: Petite Tart; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Flora Nugent**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruby Parker**.

CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anna Kreeck, Rain Man, Chiffon Prince; Best in Show/Best Standard: Anna Kreeck, Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Juby**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's June Bug, Rob's Cloudy Skies, Rob's Whiz Bang; Best Miniature: Rob's Cloudy Skies, **Claire Stanton**. Best Trailer: Daisy Trail, **Louis Sprayberry**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea linearis* 'Purple Robe', **Evelyn Briggs**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Lauretta McElwain**.

WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Coral Sunset, Ness' Viking Maiden, Rita Hilton; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Blueberry Patches, Ness' Sno Fun, Candy Crystals; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Coral Sunset; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter; Best Trailer: Little Shogun; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Barrett**. Best Miniature: Wichita Baby, **Beth Reisman**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design, **Mary Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Faye Wieditz**. Design Sweepstakes, **Rosalee Sarachek**.

AVC OF KANSAS CITY, RS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Margit, Optimara Paris, Candy Swirls; Best Standard: Rhapsodie Margit, **Gene Loveland**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Little Pro, Rob's Dust Storm; Best in Show: Teen Thunder; Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Design, **Pat Richards**. Best Trailer: Sunrise Waltz; Sweepstakes Horticulture, **Sue Hill**. Design Sweepstakes, **Patty Hart**.

BATON ROUGE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Bertha, Shades of Autumn; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Precious Pink, Shy Blue; Best in Show/ Best Standard: Shades of Autumn; Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue, **Fran Spear**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Halo's Aglitter, Peach Puff, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Von's Baby Jay, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Red Bandito; Best Miniature: Persian Lullaby; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Penny Brenner**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade', **Denise Lindsley**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Nancy David**.

FT. WORTH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cotton Bowl, Favorite Child, Makin' Romance; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pink Pizazz; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Fergon**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Makin' Romance, Apache Target; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Alex Early**. Best Standard: Lela Marie; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch', **Virginia Linson**. Best Design, **Belinda Woodruff**. Design Sweepstakes (tie) **Tressie Barker, Belinda Woodruff, Alex Early**.

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, Tomahawk, Pink Energy; Best Standard: Tomahawk, **Irene Harney**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rain Man, Optimara Affection, Splendiferous; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Sonata, Rob's Bedazzled, Rob's Catch Me; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder, **Hector Becerra**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Snuggles, Rob's Catch Me, Von's Baby Jay, **Douglas Gregory**. Best Miniature: Honey Puff, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Alma Hummer**. Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, Best Design, **Dea Johnson**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Purple Mist', **Polly Taggart**. Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Tracy**.

TAMPA AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Deep Dark Secret, Optimara Affection, Optimara Trinidad; Best in Show/ Best Standard: Deep Dark Secret, **Peggy Waller**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Ness' White Bear, Painted Sunrise, **Mina Menish**. Best Semiminiature: Dancing Teen, **Norma Leto**, Best Miniature: Teen Tot; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Diane Heras**. Best Trailer: Scuba Diver, **Glenda Spangler**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Black Gold', **Bill Connatser**. Best Design, **Lynne Wilson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Fred Moak**.

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Diamond, Rapid Transit, Cinnamon Candy; Best Standard: Cinnamon Candy, **Shirley Lumpkin**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Swamp Turtle, Mindi Morn, Other Delights, **Mary Hill**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shy Blue, Frosty Fun, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best in Show/ Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Juanita Carpenter**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Amethyst, **Fern Hildinger**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus lobbianus variegata*, **Mac McCawley**. Best Design, **Donna Johnson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Sutton**.

JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Louisiana, Fantasy Splendor, Tomahawk; Best Standard: Optimara Louisiana, **Barbara Radecker**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Louisiana, Vince's Choice, Irish Kiss; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Denny Boo, Definitely Darryl; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Gail Borne**. Best species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Genelle Armstrong**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Celia Dazet**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Wynne Voorhees**.

1997 Vacation Guide

Compiled by David Buttram

Welcome to the 1997 AVSA Vacation Guide. It is designed and prepared to help you plan to include a visit to your favorite African violet grower.

Each AVSA commercial member listed herein has completed a questionnaire indicating a desire to serve you by retail sales.

Several growers have given their business hours while others are open by appointment only. Please abide by their requests.

So grab a road map, a pair of sunglasses, this magazine and hit the roads of the United States and Canada!

- 1) Violets By Toni
Lisa DiMambro
182 Old Chester Tnpk.
Chester, NH 03036
(603) 887-0352
Hours: By appointment.
Hours: By appointment
Mon. thru Sat.
(919) 362-0530
Hours: 9AM to 12PM or by appointment.
- 2) GRANTS
Joe Grant
492 Brightwood Rd.
Millersville, MD 21108
(410) 987-5760
Hours: 9AM to 3PM
Remarks: Source for Sunlight Shelving.
- 3) Violet Rainbow II
Melody Hartman
715 Kames Hill Rd.
Columbia, PA
(717) 634-2169
Hours: By appointment.
- 4) Tinari Greenhouses
Frank and Anne Tinari
2325 Valley Road, Box 190
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 947-0144
FAX (215) 947-2163
Hours: 8AM to 5PM
Daily & Saturday
1PM to 5PM
Sundays - October thru May.
- 5) Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.
Paul and Sidney Sorano
P.O. Box 249 14 Mutchler St.
Dolgeville, NY 13329
(315) 429-8291
Hours: 8AM to 5PM Mon. - Fri.
10AM to 4PM Sat.
- 6) Smith's Country Cottage African Violets
G.T. Smith (Mr.)
109 Ogden Parma Town Line Rd.
Spencerport Rochester, NY
(716) 352-6445
Hours: 10AM to 8PM
Mon. thru Sat. (call first)
- 7) Violets By Appointment
Bill and Kathryn Paauwe
45 Third St.
West Sayville, NY
(516) 589-2724
- 8) Violet Venture
Fay Wagman
52 Harper Dr.
Pittsford, NY
(716) 381-6384
Hours: Daily, but call ahead.
Remarks: Near Rochester.
- 9) Rob's Mini-O-Lets
Ralph Robinson
7209 County Rd. 12 (P.O. Box 9)
Naples, NY 14512
(716) 374-8592
Hours: Every day, year-round,
12PM to 5PM.
- 10) Fargeots African Violets and Allegro Tonic
Margaret Fargeot
235 Alps Rd.
Branford, CT
H (203) 488-8008
W (203) 281-2978
Hours: Weekends - answering machine anytime.
- 11) Country Road Violets 'n Things
Ed Holst
P. O. Box 4871
Macon, GA 31208
(912) 743-4720
e-Mail: crviolet@mto.infi.net
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Full line of AV supplies.
Ceramic self-watering containers, over 20 designs available.
- 12) Travis' Violets
Travis Davis
P.O. Box 42, 2064 Ellen St.
Ochlocknee, GA
(912) 574-5167 (day) or
(912) 574-5236 (night)
Hours: 6 days a week by appointment
8AM to 6PM.
- 13) Bluebird Greenhouses
Elizabeth Glembocki
4821 Jessie Dr.
Apex, NC
- 14) H & H Enterprises
Mary V. (Jennie) Herrington
34 Oleta Dr.
Ellisville, MS 39437
(601) 763-9892
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: I make ceramic self-watering African violet pots and raise the flowers to take to craft shows.
- 15) Sunshine Grower's Supply, Inc.
George and Hope Lumis
4760 Taylor Road, Exit 28 of I-75
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 637-9999 (800) 954-6735
Hours: 8:30AM to 5:30PM
Mon. thru Sat.
Remarks: We specialize in supplies! Retail! Mail orders gladly accepted! All credit cards and checks!
- 16) Trifles Exotic Plants
Jim and Judy Duerstock
18835 U.S. Hwy 19
Hudson, FL 34667
(813) 863-0991
Hours: Tues-Fri 10AM to 5PM
Sat. 10AM to 2PM
- 17) The Violet House
Bill and Bebe Edwards
P.O. Box 1274
Gainesville, FL 32602
(800) 377-8466 (orders)
(352) 377-8465 (customer service)
FAX (352) 372-0102
Hours: 9AM to 5:30PM or leave messages, will return calls promptly.
- 18) The Ernst Nursery
Marion Ernst
221 SE 70th St.
Gainesville, FL 32641
(352) 376-8655
Hours: By Appointment
Remarks: Plants, violets and supplies.
No list, no shipping.

- 19) Violets From The Starrs
George and Estelle Starr
2602 Graupera St.
Pensacola, FL
(904) 456-2662
Hours: Catch us at home or call for an appointment.
- 20) African Violets by Don Geiss
Don Geiss
4957 W. Poverty Perch
Frederic, MI
(517) 348-5657
Hours: Call for appointment.
- 21) Midland Violets
Don and Jean Ness
3667 Midland Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(612) 429-4109
Hours: By appointment ONLY
- 22) Kent's Flowers
Kent and Joyce Stork
2501 E. 23rd
Fremont, NE
(402) 721-1478
Hours: 9AM to 5PM Monday thru Saturday
- 23) The Violet Showcase
Douglas and Barbara Crispin
3147 So. Broadway
Englewood, CO 80110
(303) 761-1770
Hours: 10AM to 5PM (Closed Tuesdays and Sundays)
- 24) Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique
Carolyn Rozell and Billy Rozell
12206 Hwy 31 West
Tyler, TX
(903) 595-5137
Hours: By Appointment
- 25) Shirley's House of Violets
Sandy and Shirley Sanders
1034 Rayburn Dr.
San Antonio, TX
(210) 923-1093
- 26) Hill Country African Violets & Nursery
Ken Froboese
32005 I.H. 10 West
Boerne, TX 78006
(210) 249-2614
FAX (210) 249-8658
Hours: 8AM to 6PM
7 days a week
Remarks: Retail only - no shipping, no lists. Full plant nursery. 10 greenhouses. Thousands of African violets and a whole lot more.
- 27) Teas Nursery
Family owned
4400 Bellaire Blvd.
- Bellaire, TX
(713) 664-4400
Hours: 9AM to 7PM Mon.thru Fri.
9AM to 6PM Sat. & Sun.
- 28) African Violet Shop
J.C. and Lenora Munk
2015 Bauer Dr
Houston, TX 77080
(713) 468-0844
Hours: Call before coming
Remarks: Home of the Apache and Rodeo series! We keep irregular hours for your convenience.
- 29) JoS Violets
Joanne Schrimsher
2205 College Dr.
Victoria, TX
(512) 575-1344
Hours: Weekends & evenings by appointment only
- 30) Hortense's African Violets
Hortense Pittman
12406 Alexandria St.
San Antonio, TX 78233
(210) 656-0128
- 31) The Mini Mansion
Hector Becerra and Douglas Gregory
212 Briarcliff Dr.
San Antonio, TX
(210) 342-5442
Hours: Call for appointment
- 32) Kachina African Violets and Supplies
Mark R. Lort
15818 N 52nd St.
Scottsdale AZ
(602) 992-1251
Hours: By telephone
- 33) Pand-Aire (African violet T-shirts only)
Barbara Fuller
409 S. Kenyon
Tucson, AZ
(520) 790-3439
FAX (520) 790-4294
Hours: 9AM to 9PM
- 34) Dyna-Gro Corporation
David E. Neal
1065 Broadway Ave.
San Pablo, CA
(800) 396-2476 (510) 233-0254
Hours: 9AM to 4:30PM
Mon. thru Fri.
- 35) Herbal Garden's Ceramics
George Walsh
P.O. Box 38 / 1041 Cedar St.
Montara, CA
(415) 728-7683
Hours: Open daily by appointment.
Remarks: Distinctive assortment of self-watering ceramic pots, hand-painted with original designs. A map of our location is available upon request.
- 36) Phlogistics
Florence Naylor
478 Arcade Dr.
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 653-5546
Hours: By appointment only.
- 37) Kerry's Violets
Karyle A. Pasley
1140 7th Ave.
Gold Hill, OR 97525
(541) 855-7065
Hours: Call for appointment.
- 38) Alannah's African Violets
Alannah Regan
Box 2
Danville, WA 99121
(250) 442-2552
FAX (250) 442-0288
Hours: Phone for times.
- 39) Hemond's Greenhouse
Priscilla and John Hemond
21 North Verrill Road
Minot, ME 04258
(207) 345-3003
Hours: 9AM to 6PM
- 40) Aca's Violet - Tree
John and Doris Brownlie
600 Silvercreek Blvd. #80
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
(905) 270-6776
Hours: Anytime by appointment.
- 41) Violets In Vogue
Christine Estridge
1423 Cypress Road
Sidney, BC, Canada
(250) 656-5170
Hours: Please phone for appointment.
- 42) Violet Boutique
John Deering
40 Pellan Cres.
Kanata, Ont., Canada K2K 1J5
(613) 592 - 3140
Hours: Day & evening
Remarks: African violets (micros, minis and regulars) and beautiful ceramic containers for violets and houseplants.
- 43) Pat's Pets
Gary N. Dunlap
4189 Jarvis Rd.
Hillsboro, MO
(314) 789 - 3640
(patspets@jcnl.com)
Hours: Contact us for an appointment.



To ensure that all of your information is correctly printed for Coming Events, please copy the form below and use it to send in your club announcement. Type if possible, if not, PLEASE PRINT. Also, please copy on regular size (8½ x 11) piece of paper. Thank you for your cooperation.

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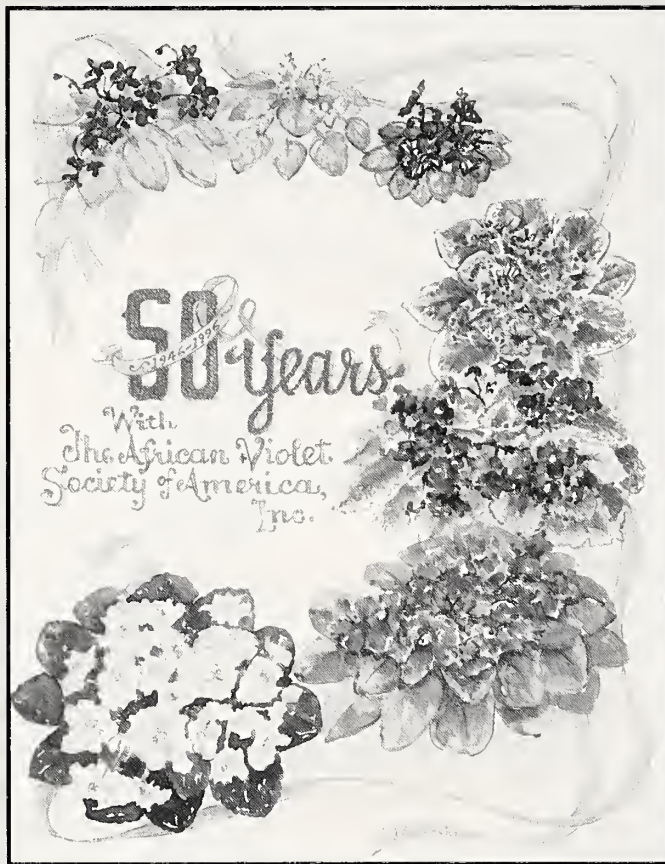
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Project Violet

Experiments and Investigations

by Kyle Coleman
Ft. Worth, TX

Many people think that experiments are reserved exclusively for the laboratory, although this is not the case. Throughout history, much of the creativity of science has been fueled by informal experiments performed in barns, garages, yards, and living rooms. For African violet enthusiasts, many of these investigations have occurred in the plant room. I am sure that much of the violet information that we take for granted was developed by growers carefully observing violets growing in the non-ideal conditions of their homes. These observations can provide meaningful insights into violet culture which may even inspire new ideas for educational displays, violet club programs, or discussions with other growers. Scientifically speaking, many informal experiments may be statistically limited – most violet collections would likely be considered statistically insignificant in size, however, your violet friends may be more than willing to try something new that seems to work for you. Thus, a laboratory is not required for informal violet research.

One informal experiment that I used for an educational table was “Variegation Variation.” I investigated the links between fertilizer and temperature (the environmental variables) and African violet variegation. I used an entire three-shelf plant stand and nine variegated violets (all Munk’s Apache Feathers) for this investigation. From my informal investigation, I found that nitrogen seemed to promote foliage growth, cooler temperatures seemed to promote variegation, phosphorous seemed to promote foliage color (other than white or green), and relatively low phosphorous seemed to promote whiter variegation. Although the experiment was not scientifically rigorous, I learned a lot about variegated violets, and the nine mature plants made a beautiful educational display for that year’s show. Actually, I already had some idea of what the outcome was supposed to be – but having it actually work out was thrilling!

If you are trying to think of a new or original idea for

an educational display, program, or magazine article (get the hint?), perhaps you should consider an informal experiment. For some ideas, just think about some of the violet questions that have been on your mind. I would love to see an educational display on disbudding – maybe with four starter plants that have been grown exactly alike, except that two were disbudded while the other two were allowed to bloom. I know disbudding is supposed to make larger plants with more blooms in a shorter amount of time, but does it do anything else? Does disbudding really make foliage fill out better? For a different experiment, what type of plants do you get when you grow violets from chimera leaf cuttings? Are they all the same, or are there many variations? How do the new plants compare to the original chimera? Another experiment might investigate bloom boosters. Growing two violets with a bloom booster and two without a bloom booster may give you a better understanding of the effectiveness and side effects of this fertilization technique. Do violets really bloom better with a bloom booster? Does a bloom booster cause any adverse effects that are not seen until after the show?

These are just a few ideas to get you started. I’m sure you can come up with many more. For ideas on how to set up an informal experiment, you may want to read “What Promotes Variegation in African Violets – An Experiment, – published in the March/April 1990 issue of the African Violet Magazine (page 51). If you develop a clear purpose and procedure prior to starting your experiment, writing up the report will be a snap. As you perform your experiments, be sure to keep careful notes because I know the AVM Editor will be interested in hearing about your new discoveries!

Scientific discoveries are not always so scientific. Christopher Columbus had no scientific evidence, but he refused to believe that the world was flat – and he set out to prove it without a laboratory! (Aren’t you glad that he did?)



TIPS FOR Terrific Terrariums

by Betty Tapping
Canada

The best terrariums are those you make from scratch yourself. This is because you can start them exactly as you wish, using the best of plant material and a superior growing medium.

Use plants that all require the same conditions; no cactus growing in the same container with gesneriads or cool loving plants with tropical plants.

Balance is the key to a healthy terrarium. There should be enough light and moisture to balance the number of plants and soil used. A major consideration is drainage. Horticultural charcoal is ideal for this purpose - but a mixture of gravel and charcoal may be used. Needless to say, the larger the container, the deeper this first layer; 1/2" of drainage material to 1" of soil provides an adequate base. The charcoal also serves double duty as a soil sweetener.

Over this base, it is advisable to place a screen to keep soil separated from the drainage material. I use a piece of fiberglass window screening, but a number of other materials may be used; ie. nylon, cheese-cloth or netting.

Have you ever made a lovely terrarium in the past only to have it gradually rot before your eyes? This was likely due to a poor choice of growing medium. Terrariums require a porous mix, rich in organic matter. Perlite is an undesirable additive in the soil because its whiteness is distracting. Use charcoal instead for its aesthetic value.

Dampen the soil well until it will hold together in a handful. Place it on top of the screening. Plan your miniature scene carefully and proceed to build hills, valleys or ponds. Use rocks, driftwood etc. to form the basic landscape design. Tamp the soil down firmly when it is in place to avoid spilling it along the sides of the glass. Brush any excess soil off the glass or rocks before you start to place plant material.

Gesneriads, which are naturally small growing, are ideal for terrarium culture. Those with upright growing habits like *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii* will form a nice clump of tree like material, while shrubby plants such as *Koellikeria* and *Miniature Episcia* will spread for a nice filler effect. The smaller rosette types of *Phinea*, *Petrocosmea* or *Sinningia* fill the lower front facing level.

Lay out the plants you plan to use. Remove them from their pots and pull away or cut off part of the root ball. When you have decided on placement dig small holes and plant the terrarium. Allow space between plants as they need room to grow as they become established in their new environment. Small pieces of moss may be used as a ground cover.

Should you choose a bottle type terrarium, planting will be more complicated. You may use long tongs or sticks. A spoon tied to a stick may be used for digging. This type of garden requires a great deal of patience and time.

Bear in mind the elements and principles of design in order to achieve a pleasing effect. Use contrasting textures, colours, and forms of plant material. As in any type of growing arrangement visual balance is of prime importance, and is accomplished by the correct placement of material within the planting.

If your terrarium is to be viewed from the front only - your tallest materials and deepest soil should be at the back. If viewed from all sides, in the center. As much as possible keep your plant materials in scale and proportion to each other and to the size of your container.

When everything is in place and you are pleased with the effect, water gently, using a funnel and a straw or a fine sprinkler. It's a good idea to let water trickle down the sides to clear any soil particles still sticking. Distilled water, if available, is a good choice in order to cut down on the likelihood of chlorine or salts build-up.

Cover the terrarium and place in a not too bright location for a few days and move it gradually to the light. Your terrarium from now on will require minimal watering. It produces its own humidity as the leaves transpire vapour. This causes water droplets to form and return to the soil. Far better to under water an enclosed garden than to over water it. Constant wetness will eventually cause the roots to start rotting and once this process starts, your lovely little garden will turn to mush in a few days. Should you accidentally over water, just remove the cover until it has time to dry out.

All plants need light to grow, but direct sunlight can be

absolutely deadly for your terrarium. Heat from the sun is intensified by the glass, even in cool temperatures. Choose a window with good light but no direct sun; a south window is perfect. The other alternative is to shade the window with curtains.

To keep plants from growing only in the direction of the light, turn the whole thing around every few days. If you are growing directly under artificial lighting this will not be necessary.

The glass will protect your plants from drafts etc. but will not regulate the inside temperature. As long as it is not sitting in a sunny location the temperature inside is the same as in the room. House plants generally like the the same temperatures we humans do in our homes – a range of from 70° to 80°F (20° to 26°C) with a slight drop in a temperature at night is ideal.

Plants in a terrarium should be small and small growing – and you want them to stay that way. It is possible by using a good soil to mix with that you will never need to fertilize. Should you wish to do so – use a very dilute fertilizer, 1/8 teaspoon to a gallon.

Throughout the life of your terrarium, the plant material will require grooming in order to keep the enclosed environment healthy. Spent blossoms should be promptly removed, as should yellowing leaves. Plants may need to be pruned or divided regularly to keep them well balanced. Otherwise, very little is required to keep your terrarium healthy.

Do try one! and Happy Growing!

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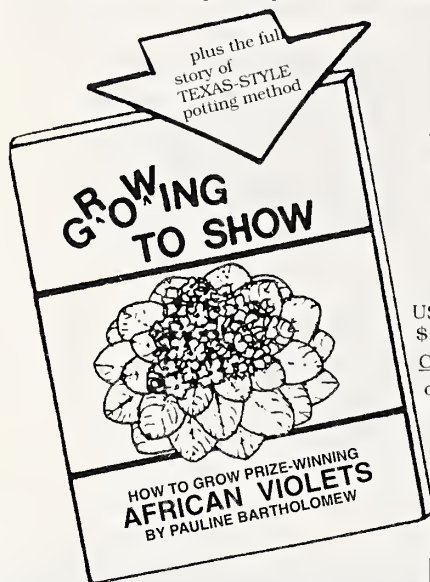
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CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;

3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of

Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies

Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.

Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	
12-36-14	African Violet Special	4 oz.	8 oz.
5-50-17	Variegated Special	\$1.60	\$3.00
		1.60	3.00
		4 oz.	12 oz.
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	1.25	3.00
		4 oz.	16 oz.
20-20-20	General Purpose	1.25	3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone			2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	40 oz.
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
		4 qts.	16 qts.
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.75	5.00
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss		432 cu. inches	\$3.75

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER

WHOLESALE

DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES

SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$3.97

2 oz. - \$4.55

4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro, Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



JIM WILDMAN

133 Rosemont Drive
Syracuse, NY 13205

Standards, Minis, Trailers - express shipping available year round for cold climates after Oct. 15 - before April 30th at extra charge.

CATALOG \$1.00 - Telephone - 315-492-2562
African violet leaves & supplies - over 450 varieties

SPECIALS

12 Leaves, my choice - \$15.50 postage paid

24 Leaves, my choice - \$27.00 postage paid

50 Leaves, my choice - \$52.00 postage paid

Order before June 30th - extra 15% off

AVSA & NYSAVS MEMBERS - 10% off

First Time orders 10% off plus other discounts

NEW! SOLID OAK PLANT STAND

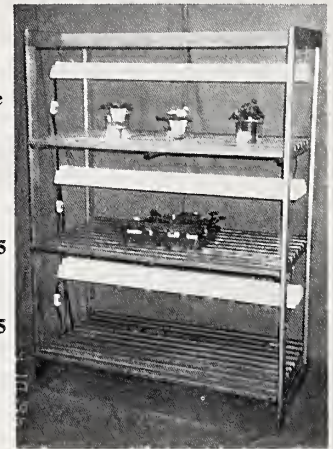
In response to many requests for an attractive plant stand, we are now offering this beautifully crafted solid oak stand. The dimensions are 67" tall, 50" wide and 24" deep.

Features include:

- Durable indoor / outdoor finish
- Solid brass hardware
- Completely adjustable shelves and lights

Stand with 3 shelves (no light fixtures) \$275

Stand with 3 shelves, 3 lights w/bulbs \$375



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Call Toll Free 1-800-377-8466



AVSA CONVENTION IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

JUNE 8, 1997

SANDY AND SHIRLEY WILL BE THERE WITH THEIR PLANTS!!

SOME OF THE PLANTS WE WILL BE BRINGING

MINIATURE/SEMI-MINIATURES

HOBBS'-GREGG-DEAN'S - series including - Lady Bug, Sonata, Sweetheart, Wildfire Aquarius.

LAMBERT'S VON'S - series - Small Gift, Simple Simon, Christmas Toy, Cherub

SORANO'S - Moonsilk, Sultan, Little Ebony, Boo Man, Frosted Denim, Irish Flirt.

STANDARDS

PITTMAN'S series - Alamo Glow, Alamo Jubilee, Alamo Quest, Alamo Dynasty.

WILLIAMS SUNCOAST series - Bendi's Love, Retta-Ro, Seabreeze, Artists' Fantasy.

BROWNLIE ACA series - Red Delight, Wewonchu, Canadian Wonder, Bob Sebin.

CROTEAU'S - Boreale, Jeremie, Startrick, Simon, Scenario, Jee Pee.

WE WILL ALSO BE BRINGING PLANTS FROM **HOOVER, MUNK, STORK, NESS, FOSTER, BURNS' ROBINSON** AND OTHER HYBRIDIZERS THAT SPACE DOES NOT PERMIT US TO INCLUDE IN THIS AD.

WE WILL BE BRINGING A GOOD SELECTION OF
TRAILERS!

Cherokee Tr., Cirelda, Deer Tr., Falling Star, Milkyway Tr., Pip Squeek, Rob's Miriwinni, Rob's Humpty Doo, Rob's Woolloomooloo, Tinywood Tr., Sundown Tr., Pixie Runaround, Ramblin Silver, and many more of these beautiful little plants.

If you wish to order plants or leaves from our catalog, it is available for \$1.00.

YOU MAY ORDER OUR LEAF SPECIAL

SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases - 24 for \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00.

Current releases - 24 for \$24.00. Shipping on leaves \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

WE SHIP ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES AND HER TERRITORIES.

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Telephone number 210-923-1093

NEW LOWER PRICES!

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
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FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5" Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6" Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5" Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8" Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10" Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 3.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.00	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$60.00

WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.00	2 oz./\$4.00	4 oz./\$6.50

PETERS FERTILIZER

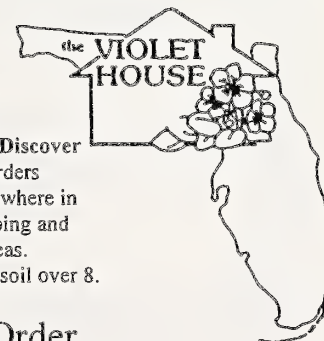
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	12 oz.	\$4.50
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	8 oz.	\$3.50
Concentrate	8 oz.	\$5.00
KNOX-OUT PT1500A - Aerosol spray	16 oz.	\$7.75

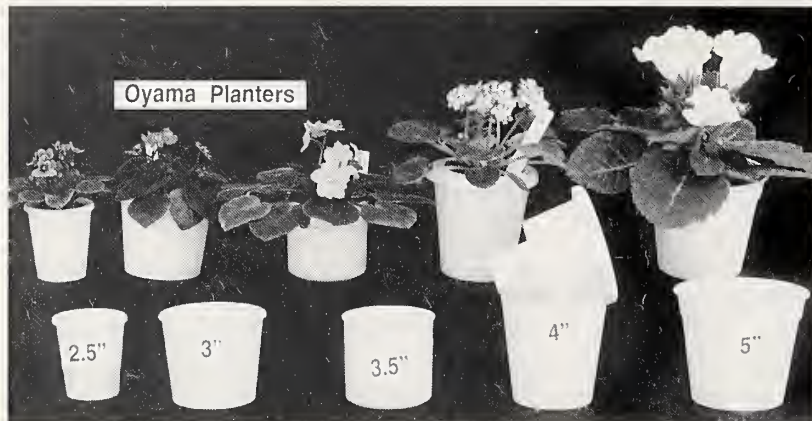
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- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
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- A \$.50 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

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White, two-piece, self-watering pots made especially for violets. Approved for AVSA shows. Made of heavy duty, high quality, leakproof and shatterproof plastic. Outer pot has lines to show you when and how much to water. Inner pot holds the plant and sets down in the outer pot. Fill the narrow tube of the inner pot with perlite. This perlite will slowly pull water up to the plant. Provides excellent aeration to prevent root rot problems. No Wick! Planting instructions included. Five sizes. Dimensions are of the mouth of the inner pot. Prices subject to change without notice.

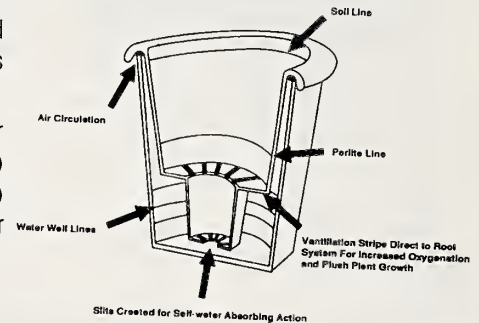
2.5" Oyama Planter, \$2.19 ea., or 12 for \$21.79; **3" Oyama Planter**, \$2.59 ea., or 12 for \$26.89;
3.5" Oyama Planter, \$2.79 ea., or 12 for \$27.49; **4" Oyama Planter**, \$3.19 ea., or 12 for \$30.19;
5" Oyama Planter, \$3.89 ea., or 12 for \$36.39;

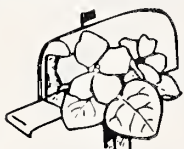
Shipping Costs: Orders for less than \$10, add \$5.50; orders for more than \$10, add \$6.50. Shipping via United Parcel Service in the contiguous 48 states. All others (domestic or foreign) via US Mail of actual cost. Colorado shipments add 3% sales tax.

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African Violets and Gesneriads

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Best Display at 1996 AVSA
National Show

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S ANTIQUE ROSE: 2nd best new intro at '96 AVSA national show; heavily frilled, sebl. silver-rose, shaded dark rose, often w/green edging; dark, serrated foliage, lovely semimini

ROB'S BUNNY WABBIT: Loads of sdbl. white pansies w/thin pink edging over excellent, heavily var. foliage; an adorable tiny mini

ROB'S HALLUCINATION: Large, very striking deep blue sdbl. stars w/large spots and splotches of bright pink; great gold and tan var. foliage; small semimini

ROB'S HAND PUPPET: Loads of sdbl. pink pansies w/blue pinwheel stripes; dark foliage; semimini chimera (\$10)

ROB'S HOT FOOT: Very fluffy dbl. carnation blooms of very deep-deep burgundy-red; nearly black, glossy, pebbled, serrated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S NEAT NELLIE: Masses of waxy dbl. white blooms w/red eye and hint of green on petal backs; glossy, pebbled, TL var. foliage; small semimini

ROB'S PURPLE SLURPLE: Loads of wine-purple dbl. blooms over nearly-black, heavily serrated foliage; very profuse small semimini showplant

ROB'S RAGAMUFFIN: Single lavender star, heavily overlaid in yellow, lightly speckled w/blue fantasy; the most beautiful, dark, heavily scalloped TL var. foliage you'll ever see!; small semimini

ROB'S RUFF STUFF: Very unusual dbl. deep pink w/blue fantasy speckles and very frilly green edges; dark, serrated foliage; odd and beautiful!; semimini

ROB'S SARSPARILLA: Very odd, very different...you'll love it or hate it; wild, heavily fringed, sdbl. rust-pink w/some edging of dark red-brown, touches of green; these nearly brown blooms will last forever!; wavy, heavily serrated foliage; very prolific semimini

ROB'S TIPPY TOE: Fantastic tiny mini showplant!; masses of dbl. white stars w/blue edges and shadings; tiny, pointed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer

ROB'S ZIPPITY DOO: Sdbl. rose-pink w/frosted overlay of deep-deep ruby-red; small mosaic-type var. foliage; mini

3 New Trailers! Excellent trailing habits.

ROB'S GALIWINKU: Dbl. orchid w/dark blue fantasy streaks; great bloomer, great foliage; semimini

ROB'S HUMPTY DOO: Everyone wants this one, a must have!; sdbl. blue w/wide white pinwheel stripes; distinctive and very striking; extremely profuse semimini chimera (\$5)

ROB'S MIRIWinni: Adorable single pink pansies w/blue pinwheel stripes and speckling; semimini chimera (\$5)

.....plus dozens of other favorites

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow best in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S BLUE LEMON: Large, very striking med. blue blooms w/very large, clear yellow throat; compact

BRISTOL'S CHERRY FROST: Sdbl. deep-deep carmine-rose w/distinct edge of lt. pink; heavy bloomer

BRISTOL'S MOON MOTH: Large sdbl. blooms of silver-lilac, lower lobes dark purple, edged silver-lilac.

BRISTOL'S HUG ME: Sdbl. deep carmine-pink w/cream throat; extremely heavy bloomer

BRISTOL'S ICE CASTLE: Lovely large white blooms, upper petals tipped, lower petals netted in soft, silvery-blue; great bloomer (available May 1)

BRISTOL'S NIGHT SHADOWS: Deep velvety-purple w/bright white petal backs, thin geneva edging; very nice

BRISTOL'S PETUNIA: Enormous 3" sdbl. ruffled petunia-like blooms of deep rose-pink w/white throat; popular

BRISTOL'S SIREN SONG: Very deep-deep hot sdbl. pink w/large, bright yellow throat; striking

BRISTOL'S TIGER STRIPE: Distinctive med. purple-orchid blooms w/dk. purple stripes, spots on white throat; very small grower (limited quantities available May 1)

BRISTOL'S TRICKY TREATER: My favorite; very dark burgundy-black sdbl. blooms held in bouquet over compact foliage; beautiful, heavy blooming and great grower

BRISTOL'S VERY BERRY: Excellent; large, deep-deep hot rose-pink sdbl. blooms w/dark maroon veining onto lower lobes; tremendous bloomer and grower

BRISTOL'S ZAPPED: A real eye-catcher!; large, lightly fringed dk. burgundy-red blooms heavily splashed and streaked w/bright pink fantasy; wow!

.....plus dozens of others

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

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Aurora Fantasy
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 Hot Pants
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Lemon Whip
 Mia
 Nancy Leigh
 Pink Cameo
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 Tomahawk
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 Centennial Salute

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 Coralette
 Crescendo
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 Firebird

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 Pink Hill
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 Wonderland

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African Violet

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

July • August 1997

Volume 50

Number 4



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$35.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, 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. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail offmgr@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

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

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

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

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - \$10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook **prior** to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is \$4.25.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

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

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Loewer, 3504 Parkhaven Dr., Plano, TX 75075.

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

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

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith, 1449 Paloma Ln., Dunedin, FL 34698 and Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL NUMBER 7 - Now available for \$15.00 each. Describes all varieties to Dec. 31, 1996.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

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

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Email O6JLSmith@BSU.edu

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Second class postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

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

July • August

Volume 50

Number 4

CONTENTS

SMITHSONIAN

JUL 22 1997

LIBRES

FEATURES

- | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| Necessity is the Mother of Invention - Don Geiss | 20 | Color Photo - <i>Aeschynanthus hildebrandii</i> 'Topaz' | 40 |
| Yearbook Themes - Kyle Coleman | 21 | Potting African Violet Leaves - Barbara Wyckoff | 41 |
| In Memory of Ann Richardson | 24 | Equivalents and Measurements | 45 |
| My AV Pet - Harry George | 26 | This Thing Called pH | 45 |
| After the Show is Over - Iris Keating | 26 | Container Gardens | 46 |
| Long Necks Only Look Good on a Palm Tree | 27 | "A Good Leach" - D. Keith Dabney | 47 |
| Pests and Diseases - Patsy Harms | 28 | Miniature Transportation - Mary Ann Switzer | 48 |
| What is a Sucker? | 31 | Growing African Violets In Natural Light - Dorothy Bullen | 49 |
| Reproduction - Keith Lind | 34 | My Flirtation With the
Other Gesneriads - Dorothy Anderson | 50 |
| Experiences of a New Judge - Chris Orcholski | 35 | The African Violet Marketplace - David Buttram | 52 |
| How to Find a Potting Mix | 36 | AVSA Honors Oldest Active Judge | 53 |
| Blue Boy- Susan Baumgardner | 37 | Watering African Violets | 54 |
| Show Tips: Measuring the Miniatures | 37 | Crossword Puzzle - Kyle Coleman | 56 |
| From Dream to Reality- Frankie Pletzer | 38 | Crossword Answers | 57 |
| How Well is Your Well Water? - Lucille Prutsman | 39 | | |

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| Staff & Officers | 2 | AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons | 15 |
| Index of Advertisers | 2 | Annual Library Message - Jackie Jones | 16 |
| President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells | 3 | Question Box - James H. Smith | 30 |
| Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey | 4 | Showcase | 32 |
| Thinking Small - Pat Richards | 6 | In Memory | 35 |
| In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith | 8 | "... And the Winners Are ..." - Mary Loewer | 42 |
| AVSA Building Maintenance Fund - Ruth Warren | 9 | Attn: Affiliates: Publication Info | 44 |
| Attn. Affiliates: Nominations Needed | 9 | Coming Events | 49 |
| Gesneri-Advice- Dale Martens | 10 | AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets - Floyd Lawson | 51 |
| Registration Report- Iris Keating | 11 | Coming Events Form | 55 |
| Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin | 12 | 59th Anniversary Book and Pin | 55 |
| AVSA's Most Wanted | 12 | | |
| Web Search - Ellen & Bill Beckerman | 13 | | |
| For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork | 14 | | |
| Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck | 15 | | |

CONVENTION

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1997 AVSA National Show Highlights | 5 |
| AVSA Awards | 18 |
| Now Is the Time - Linda Golubski | 19 |
| Celebrating a Florida Fantasy | 22 |
| Discover California: 1998 | 24 |
| AVSA 1998 Convention: Sacramento | 26 |

COVER

Ness' Crinkle Blue
Best In Show

Best Seminiature

Exhibited by: **Pat Richards**

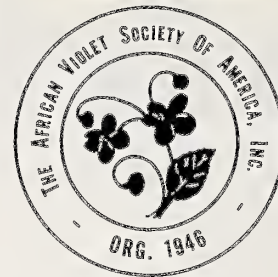
Hybridized by: **D. Ness**

Photo Credit: **Gus Francisco**



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A		M	
Acree Creations	63	Mighty Minis.....	60
American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society	64	O	
American Orchid Society	57	Optimara	25
AV Enterprises Press.....	63	P	
AVS of Canada	58	Pat's Patch	60
B		Pat's Pets	62
Bayou Violets	58	R	
Bluebird Greenhouses.....	56	Rob's Mini-o-lets.....	59
Belisle's Violet House.....	63	Rozell Nursery	62
C		S	
Cape Cod Violetry ...Inside Back Cover		Shirley's House of Violets	57
Cryptanthus Society	59	Sonja's African Violets.....	60
D		Source Technology-Phyton 27.....	56
Dyna Gro	58	T	
E		Tanzania Wildlife Fund.....	64
Episcias Only	62	Teas Nursery	62
Everbloom Art Prints.....	63	Tinari Greenhouses.....	Back Cover
F		V	
Florals of Fredericks.....	59	Verilux	64
H		Violets by Appointment.....	60
Hattie Baggett's African Violets... 62		Violets Etc., Inc.	62
I		Violet House.....	60
Indoor Gardening Supplies.....	57	Violet House.....	61
L		Violet Showcase	58
Linda's Heavenly Accents	59	Vision Violets	60
		Volkman Brothers	60
		W	
		Jim Wildman	56



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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.



Letter from the President

Dear AVSA Members:

Thank you to all members of AVSA for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me to serve as your President. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. I appreciate your support and look forward to working with the members of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and members during the next two years.

Our immediate past President, L.T. Ozio, Jr., is to be commended for his dedication to AVSA and for his leadership the last two years. Thank you, L.T., for the time you have devoted to the betterment of our society.

Our 51st Annual Convention was a week packed with fun-filled activities. The setting in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, was breath-taking. The beach could be seen from almost any location in the hotel. I think that some of our conventioners may have spent more time out on the beach looking for shells and watching the stingrays than they did at the usual convention activities. "A Florida Fantasy" offered many memorable events for all who attended. The tours provided numerous opportunities for plant lovers to explore tropical greenhouses and gardens filled with beautiful plants, as well as the opportunity to purchase all kinds of new and unusual gesneriads, orchids, bromeliads, and many other types of plants. The workshops were informative, offering many helpful tips on growing and showing. The convention show was beautiful, with many outstanding plants, designs, and display tables. The staging for the show was spectacular, leaving no doubt that this was "A Florida Fantasy" come true.

On behalf of all members, I want to express our appreciation to The African Violet Council of Florida, under the leadership of Convention Chairman Mary Lou Harden, Vice Chairmen Rita Hilton and Cheryl Hukle, Show Chairman JoAnne Martinez, and Show Vice Chairmen Bob Green and Barbara Matthews, for your hospitality. We were all saddened that Mary Lou was not able to attend the convention due to the death of her mother. I would also like to thank Convention Director Ann Miller and the members of the Convention Committee for their countless hours and hard work dedicated to producing a successful convention. In addition, I want to thank the many commercial members who adapted to an unusual and rather difficult arrangement for the commercial sales room. Your understanding and flexibility were appreciated. I understand that sales were outstanding, thanks in part to the outstanding publicity in Florida. Finally, thank you to all exhibitors, and especially to those who traveled a great distance to enter plants and designs in the convention show.

As we reflect on the friendships and memories of the St. Pete Beach convention, we look forward to our 52nd Annual Convention to be held in Sacramento, California, April 19-27, 1998. Mark those dates on your calendar and start making plans to attend.

Two meetings of the Board of Directors were held during the recent convention. Details of the business transacted will be reported in upcoming issues of the *African Violet Magazine*. I would like to welcome the following new chairmen of standing committees: Bev Promersberger, Affiliate Committee; Judy Carter, Advertising Committee; Kent Stork, Commercial Activities Committee; Linda Owens, Finance Committee. Two new special committees were approved by the Board of Directors. John Carter was appointed as chairman of the Technology Committee and Lynn Lombard was appointed as Chairman of the Internet Committee. Other changes in special committee chairmen include: Helen Blanton, Building Maintenance Fund; Mary Lou Harden, Bylaws Committee; Paula Foster, Courtesy; and Mary Walbrick, Ways and Means Committee.

Your officers and directors, as well as the office staff and editor, are eager to serve the needs of the members of AVSA. Your ideas for the continued growth and improvement of AVSA and the *African Violet Magazine* are important to us. Please share your suggestions and concerns as we all work together for AVSA.

Happy growing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells

Editor's Notes

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

The AVSA 51st Convention in St. Pete's Beach, Florida was such fun! The National Show was breathtaking, as you'll see from plants featured in this and future issues of the AVM. (See the highlights of the National Show on the next page.) Our Florida hosts did a wonderful job of welcoming everyone and the success of the convention was a direct result of their hard work.

Again, my admiration for our Convention Director, **Ann Miller**, is at an all-time high. Not only does Ann work throughout the year, while holding down a full-time job, but she works throughout the convention, addressing any detail or problem that arises.

The Commercial Sales area was an exciting experience, as always, and I learned first-hand of the generosity of our Commercial Members. I had mentioned in an earlier issue that the ice storm, and resulting power outage, that we experienced in January destroyed most of our African violets on display at the AVSA office. We received a "care package" of lovely plants from **Shirley Sanders** of Shirley's House of Violets a couple of months ago, but there were still several empty shelves that needed to be filled.

After the show, I asked some of our Commercial members to donate plants to the office. **Kent Stork**, of Kent's Flowers, **Ralph Robinson** of Rob's Mini-o-lets, and **Hector Becerra** of the Mini Mansion actually gave us plants from their display tables! **Paul Sorano**, of Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses also filled a box with plants for us, and with our AVSA Office Manager, **Cindy Chatelain** and her husband, **Ray**, driving back to Texas, we were able to transport all of the plants safely to the office. Thanks to all of you!

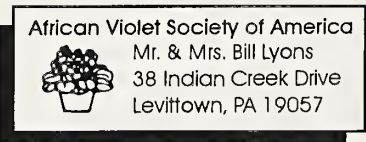
All of you who advertise with us will soon be hearing from **Judith Carter** of Houston, our new AVM Advertising Manager. Many of you who advertise will be pleased to

know that we're giving you an extra month to get your ads in. I wanted this change because I know how hard it is for many of our commercial growers to plan so far ahead when they may not know what plants will be available, or if they need to make price changes on the products they sell. The "catch" is that this will be a **firm date**, and if your ad is not in by that time, there will not be a place for it in the next issue of the AVM. The new deadlines are in the inside front cover under ADVERTISING DEADLINES.

I finally met **Diane Richardson**, former Advertising Manager, in St. Pete. After working with her for several years, and it was a real pleasure.

Be sure to look over the AVSA Business page, located on the inside front cover, for other changes that have been made.

We all appreciate the contributions our members make to the various funds that help AVSA. **Bill and Kay Lyons** of the **Membership and Promotion Committee** and the **AVSA Booster Fund** are excited about their new project. Below, is an example of the new return address stickers available now, that will help raise funds for the society. I know that labels were available in the past in two colors. However, AVSA made NOTHING from those labels. The new labels are black and white, and sell to our membership at a cost of \$7.50 for 500, with a portion of the funds going to AVSA. To order: **PRINT the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). Mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label below.** Orders will be submitted every time 30 orders are acquired.



1997 AVSA NATIONAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

51st Annual AVSA Convention
St. Pete Beach, Florida
June 1997

Best in Show	<i>Ness' Crinkle Blue</i>	Pat Richards
2nd Best in Show	<i>Little Pro</i>	Kathi Lahti
3rd Best in Show	<i>Bogeyman</i>	Kathi Lahti
Best AVSA Collection of Standards	<i>Lela Marie</i> <i>Pensi Orchid</i> <i>Suncoast Lavender Silk</i>	Phyllis King
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Standards	<i>Wrangler's Bryan's Song</i> <i>Suncoast Lavender Silk</i> <i>Wrangler's Winter Carnival</i>	Peggy Waller
Best AVSA Collection of Minis or SemiMinis	<i>Beginner's Luck</i> <i>Little Pro</i> <i>Bogeyman</i>	Kathi Lahti
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Minis or SemiMinis	<i>Definitely Darryl</i> <i>Mini Papa</i> <i>Dean's Bunny Blue</i>	Phyllis King
Best Holtkamp Collection	<i>Optimara Little Diamond</i> <i>Optimara Little Ruby</i> <i>Optimara Little Crystal</i>	Kathi Lahti
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	<i>Optimara Rose Quartz</i> <i>Optimara Little Ruby</i> <i>Optimara Little Diamond</i>	Kay Gregg
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	<i>Optimara Little Ruby</i> <i>Optimara Rose Quartz</i> <i>Optimara Little Moonstone</i>	Pat Richards
Best Standard	<i>Lela Marie</i>	Phyllis King
Best Miniature	<i>Petite Jewel</i>	Phyllis King
Best SemiMiniature	<i>Ness' Crinkle Blue</i>	Pat Richards
Best Trailer	<i>Rob's Toorooka</i>	Ronald Ennis
Best Other Gesneriad	<i>Columnnea Broget Stavenger</i>	Catherine Carter
2nd Best Other Gesneriad	<i>Sinningia kautskyi x hirsuta</i>	Phyllis King
Best Species	<i>Saintpaulia velutina</i>	Linda Golubski
Sweepstakes in Amateur Horticulture	<i>51 Blues</i>	Phyllis King
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Amateur Horticulture	<i>37 Blues</i>	Pat Richards
Best In Design	<i>Pomp & Circumstance</i>	Barbara Courson
2nd Best In Design	<i>Fantasy Friends</i>	Ruth Goeke
3rd Best In Design	<i>The Oval Office</i>	Uldene Dee Short
Sweepstakes In Design	<i>8 Blues</i>	Barbara Courson
Sweepstakes Runner-up In Design	<i>6 Blues</i>	Uldene Dee Short
Best Display Table	<i>Rob's Mini-O-Lets</i>	
2nd Best Display Table	<i>Kent's Flowers</i>	
3rd Best Display Table	<i>Travis Violets</i>	
4th Best Display Table	<i>Mini Mansion</i>	
Best New Introduction	<i>Rob's Sarsparilla</i>	Rob's Mini-O-Lets

Thinking Small



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

READERS WRITE

I hope you enjoy this quote from AVSA member **Sandy Shaunessey** of Kentucky describing her experience with the small ones:

"I used to think of them as the Honda's of the African violet world, you know, small economy types. I now realize they are really the Miata's, sporty and very '90s!! And with hybridizers now creating them in every color found on the standards, they are the logical choice for us small hobby growers who never have enough space or time. As for the misconception that they are delicate, well, it does take some getting used to those small pots and wee little plants, but once you get past it, they seem hardier than their big cousins!!"

GOTTA GROW

There are two goals for my column in this issue: to describe one of Hortense's new releases and to prove that no one, particularly me, is infallible. First, a small one to try is "Teen Thunder." This very sweet little plant has medium blue, double blooms, edged in white. These blooms have very good substance, and bloom in abundance with great ease. It has nicely formed, medium green, shiny foliage that stays small. Therein lies the problem! In a recent club show, I entered a "Teen Thunder" I had owned for five months. The plant was remaining small: at show time it was a mere 4 inches across. Without checking Hortense's list or the 1996 supplement to the Master Variety List, I entered it as a mini. Local club members trust me so they didn't check it. Neither did the judges when they awarded "Teen Thunder" Best in Show. As you have guessed by now, "Teen Thunder" is a semi-miniature. I apologize to all for the mistake and am trying to hide my reddened face!

POTTING UP—PREPARATION

In the May issue we discussed putting down leaves. Soon the plantlets being produced will need to be trans-

planted into their own pots. Conventional wisdom says they are ready when the plantlet leaf is as big as your fingernail, but this concept applies only if you're dealing with standards because small ones' leaves reach this size only at maturity! The rule of thumb I use (no pun intended) is that the plantlet is ready when it looks like a miniature mature plant. Specifically, if you have four distinct leaves and a clearly defined center, it is ready to be removed from the mother leaf. Generally, the four distinct leaves will be at 90 degree angles to one another. Another consideration is that the longer you defer planting, the more likely additional plantlets will develop. If your goal is to propagate one nice plant, don't put off planting up, however, if your goal is to share and sell plants, you may want to wait to see if more plantlets come up. Once you've determined your plantlets are ready, gently separate them from the mother leaf. One of the easiest ways to do this is to completely uproot the leaf/plantlet mass and gently shake off as much soil as possible. Then, examine the plant mass. Carefully find the area where mother and plantlet converge and gently separate them, trying to leave as many roots on the plantlets as possible.

POTTING UP—PLANTING

For the small ones, the smaller the starter cup the better! Try to find thimble size pots or 1 ounce solo or parfait cups available at party good or restaurant supply stores. Pierce holes in the bottom of the cups (sharp, pointy scissors, nutpicks, soldering guns, electric drills, etc. are all tools for doing this), and insert one strand of wicking. After filling the cup with your regular potting soil, drill a hole in the soil with your finger. Place the plantlet in the soil, pushing the soil around the neck, being sure not to cover the center as it could be damaged by becoming too wet or, later on, by excessive fertilizer. Many growers like to provide extra humidity for newly-potted plantlets by placing them in a sweater box with a lid, or on matting. While I don't generally advocate communal

watering such as matting, the latter is my preferred method for treating these tiny plantlets. Matting provides extra humidity, and with all those plants lined up in a tray with all the bare, exposed soil, rarely do these little plants succumb to transplanting shock. If you only have a few plantlets, perhaps loosely covering with a sandwich bag might be an answer for you. Any extra humidity you can provide for a week or two while the roots develop will help your plantlet survive.

POTTING UP—NUTRIENTS

The same principle applies to plantlets as to a newly planted leaf: do not fertilize for at least the first two weeks because the plantlets do not have the root structure in place to readily absorb the fertilizer. Using a vitamin B-1 product such as Superthrive or Ortho®'s Up-Start* is beneficial because this vitamin is useful in the formation of healthy roots. Also, using a fertilizer such as a bloom booster, which is high in phosphorous, is acceptable because this element also helps build strong, healthy roots. Using a fertilizer high in nitrogen would be detrimental at this stage because the very tiny and delicate roots are easily burned resulting in the death of the plantlet. After a few weeks though, regular fertilizing can begin. Please note: if you grow in natural light or in cooler conditions it may take even longer. Generally, look for the plantlet to begin growing and take on a healthy, self-sufficient look (if I dare use that term) that indicates its roots are established. One nice thing about small ones is they reach a mature, blooming size quicker than standards. Within six months your plant should be blooming and nearly at mature size.

MINIATURIZING

I have delayed discussing this topic for a long time, mostly because I felt I needed to become more familiar with the process, but also, because I wasn't and still am not sure if it is a viable growing procedure. Miniaturizing must begin with plantlets. You follow the same procedures as potting up except you never move the plant up into a larger size pot. The plants are always kept in 1 ounce cups or thimble pots. Because they are so small, they must also be kept closer to the lights to perform best, often only 4 or 5 inches from top of plant to bottom of light. Water roots are sent out very quickly because the soil ball is so small. I have made it a practice to leave these water roots on, rather than removing them as with other small ones, believing miniaturized violets need all the nutrients they can get because they are drawing so little from the soil. Small ones kept in these small pots will flower early. Getting them to flower well is an entirely different subject. It seems very difficult to get them with enough flowers to meet show requirements, although the flower size is not

diminished. If you're uncomfortable repotting small ones, do not attempt miniaturizing because it is not for the squeamish! The entire root ball is nothing but roots, and it is very difficult to get the plant to stay down in the pot as a result of pedicles pushing down on the sides of the pot and having very little soil to hold the plant down.

One successful use of miniaturizing is in an attempt to keep larger growing semi-miniatures in size. "Rob's Hopscotch" is a lovely plant with a knock-your-socks-off bloom, however it easily grows too large. I found keeping it in a one ounce pot until four months before show kept it small (about 6 inches in diameter). It was then transplanted and brought into bloom for the show. Mind you, it was not in heavy bloom, but was at least a blue-ribbon entry and easily under the eight inch limit.

Muriel Laurence of New Jersey wrote a very detailed description of her successful efforts with miniaturizing, including these tips: use an eye dropper to restart dried out wicks and soil because a large water stream will cause the soil to wash away. Repot every two months and use water roots as a sign for repotting! This will help make the task easier and will cause the extremely root bound plants less shock. She recommends using small particle sizes of perlite and vermiculite in a basic 1 - 1 - 1 soil mix, and uses Peter's 20-20-20 at a 1/4 teaspoon to a gallon strength, with 1/2 teaspoon of Physan 20 (algicide). Muriel reports keeping her miniaturized violets 8 to 10 inches from the lights, having particularly good luck growing "Optimara Rose Quartz," "Optimara Little Crystal" and "Optimara Little Sapphire," which has won best in show for her.

NEXT TIME

Could I take the time to remind you of something I said in my first column? I am not the master of anything, nor do I claim to be. **Darryl Hoover** mentions being aware of growing differences in his March "guest column" and as seen above, Muriel uses different miniaturizing techniques than I do with great success. This column is intended to encourage the sharing of information and to help all of us become better growers. If you disagree with something I say, let's discuss it. Believe me, there's no monopoly on intelligence here! Given this, the September column will feature the much anticipated convention review of small ones: both those in the show and new introductions. It's always a fun column to research and write. In November, we'll review the previous year's columns and discuss finer issues. I welcome your input! Take care and keep growing those small ones!

*An Ortho® customer service representative assured me this product is safe for use on houseplants using the "transplant" formula: 4 tablespoons to a gallon of water.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

There are two main factors that shape the way African violets grow; their ancestry and their environment. Genetics give the plants the potential for developing various traits such as foliage type and flower shape and color. These characteristics are fixed by the plant's DNA and can only change through the process of mutations or sporting. The environment, however, can often affect the expression of genetic traits. The presence or absence of nutrients, the temperature, pests etc., can alter genetic expression and the final appearance of the characteristic. In some cases, it can be difficult to separate the effects of genetics versus environment in the final appearance of the plant. Award-winning African violets will have excellent genetics, thanks to the diligent work of the hybridizers, and are grown in optimum environmental conditions.

Q: *How are bell-shaped flowers inherited?*

A: Bell-shaped flowers have appeared several times in hybridization efforts. One of the earliest reports was a plant called 'Ohio Blue Bell' that was reported in 1960 from a cross using the species plant *Saintpaulia grotei*. The flowers of this plant were male sterile and did not produce stamens and pollen. Several more recent hybrids, especially some miniature trailers, have bell-shaped flowers. Most of these hybrids have stamens and are not usually male sterile.

Regardless of the type, it appears that bell-shaped flowers are a genetic dominant. If one of the parents has bell-shaped flowers, around 50% of the offspring should carry the trait.

You might wish to use a star-shaped flower rather than a pansy-shaped flower as the second parent in a cross with bell-shaped flowers. I've recently seen a report that the combination of bell-shaped and pansy-shaped

flowers may result in petals that tear as they open. The petals may split vertically or tear horizontally as the flowers mature. The damage also decreases the life span of the flowers.

Q: *Do any of the species plants show resistance to pests?*

A: I have not seen any studies in this area, but I can relate some personal experiences and observations. My entire collection of plants was infected by soil mealy bugs last year. When I repotted the collection, I noticed that one of the new species plants from Uppsala, Sweden was not showing symptoms. Could this new species be resistant to soil mealy bugs?

As it turned out, the roots on this plant had been nearly destroyed by the pests. Since the plant was a trailer and had more waxy leaves than other species, it apparently could survive on fewer roots than other plants. This same plant also seems to grow best in extremely well-drained soils and tolerates drying better than most other plants. Unfortunately, none of the species plants appeared to show any resistance to soil mealy bugs. I don't think that genetic resistance to many of our common pests will come from the species plants.

Q: *The foliage of two of the bustle leaved plants, 'Nymph Fly' and 'Pink Fly', looks very similar to that of *Saintpaulia velutina*. Do you know if this species was used to hybridize these plants or is the similarity in foliage a result of the bustled trait?*

A: According to articles written by Jimmy Dates, the hybridizer of 'Nymph Fly' and 'Pink Fly', *S. velutina*

was used in their hybridization. Apparently the foliage type of this species is a genetic dominant and is independent of the bustle leaf trait.

Q: *Why does the foliage of crown or Champion variegated plants vary in color from yellow to tan to pink to white?*

A: Crown or Champion variegation results when the chloroplasts of the leaf fail to develop properly in the young leaves. When the green pigment is missing, but other pigments are present, the leaves can have several different colors. For example, in some cultivars, the secondary pigments such as the yellow Xanthophyll are quite strong, giving a yellowish color to the leaves. In other cultivars, the yellow pigment is less apparent and the leaves are more cream or tan colored. If the dominant gene for anthocyanin pigment in the epidermal cells is present, then the leaves may

have pink or rosy overtones. The different combinations of chlorophyll, xanthophyll and anthocyanin give these plants their various foliage colors. The combinations are under genetic control and are also influenced by environmental conditions such as temperature and nitrogen levels.

Q: *What species were used in the original 10 cultivars?*

A: The original 10 cultivars developed by the firm of Armacost & Royston were introduced to the public in 1936. These plants were descendants of a breeding program using seeds obtained from Germany and England. These seeds can be directly traced to the original *S. ionantha* material sent to Germany by Baron von St. Paul. There may have been some *S. confusa* material in the original Germany material, but the original 10 cultivars have most of their genetic ancestry from *S. ionantha*.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Ruth Warren • 99 Hancock #254 • Tiverton, RI 02878

Tristate AVC	\$10.00	OVAL – Office Violets & Lunch	10.00
Anthony Cericola	5.00	Meredith Hall, Jane Rexilius, Ruth Goeke	30.00
Alice Grundy	20.00	<i>(memory of Nell Sue Tyson)</i>	
Friend of AVSA	19.00	Janet Riemer	25.00
Doris Acree	15.00	<i>(memory of Nell Sue Tyson)</i>	
Top Choice AVS	5.00	Kay Lyons	10.00
Joyce Stenger	19.14	<i>(memory of Nell Sue Tyson)</i>	
<i>(memory of her father, George Sabol)</i>		Anne & Frank Tinari	50.00
Moonlight AVS	10.00	<i>(memory of Nell Sue Tyson)</i>	
Hessel R. Leer	5.00	Marshall AVS, Marshall, TX	15.00
Northern CA Council of AVS	50.00	<i>(memory of Lucille McGibbony)</i>	
<i>(memory of Minnie Mobley)</i>		Nell Sue Tyson Trust	5,000.00
Margaret Schmierer	10.00		

ATTENTION AFFILIATES: Nominations needed for Affiliate Leadership Award

The Mabel and Glen Hudson Memorial Award was established to honor individuals for outstanding leadership activities within an affiliated chapter. Nominees are recognized at the closing banquet of the annual convention. Recipients of the Hudson Award are presented a citation and a very nice award. All affiliate groups are encouraged to suggest names of potential candidates for this award. Secretaries of affiliates should send the name of the nominee, along with a detailed list of leadership activities and accomplishments to: Mrs. Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Chair, 1416 N.W. A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015. There is a

specific form that could be sent to you upon request. My phone number is 816-229-2051 after 6:00 PM Central Time. Complete information should be submitted no later than November 1, 1997 to be considered for the award that will be presented at the 1998 Convention in Sacramento, CA. In order for the Awards Committee to give your recommendations full consideration, please share as much information as possible, focusing on contributions on the local affiliate level. AVSA has many outstanding affiliate clubs with leaders who deserve to be honored and recognized. Start gathering information to submit your nomination for this year's award.

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

This summer attract hummingbirds to your yard with red or orange blossoms from *Aeschynanthus*, *Columnnea*, or *Nematanthus* growing in the shade. Consider planting *Streptocarpus* in a shaded spot. A letter from Darrell Trout of New York advises:

"Gesneriads Outside: Yes! Just Do It! The first step is to stop thinking of gesneriads as house plants. Think of them as annuals, container plants, etc. Having said that, realize that I do not put my only specimen of a very rare plant outside. I make cuttings and usually leave plants outside that have been planted in the ground (rules of good gardening apply).

Pests: You think we have no bugs and winged critters in New York? I actually have FEWER problems with pests outside! If a plant is in the right place it grows well and is healthier. It also attracts fewer pests. I do not remember spraying for anything outside, ever, and I've had *Streptocarpus* in window boxes for over 20 years. There is much more of a natural balance outside. If you want perfect, then you will have problems, as this exercise is not about growing show plants. I do think you will grow a stronger and healthier plant once you have found the right spot, soil, etc.

In late fall, I force the sinningias into dormancy and bring in the tubers. I spray the container plants with Horticultural Oil Spray. A final note, the top garden designers are incorporating tropicals into their designs. Be part of the trend; plant some gesneriads outside!"

GESNERI-ADVICE: SINNINGIAS

Sinningias are tuberous rooted gesneriads. For advice on them I've contacted an excellent grower, hybridizer, and regular advertiser in this magazine, **Marcia Belisle**, of **Belisle's Violet House** in Wisconsin. In addition to growing hundreds of African violets and other gesneriads, she devotes nineteen shelves and one bench in the green house to growing sinningias.

How do you propagate sinningias?

Marcia: Crown propagation works best for me. I dip the cut edge of a crown in a rooting/fungicide product and then plant

it in regular Promix® to which I add extra perlite. Then I just cover lightly with clean new plastic or at times I use dome covers, and spray the INSIDE of the cover with Lysol®. I then set it under lights on a warm shelf. Growth is usually fast. If possible I also cut up the stem, planting part of the stem with one leaf as one would a crown cutting. A single leaf of a good variety can be touched with the Keiki Grow® and also planted. If it grows, it puts out small plantlets instead of just a blind tuber as many mini *Sinningia* leaves can. I try to have everything scrupulously clean in order to encourage growth WITHOUT molds, etc.

Your catalog lists about 250 different sinningias, and you told me you had 160 more not listed! Do you have favorites?

Marcia: The first mini *Sinningia* I ever registered was 'Ruby Chip' which is still one of my favorites. A few years ago I did 'Fantasy Tau' (pronounced like the TOW part of "towel") which is white with a pink edge and has darker red throat markings. In the same seed line with outcrossings came, 'Tiger Chips,' 'Prime Time,' and 'Beauty.' 'Peach Flambeau' was introduced last year. It's an orange with flaming red at its throat and all around the center of the lobes.

Tell us about your hybridizing program.

Marcia: I started years ago hybridizing the speciosa types. I was going for extra lobes in the flowers and had many with nine lobes, as well as many doubles. Then I got into the minis and others, and have been acting like a mad bee ever since. Using the mini double *Sinningia* 'Treva's Treasure' as a pod parent I've named a double mini 'Caitlin', and I've got some interesting non-double spin-offs which I may name and list next year.

One of the things I look at first in a seedling is how it differs from the parent. The best have a rosette growth and are low and compact. Then I see how soon it flowers, the color of the flower, and frequency of flowering. To me, the best are almost continuously flowering, and I aim for that.

Thank you, Marcia, for your Gesneri-Advice on sinningias!

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

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.

REGISTRATIONS

Jeani Hatfield - Lincoln, CA

- ***Delta Breeze** (8585) 2/10/97 (J. Hatfield) Semidouble-double white pansy/blue ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Standard**
- ***Gentle Giant** (8586) 2/10/97 (J. Hatfield) Double lavender large star/purple striated edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

June Swift - Dallas, TX

- ***At Last** (8587) 2/22/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble light pink star/darker streaks. Light green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Delightful** (8588) 2/22/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble purple frilled star/white edge, variable green. Dark green, glossy, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- ***Naughty Lady** (8589) 2/22/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble medium fuchsia star/darker shading, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

- ***Rebel's Jay Bird** (8590) 2/24/97 (R. Bann) Semidouble violet-purple two-tone ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green and tan, pointed, glossy, ruffled, serrated/red back. **Standard**

- ***Rebel's Kelsey** (8591) 2/24/97 (R. Bann) Double rose-pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***Rebel's Stormy Sky** (8592) 2/24/97 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double purple ruffled star. Variegated dark green and cream, plain, quilted, wavy/red back. **Large**
- ***Rebel's Watercolor Rag** (8593) 2/24/97 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble mauve two-tone star/darker band, thin white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Connie Salland - Virginia Beach, VA

- ***Cool Jewel** (8594) 3/3/97 (C. Salland) Single chimera medium lavender cupped/wide white to pale lavender stripe. Medium green, plain, pointed, pebbled, glossy. **Miniature**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Kyle Coleman - Fort Worth, TX

- * Aunt Charlotte * Beatrice * Corazon * Ethel Lee * Ethel May * First Jefferson * Saint Karey * Saint Rosemary * Saint Sharon * Saint Shirley * Sonya's Passion

Janette Regner - Houston, TX

- (Each of the following is preceded by the name Gran's)
- * Jessica * Mauvalisa * Quinceanera * Razzncreme * Rochelle * Roger

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA

- * Miss Santa Cruz * San Mateo Blues

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

After the entire AVSA MOST WANTED list was printed in the January 1997 issue of the AVM I received so many nice letters asking for some of the plants already listed. All of you ME TOOS were added to the list and will be notified if someone out there wishes to share them. Not only did you members respond but I received a lot of information where I could find plants on the list. Thank you one and all for your tremendous cooperation.

Please remember to always return the postage if

someone is kind enough to share with you. All of the plants in the Vintage Violet Column are over 10 years old. Most of the newer ones are still available through the commercial growers. To all of you commercial growers: thank you all for your time and the lists which you have sent. Your support is greatly appreciated. I always enjoy reading your lists and seeking all the old timers. It's marvelous how many of you are now listing Vintage Violets. Keep up the good work!



AVSA'S MOST WANTED

ALBERT II
BERNICE
BRYTE ANGEL
BRYTE BELLS
CINDERELLA - BUCHANEN
CONFESSIONS
CONSTANCE HANSEN
CONSTANCE HANSEN SUPREME
CORAL RADIANCE
DARK EYES
DOUBLE BLUE BOY
DOUBLE UNCLE BOB
EASTER EGG
FLORAL FANTASY
FREDETTE'S TWILIGHT FANTASY
ILLINI DEB
LACY LASER
LEPRECHAUN'S DREAM
MAVERICK YOUNG LOVE
MINI MINX

MISS WISCONSIN
NESS' MINNESOTA SPLASH
NIGHT FEVER
PARAGON
PILGRIM MAID
PRISCILLA
RAINBOW'S TEQUILA SUNRISE
ROSE FROST
ROSY WINTER
ROYAL HEART
SANTA FE TRAIL - FREDETTE
RAPHAEL
SUGAR PLUM FAIRY
SUMMER SPICE
THE PARSON'S LITTLE PAMMY
WANDERLUST
WHAT NOW
WHITE FEATHER
WHITE WEDGEWOOD
WHITE WHISPER

WRANGLER'S BUCKBOARD
BOUNCE
WRANGLER'S CAMPFIRE
WRANGLER'S CANDYLAND
WRANGLER'S PLEASURE
WRANGLER'S LADY LEE
WRANGLER'S LADY VALLIN
WRANGLER'S LAVENDER LASSO
WRANGLER'S MOON DANCE
WRANGLER'S MOONSHINE
WRANGLER'S PARDNER
WRANGLER'S PRAIRIE FIRE
WRANGLER'S RICOCHET
ROMANCE
WRANGLER'S ROUGH RIDER
WRANGLER'S ROUNDUP
WRANGLER'S SILVER SPURS
WRANGLER'S SIOUX NATION
WRANGLER'S SONUVAGUN
WRANGLER'S YANKEE YODLER

Web Search

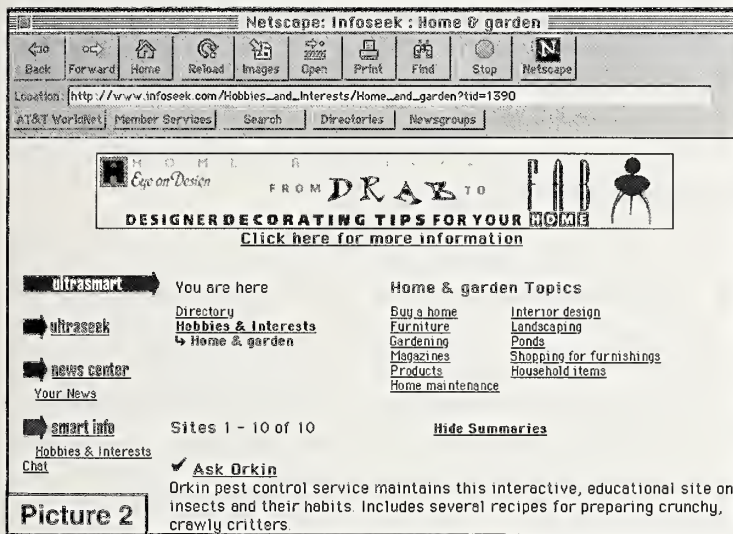
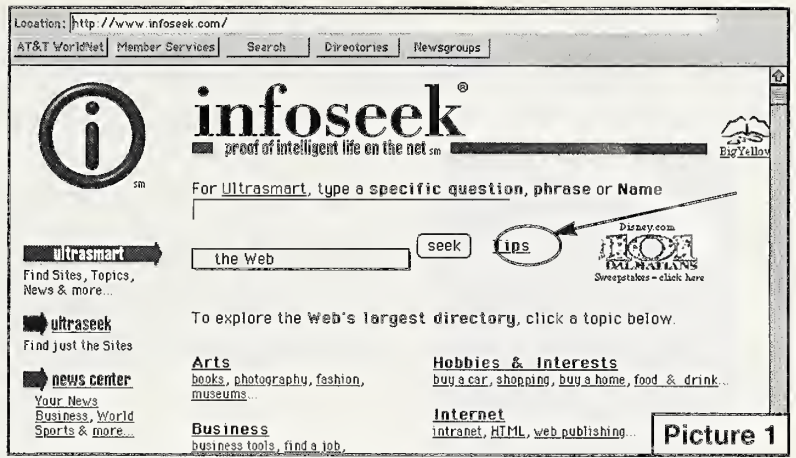
Find Violet Info & More!

by Ellen & Bill Beckerman

The Best Method to Search for information...

on the Web is through one of the many "search engines." A search engine is a technical term for a type of website software that collects information in a database and then provides links to that information from its directory. Or you can type in a specific topic and the engine will search that topic just for you. This month we'll be describing two of the most famous search engines, *Infoseek* and *Yahoo*. To use them, type

"http://www.infoseek.com" or "http://www.yahoo.com" into the Location box of your Internet Browser.



Directories

Just like the yellow pages in your telephone directory, Infoseek and Yahoo offer a directory of information based upon the "Underlined Topics" shown on their websites. (See Pictures 1 & 3) Click on a topic such as "Hobbies & Interests" in Infoseek, then open its subtopic "Home and Garden" and you can see something similar to Picture 2. Notice at the bottom of the picture there is information such as the description of the Orkin website or you could continue to narrow the search parameters by picking another subtopic.

Asking the Right Question

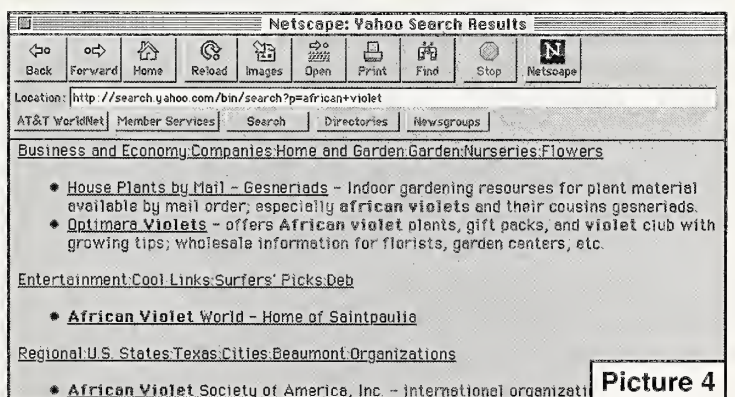
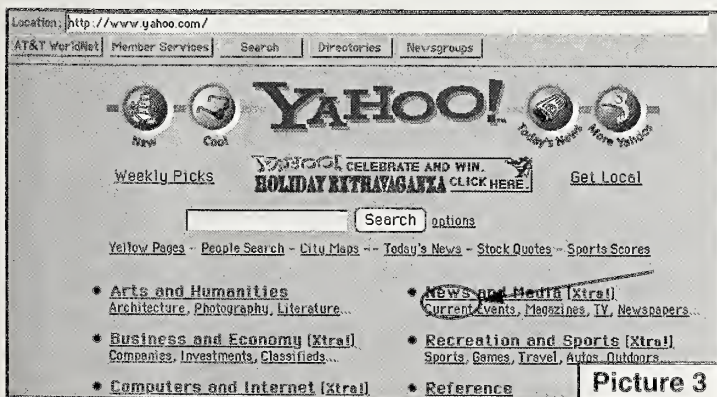
We typed into the Yahoo Search box "African Violet." (Pictures 3 & 4) A search engine can be very literal. Typically it looks for every instance of *exactly* what you've typed, then it gives you a listing of websites that contain that information. (It's helpful to read any TIPS or OPTIONS

the engine offers *before* you begin your search for assistance in how to phrase your topic. See circled information in Pictures 1 & 3.)

A Few Words About Web Ads

Notice in Picture 2, top center, "Designer Decorating Tips for Your Home, Click Here." This is a commercial advertisement. Typically, ads appear first on your screen. Most of the time, ads are in good taste, however, a few may not be. You can avoid viewing the contents of any ad by not clicking on it. Ads on the web can range from useful to annoying, but it is important to remember that they do offset the cost of operating and maintaining the search engines which browsers use for free.

—A husband and wife team, Ellen and Bill Beckerman are Apple Macintosh computer consultants who answer member's questions at Technical Center, Suite 303, 201 W. Genesee St., Fayetteville, NY 13066 or TCC-Beckerman@worldnet.att.net



For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW!

Ever see violets that made you want to cry? It should be against the law to let those wonderful plants get to looking like that! It's a violet violation! Call the Horticultural Police!

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER ONE

The owner of African violets shall not apply too much water. Further, the owner shall not leave excess water standing around the bottom of the pot for any length of time. The law shall not penalize any individual who waters either from the top or the bottom once a week and promptly disposes of excess water in trays. And, no individual shall be penalized for the use of a constant water system such as wicking or capillary matting.

Penalty for failure to obey... root damage... crown rot... death.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER TWO

The owner of African violets shall provide plenty of light. Owner shall be deemed compliant with this statute if violets are placed near a good bright window. Grower may also opt to place plants under a fluorescent light unit which shall be approximately ten to twelve inches above the leaves and turned on ten to fourteen hours per day.

Penalty for failure to obey... leggy growth... leaves reaching upward... lack of blossoms.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER THREE

The owner of African violets shall remove side shoots, also known as suckers, maintaining one single crown. Side shoots may be poked out and destroyed with any dull instrument (e.g. a pencil point) or carefully cut out and repotted into individual pots.

Penalty for failure to obey... bushy growth... plant stress.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER FOUR

The owner of African violets shall provide adequate nutrition for his or her plants by the use of a good quality

fertilizer recommended for African violets. Fertilizer is best applied weekly in water.

Penalty for failure to obey... pale green foliage... lack of bloom... plant stress.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER FIVE

The owner of African violets shall repot plants as soon as any stem (also known as a neck) appears between the lower row of leaves and the soil. This shall be done no less than once a year to satisfy requirements completely. Grower shall use a high quality porous soil mix that will allow plenty of air pockets around the roots when soil is fully saturated.

Penalty for failure to obey one year guideline... repotting is much more difficult... plant stress.

Penalty for failure to obey... necky ugly appearance.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER SIX

The owner of African violets shall maintain even temperatures in plant growing area. Grower shall be in violation if temperatures sink below 60 degrees or rise above 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Optimum temperatures shall be in the lower 70 degree range.

Penalty for failure to obey and plants become too cold... slow growth... turned-under leaf edges... hairiness... root damage... death.

Penalty for failure to obey and plants become too hot... fast, soft growth... faded blossom color... mushy older leaves... death.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER SEVEN

The owner of African violets shall use the correctly-sized pot. Pot diameter shall be approximately one-third the diameter of the leaf span. Shallow, squatty pots will be preferred with a depth that is generally equal to or less than the diameter of the pot.

continued on page 15

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive
Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from January 20, 1997 - March 20, 1997

Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia	25.00	Barbara W. Ellison, Central Square, NY	10.00	Mickey Eberle, Menomonee Falls, WI	10.00
Willodene K. Jones, Birmingham, AL	20.00	Oshkosh AVS, Omro, WI	25.00	<i>In memory of Evelyn Cybela's brother</i>	
<i>In memory of Ollie Hodges</i>		Allan L. Postier, Oronoco, MN	10.00	<i>Irwin Cybela</i>	
Dorothea L. Gill & Dorothy Hann, Clearwater, FL	40.00	Maryann B. Flick, Old Saybrook, CT	15.00	Peg M. Phythyon, Wetumpka, AL	20.00
<i>In memory of Alice T. Yawger</i>		Dora B. Di Lorenzo, Winter Haven, FL	5.00	<i>In lieu of expenses from Pensacola AVC</i>	
African Violet Society of Philadelphia, PA	50.00	Peg M. Phythyon, Wetumpka, AL	10.00	Mid-America AVC, Shawnee, KS	20.00
<i>In memory of Mildred Besson</i>		Geok Gkim Goh, Singapore	50.00	Pasa Tiempo AVC, Santa Fe, N	26.87
NASA AVS, League City, TX	25.00	Joy P. Brooks, Philadelphia, PA	5.00	<i>Our club dissolved, the balance of our</i>	
<i>In memory of Jack Cottrell, husband of</i>		<i>In memory of Mildred Besson</i>		<i>treasury funds are for research</i>	
<i>Jeanne Cottrell</i>		Louise & Fayette Merritt, Pensacola, FL	25.00	Mrs. Dorothy Maybury, Somerset, Bermuda	20.00
Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL	25.00	<i>In memory of Susan Emmergene Pyle</i>		Vivian Foye, Baker City, OR	2.00
<i>In memory of Everett I. Moak</i>		Los Angeles AVS, Los Angeles, CA	10.00	Covington AVS, Andalusia, AL	10.00
Edna M. Snow, Chicago, IL	25.00	<i>In memory of Mr. Wayne Golgert,</i>		Nelly Levine, Avada, CO	10.00
Nancy M. Wilson, San Antonio, TX	50.00	<i>beloved husband of Kay</i>		Tristate AV Council, NJ	10.00
Doris E. Scherneck, Beloit, WI	10.00	AV Study Club of Houston, TX	25.00	Marilyn Heinrich, East Northport, NY	10.00
F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Tinton Falls, NJ	25.00	Bahamas AVS, Nassau, Bahamas	15.00	Betty Hoff, Lincoln, NE	25.00
Nancy Hagerman, Lafayette, LA	25.00	<i>In memory of Mrs. Jean Sweeting</i>		Office Violets & Lunch, Webster, TX	10.00
Mark Grigalunas, New York, NY	10.00	Mickey Eberle, Menomonee Falls, WI	10.00	Upper Pinellas AVS, Clearwater, FL	25.00
Albuquerque Saintpaulia Society,		<i>In memory of Irene Merrell's husband, Jim</i>		<i>In memory of Alice T. Yawger</i>	
Albuquerque, NM	5.00			Elizabeth B. Paul, Saugerties, NY	10.00
First Halifax AVS, Canada	25.00			Mary H. Stone, Augusta, GA	7.00

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 FEBRUARY - 31 MARCH 1997

Central Jersey AVS, Matawan, NJ	\$10.00	Charlotte Wolf, Ann Arbor, MI.	\$15.00	Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE.	
Nancy Yano, Honolulu, HI.	\$10.00	Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL.	\$ 5.00	<i>in lieu of travel expenses for</i>	\$20.00
Helen A. Bateson, Lexington, MA.	\$10.00	Capital City AVS, Montgomery, AL.	\$20.00	<i>Fran Cooper, Judi Criswell,</i>	
Madeline Jacobs, Stillwater, MN.	\$15.00	<i>in lieu of travel expenses for</i>		<i>Bettie Roth and Barbara Jones,</i>	
Faye Wieditz, Wichita, KS.	\$10.00	<i>Christie Thomley and Sherry Buie</i>		<i>from Springfield, PA. AVS</i>	
Dorothy I. Peterson, Bakersfield, CA.	\$ 5.00	Office Violets and Lunch, Webster, TX.	\$10.00	Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE.	
Ronald H. Whitchurch, Clearwater, FL.	\$100.00	Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE.		<i>in lieu of travel expenses for</i>	\$10.00
<i>In fond memory of Julienne Canfield</i>		<i>in lieu of travel expenses for Enid</i>	\$20.00	<i>Sharon Toolan, Baltimore, MD. AVS</i>	
Tristate AV Council, NJ, NY, PA.	\$10.00	<i>Branson, Laura Shannon, Judith</i>		Ventura County AVS, Santa Barbara, CA.	\$10.00
Ellen Brooke, Boyertown, PA.	\$20.00	<i>Smith and Susan Hanna from Phila. AVS</i>		Total	\$305.00
B. Von Eckartsberg, Redlands, CA.	\$ 5.00				

"For Beginners" continued from page 14

Penalty for failure to obey... excessive water in pot (see Statute Number One)... reduced blooming... plant stress.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER EIGHT

The owner of African violets shall closely observe plants for changes that might be caused by the presence of insects, fungal diseases, or cultural mistakes. Growers shall be responsible for seeking help from other African violet growers in the event that an outbreak occurs.

Penalty for failure to obey... uncontrollable epidemic... chaos... death and ruin.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER NINE

The owner of African violets shall keep plants clean. Violets shall be recognized as clean when dead blossoms and faded leaves are removed promptly and when dust and debris are brushed off leaves. Furthermore, the growing area shall be kept neat and clean. Dead plants and plant material

shall be removed, water and dirt spills shall be wiped up in a timely manner, and used pots shall be promptly washed in a bleach solution.

Penalty for failure to obey... ugly plants... slowed plant growth... outbreaks of pests and disease.

VIOLET STATUTE NUMBER TEN

The owner of African violets shall not crowd plants together in an effort to possess more plants. Each plant shall have enough space so that it is not touching any other plant. This shall be especially important where there is little or no air movement.

Penalty for failure to obey... fungus outbreaks... broken leaves... misshapen leaf pattern.

LAWS AREN'T MADE TO BE BROKEN

Follow the rules, and your violets will be beautiful and give you a lot of pleasure. Break the rules, even one, and you and your plants will pay the penalty. Don't make us call the horticulture cops!

Annual Library Message



Jackie Jones
Library Chairman
607 14th Ave
Durant, IA 52747

We receive all the comment sheets you return with the programs you rent. Kind-hearted Jenny (AVSA Office Secretary) really dislikes sharing the negative ones with us but we learn from your comments. Since we cannot write to each of you we'll try to use this as an "open letter".

I would like to offer a few tips for a better presentation. **1.** You will have trouble if you are using a carousel type slide tray that holds more than 80. (there is just not enough room for the slide to clear and drop). **2.** Try to preview your program ahead of time so that everything is "right side up". **3.** If your club is one that likes to really discuss the plants as they see them, you might find it easier to read from the script rather than use the cassette. (We have those who want MUCH MORE information and those that say "TOO MUCH" so we try for the middle ground.)

Please be aware that some of the basic programs

are older, and while they contain very good information for beginners, there needs to be an experienced grower pointing out areas that need updating.

When you find the organization that has unlimited funds for their projects will you contact me so I may join? Till then, it seems like every group I belong to is on a very tight budget – AVSA Library is no exception. We have funds to prepare three slide programs per year – two convention programs and an additional one.

Last year we added "Unusual Gesneraids for the Light Garden" and this year we have "TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO" by Beverly Promersberger. This program will make you look at your trailers in a whole different light. It is not a collection of pretty plants – it is a definite HOW TO.

Next year our goal is to add a design program! I can hear a lot of you saying "HURRAH - AT LAST"

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations.

REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St. Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form please include in your request **(1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet, (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) date to be shown.** Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

SLIDE PROGRAMS – VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired, with information outlined above. Give first, second and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office, immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for \$50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for \$100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs post paid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

A \$5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Return programs to:
AVSA OFFICE
2075 NORTH STREET
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filed when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited numbers available.
4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00; and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs \$ 10.00.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

- 163L **"THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT"** (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award winning plants and designs displayed The New England Way, Boston 1990.
- 166L **"VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE"** (C) (80 Slides) Award winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L **"A CENTURY OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award winning plants and designs from Violet Heritage and Horizons, Columbus 1992.
- 169L **"MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS"** (C) (80 Slides) of award winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.
- 171L **"A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.
- 175L **"ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.
- 179L **"ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH"** (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA. 1996.
- 183L **"VIOLETS AT THE BEACH"** (C) (80 Slides) Winning exhibits from the Convention Show, 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 168L **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.
- 172L **"DENVER DEBUTANTS"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 Introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.
- 176L **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C) (80 Slides) Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.
- 180L **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.
- 184L **"NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE"** (C) (80 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention, St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

SECTION III: AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. Somewhat dated, but with much helpful information for the novice grower

- 147L **"THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT"** (77 Slides) A good basic program, identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 140L **"MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS"** (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation, including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 150L **"THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS"** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 153L **"VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS"** (79 Slides) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple crown plant including suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.
- 151L **"THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES"** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop type program. Very thorough and

somewhat technical. A dedicated work by Neva Anderson.

- 161L **"POINTERS IN JUDGING"** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for Judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.
- 182L **"TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO"** (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promesberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".

SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Programs Identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

- 139L **"MEET THE FAMILY"** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".
- 178L **"UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN"** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and the impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L **"AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS"** (C) (52 Slides) A short succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustrations, of common African violet pests.
- 152L **"VIOLET TROUBLES"** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

VIDEO TAPES

- 173L **"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN"** Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his green house, Hill Country African Violets.
- 181L **"HUNGRY ATHLETES"** 1996 Presentation at Atlanta Convention by Dr. Charles Cole. 60 minutes of information for the serious grower.

PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is \$3.00, and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L **JUST FOR FUN PACKET:** "A Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L **NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET:** This packet contains samples from entries entered for judging for convention awards. Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.
- 157L **PROGRAM PLANNING PACKET:** Suggestion to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L **SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET:** Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas, and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L **YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET:** This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs and top prize winners from the recent AVSA convention competition. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook, and for those interested in submitting their yearbook for competition.

1997 AVSA AWARDS

Honorary Life Membership Award

TO: L.T. Ozio, Jr.
Morgan City, LA

The Honorary Life Membership Award was presented to outgoing President L.T. Ozio, Jr.

L.T. has been a member of AVSA since 1973, is a senior judge and has been a teacher since 1983. He has also served as Director, and chaired the Library Committee. L.T. received the Honorary-One Year Membership Award and has served on the Executive Committee since 1989, becoming President in 1995.

On the local level, Mr. Ozio is a charter member of the Atchafalaya Violet Society, a member of the Dixie African Violet Society and is a charter member of the Louisiana Council of African Violet Judges and Growers, having served as charter secretary for two terms.

Honorary One-Year Membership

TO: Georgene Albrecht
Oakdale, PA

The AVSA honored Georgene Albrecht with a Honorary One-Year Membership Award for the years she has written the column "A Family Portrait" for the African Violet Magazine. Georgene took on this task in January 1990 and has continued to write a column about our violet cousins ever since.

Georgene has been a member of AVSA for 22 years, is a judge and served as a Director from 1992-1995. She also designed the cover of the 50th Anniversary Book.

Mrs. Albrecht is also a member of the Pittsburgh Violet Society, Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, American Rose Society, Pittsburgh Rose Society, American Dahlia Society, Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society, Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center. Georgene is also a docent for the Phipps Conservatory of Pittsburgh.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD

TO: Kathy Spissman
Tucker, GA

In recognition for serving as Convention Show Chairman for the Atlanta 1996, 50th Anniversary Convention, the Honorary-One Year Membership Award was presented to Kathy Spissman.

Kathy has been a member of AVSA for 25 years. She is a charter member of the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta, has served as president and is currently serving as the society's treasurer.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD

TO: Laura Walker
Stone Mountain, GA

In recognition for serving as Convention Chairman for the Atlanta 1996, 50th Anniversary Convention, the Honorary-One Year Membership Award was presented to Laura Walker.

Laura has been a member of AVSA for 24 years, is a judge and is currently serving as a director.

On the local level, she is the immediate past president of the Georgia State African Violet Council, president of the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta, and president of the Georgia African Violet Judge's Society. She is also 2nd vice president of the Dixie African Violet Society.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD

To: Jay McKnight
Cupertino, CA

In recognition for service to AVSA, the Honorary One-Year Membership was presented to Jay McKnight. Jay was instrumental in the production of the 7th Edition "Master Variety List" as well as the annual MVL supplement that appeared in the November/December 1996 AVM.

Jay expended a great deal of time, creativity, personal funds, and computer expertise to ready the MVL for publication. He integrated into the database new cultivar and species descriptions provided by the Plant Registration and MVL committees. He also worked via the Internet with Patricia Egan of Australia to incorporate nearly 400 Australasian cultivars into the MVL.

Through his business contacts, Jay was able to minimize publication costs and avoid tying up AVSA funds.

Jay also modified the database programs used by the Plant Registration and MVL committees. In the process, he has made the MVL a more useful tool for violet enthusiasts. Jay answers questions on the Internet about the MVL database and also provides the database of the Windows-based classification program First Class.

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

TO: Rocky Mountain African Violet Council
Nederland, CO

This year the Tinari Membership Award for the most new AVSA individual memberships during the year, 1996, went to the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council. They had 47 new members and should be very proud of that accomplishment.

Bronze Medal Award

TO: Dr. Ralph Robinson
Naples, NY

The Bronze Medal Award was presented to Dr. Ralph Robinson for his achievements in hybridizing miniature and semi-miniature African violets.

Rob has been a member of AVSA since 1977 and is a senior judge. He joined the African Violet Society of Western New York in 1977 and entered his first show in the spring of 1978. Rob began hybridizing in 1981 and began exhibiting some of his own hybrids in 1984.

In 1987, Rob had his first Commercial Display Table at an AVSA convention show. Since that time he has won the Best Commercial Display Table Award four times; in 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1996. In 1989 Dr. Robinson won the award for Best New Introduction for the first time with "Rob's Magnetic Fields". Since then he has won that award four additional times, in 1990, 1991, 1995 and 1996.

Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership

TO: Sue Hill
Independence, MO

In recognition for outstanding service to her local affiliates, the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate

Leadership was presented to Sue Hill. Mrs. Hill is a member of several affiliates and councils as well as the AVSA.

Sue is a charter member of the Mid-America African Violet Society and has served in all of the club's offices and as show chair. She is also a member of the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, having served in all offices, as well as show chair, yearbook editor and newsletter editor.

Mrs. Hill is also a member of the Dixie African Violet Society and is a charter member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council. She has served that society as president and treasurer.

Sue is also a member of the Unpredictables African Violet Society, having served in several offices and as show chair. She is currently the newsletter editor for that organization. Sue is also a member of the Heart of America Gesneriad Society.

Mrs. Hill is a master judge, a master AGGS judge and a Life Member of the AVSA. She has attended 16 AVSA conventions since 1976, having exhibited in all of them. In 1988 she won the award for Best Semi-Miniature and in 1989 for the Best Other Gesneriad and was Sweepstakes Runner-Up.

Mrs. Hill was instrumental in bringing the 1989 AVSA Convention to Kansas City and served as Show Co-Chair. Sue won a Honorary One-Year Membership in 1987.

NOW IS THE TIME

The St. Pete Beach Convention has come and gone. Hope you didn't miss it, because it was spectacular! Now we look forward to Sacramento, CA in 1998. It's time to get in your awards. Won't you, your club, or council consider donating an award? I know those participating in the National Show by exhibiting African violets, other gesneriads and designs from all corners of the country do appreciate them. Awards received by September 30, 1997 will be published in the January 1998 AVM. Awards received after that date will be accepted and appreciated. **Please make every effort to send your awards early.**

Send your awards to:
Mrs. Linda L. Golubski
AVSA Awards Chair
1416 N.W. A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6 PM Central Time

Special requests are assigned based on the order of receipt.

Cash awards must be paid in **U.S. funds**, by check or money order (**payable to AVSA Convention**). Appropriate items other than cash (i.e. silver, rosettes,

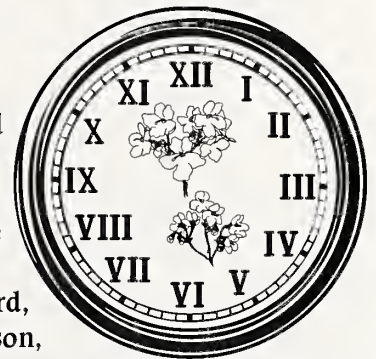
etc.) will be accepted.

Please do not send gift certificates. When sending an award, please include the following information:

Donor, or Name of Award,
Address of Contact Person,
Amount of award or other appropriate item,
Request for specific class or section, if available,
(amateur horticulture, commercial horticulture, design, etc.)

Cash donations which cannot be awarded because of lack of qualified entries (i.e. no entry for specific variety awards) are given to AVSA. Awards assigned to a class which subsequently has no blue ribbon entries will be reassigned as needed. Awards for the best plant of a specific hybridizer or series, or awards which would complicate judging, will not be accepted. **All awards must be sent to the Awards Chairman.**

Get your check in the mail today and start making plans to join other AVSA members in Sacramento for the 1998 Convention and Show.





NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI

It has often been said that "necessity is the mother of invention." Recently, we had a major African violet problem. We know it is one that often affects plant lovers. There was no suitable room for the plants. The quandary developed when we decided to conduct African violet workshops during our winter stay in southern Texas. It was necessary to order plants from a major grower in order to satisfy demands at workshops. Unfortunately, during the course of one workshop, the supply we had obtained far outweighed the demand of attendees. The question then became one of how to care for the excess violets until the next workshop, in about three weeks.

Our solution was to build an inexpensive, artificially-lighted plant stand. After we had demonstrated this stand at a number of workshops, it was suggested that the instructions for making it be submitted to the African Violet magazine.

The following items are necessary:

- 1 - 2' x 4' piece of 1/4" plywood
- 1 - 12' 2" x 2" board
- 1 - 10' piece of 1" PVC plastic plumbing pipe
- 4 - 1" elbows for pipe
- 1 - tube PVC cement
- 1 - 4' shoplight
- 2 - 4' cool white fluorescent tubes
- 9 - 1/2" screws
- 4 - 1 1/2" flat top bolts

Examine the plywood to determine the best side. Turn that side down. Three pieces approximately 4' long should be cut from the 2" x 2". One piece should be placed along either edge of the 4' long length of the plywood. The third piece is located slightly off center of the plywood, parallel to the other two pieces.

The 2" x 2" pieces and the plywood are turned over and the pieces are screwed to the plywood with three screws to each. Once again, the plywood is turned over so the pieces of 2" x 2" are facing up.

Now cut two 10" pieces of the PVC pipe. The ends of the pipe should be lightly sanded to eliminate any burrs. An elbow is now cemented to one end of the PVC. This is done by applying cement to the inside of one end of the elbow and the outside of one piece of the PVC. Stick the two together immediately. Now do the same with the other elbow and piece of PVC.

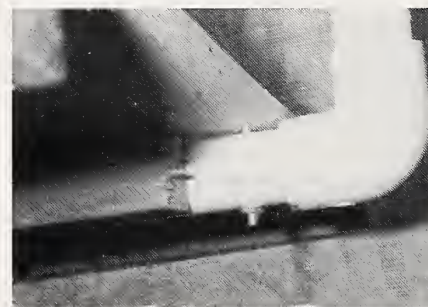
These two assemblies will be the anchor for the remainder of the plant stand. Lay one of them next to the center 2" x 2" with the elbow eased off the edge of the plywood. The open end of the elbow should be faced down toward the floor. Drill the PVC 2" from either end, and on through the plywood. This will align the holes through the PVC and plywood. Do the same to the other piece at the



other end of the center 2" x 2". The size of the drill depends on the diameter of the 1 1/2" long bolts.

Turn the plywood over so that the good side faces up. The open end of each elbow should now also be facing up. Insert one bolt into each hole, and reaching under the plywood, affix the nut to each and tighten snugly. The PVC pieces are now anchored tightly to the underside of the plywood and the open end of the elbow is set to receive the remainder of the assembly.

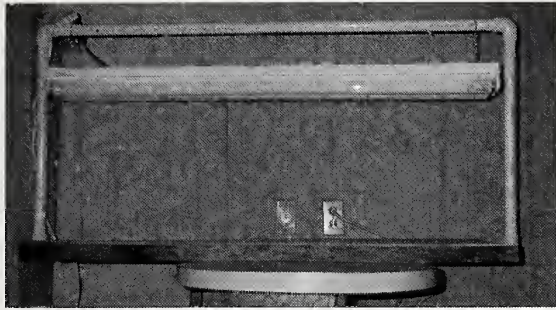
Cut two additional pieces of the PVC 24" long. Sand lightly to remove burrs. Insert one piece into the open end of each elbow. Slide another elbow onto the upper end of each 24" piece facing each other.



The remainder of the PVC is about 52", less the narrow amount the saw cuts off for each of the smaller pieces. With a tape measure, check the distance between the two upper elbows. Note that inside each elbow there is a ridge about 1/2". The long piece of PVC must be cut so that each end fits into the elbow up to that ridge. Thus, if the distance between the two elbows measures 48", 1/2" must be added to each end to allow the tight fit; the amount will then total about 49". That distance can vary slightly depending on how far out from the bottom the anchor elbow protrudes from the edge of the plywood.

Insert the long piece into either elbow. It will be necessary to spring the two 24" pieces outward in order to allow for the insertion. Since the PVC can bend slightly, this should be relatively easy to accomplish.

The resultant assembly should now resemble an inverted U. It is the bracket that will hold a 48" shoplight. This can be attached to the long piece of PVC with the fine chain normally included in the shoplight package. The chains can be lengthened or shortened depending on how far away from the top of the plants the light is desired.



The stand can now be placed on the floor or a suitable stand, the light can be plugged in, and the plants placed on it.

The situation that warranted our emergency stand did not demand that we elevate it, but it can easily be done by placing it on a coffee-table type of furniture, or perhaps an



*AVSA Office Secretary
Jenny Daugereau with
completed light stand.*

old piano bench that has been refinished. We have had occasion to make bookshelves out of cement blocks with boards placed across them. These could well be used for the plant stand purpose. The boards and blocks can be painted a pastel color that blends with the room decor.

Some financial short-cuts may well be available in individual cases. Three-quarter inch PVC can be substituted for the larger diameter material, although it may sag slightly from the weight of the shoplight. Of course the plywood may also be on hand in the garage or shop. Even a thicker variety can be used if available. Screws and bolts may also be located in the house, particularly if there is a do-it-yourself person handy.

Yes, necessity was the mother of invention, and we hope that others may find our little gem worthwhile.



Yearbook Themes

by Kyle Coleman • Fort Worth, TX

Using a creative theme can be a simple and fun way of adding distinction to your club's yearbook. By selecting a theme that complements your show theme, your yearbook can stimulate interest in the show. Further, a yearbook theme can encourage club members to participate actively in upcoming events.

Here is an example of a show theme integrated into a yearbook. Suppose the show theme is "Out of Africa" to portray the African violet's "roots" in Africa. The yearbook write-up for each meeting could include a short description of a different species plant. Blank areas could be filled with brief articles (perhaps only 1 paragraph long) on the history of the violet. One of these historical notes might include a mini-quiz on anatomical parts of the violet, or on the ancestry of African violet trailers, miniatures, or variegated cultivars. Club projects could also be selected to help carry out the theme, such as selecting a species for the club project plant.

There are many other ways to use a show theme to enhance a yearbook. Suppose the show theme is "A Calendar of Violets." The layout of the yearbook could be

modeled after a calendar or appointment book. Each club event could be pre-printed on the proper date to help members plan their schedules. Holidays and other special days could also be included to emphasize holiday/seasonal changes throughout the year. Small drawings might be sprinkled throughout the book to stimulate creativity in the show's design classes.

An interesting theme could be used to encourage membership participation. The show theme, "Violets Under the Big Top," one example. At a circus, there are many performers who perform in many different acts. As a parallel, the program for each meeting could be presented by different members of the club. Some members might pair up, but each member could choose an area of his/her expertise to present a program for the club. Further, the title for each program could include a whimsical reference to a circus.

These have been some brief examples of how to incorporate a theme into your yearbook. I hope you have lots of fun dreaming up many original themes and integrating them into your yearbooks.

Celebrating a



Bob Green



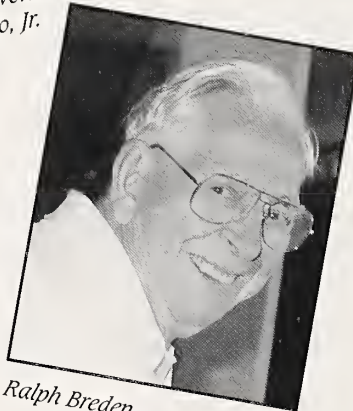
New President Esther E. Wells, Charles Wells, Yvonne Ozio and Immediate Past President, L. T. Ozio, Jr.



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Marilyn Goldstein



Ralph Breden



Colleen Lang



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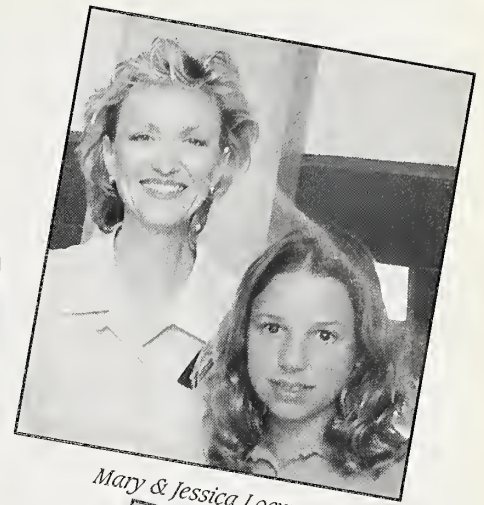


Fred Packer, Sidney Sorano, Paul Sorano, Mary Boland, Art Boland



Beverly Hendricks

Florida Fantasy



Mary & Jessica Loewer



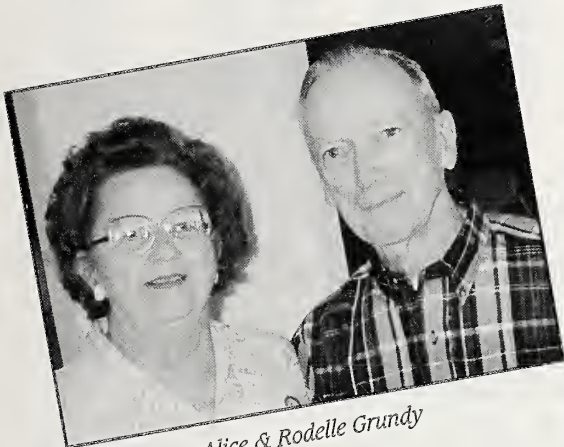
Jo Schindler & Mary Ann Switzer



Jana Nunez



Margaret Schiller



Alice & Rodelle Grundy



Marion Doherty



Christopher, Sue & Christina Ramser



Jean Marie Ross



Donna Ferguson



Carolee Carter



Olive Ma & Yu Tung Lun

IN MEMORY OF ANNA H. RICHARDSON



Ann Richardson
1908 - 1997

AVSA recently lost one of our most devoted and dedicated members. Few members of this organization have given as much to the African Violet Society of America, Inc., as Ann Richardson.

Ann Richardson served as President of AVSA, Inc., from 1983 to 1985. She was well known in Florida, and throughout the world for her African violet activities. A columnist for the African Violet magazine for twenty years, Ann was also a popular lecturer for garden clubs.

Ann served as:

- AVSA Show Chairman for the 1967 AVSA convention in Boston, MA
- AVSA Director 1972-75
- Secretary of AVSA 1973-75
- AVSA Program Chairman 1977-85
- Third AVSA Vice-President 1979-80
- Second AVSA Vice-President 1980-81
- First AVSA Vice President 1981-83
- Chairman of the 1976 AVSA National Convention in Atlanta, GA

- Honorary Chairman of the 1987 AVSA National Convention in Orlando, FL
- Past President of the Bay State AVS of MA
- Past President and Founder of The Patriots AVS
- Honorary President and Founder of the Bahamas AVS (New Providence Island, Bahamas)
- Co-founder and Past Vice President of Central FL AVS, Orlando, FL
- Founding President of the Lakes and Hills AVS, 1972

Ann received from AVSA:

- the One Year Honorary Membership Award in 1967
- the Continuing Service Award in 1976
- the Honorary Life membership Award in 1985

Ann Richardson was an Honorary Lifetime Member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., as well as AGGS, Federated Garden Clubs of America, Inc., New York State AVS, and the Dixie AVS. She was also a Lifetime Judge and Judging School Teacher for AVSA.

We salute Ann Richardson for her wise guidance and years of devotion to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

compiled by Dode Whitaker

Discover California! 1998 AVSA Convention

"Great heavens!" cried Johan Sutter. "If the boys find out there is gold there, there is going to be no more work at our mill. It will be all up and gone to *dyfel!*" (devil)

Gone to *dyfel!* it was, for certainly John Marshall's January 1848 discovery of gold at Sutter's sawmill on the American River brought ruin and tragedy to both men. Although his handful of gold flakes started men moving toward California from all parts of the earth in search of wealth, Marshall died thirty-seven years later in abject poverty. His claims overrun and court appeals futile, Marshall was hated by the army of men who swarmed in to take his potential fortune.

As for Sutter, he made quick money selling supplies to miners (\$10 for a dozen eggs!) but died in poverty after losing everything when Washington passed legislation for American interests and for the ruination of the original Spanish land-grant holders.

Finding gold at their feet changed the lives of Marshall and Sutter but it also changed the entire history of the American West. Perhaps the best all-time world-wide expression of human greed was the result - the California Gold Rush.

What Was Your Name in the States? was a popular song then. Although the majority of those who thronged to the gold diggings were decent men of good character, many were just one step ahead of their local sheriff. With little other recourse, citizens became

sheriff, jury, judge and executioner. The origin of the name Hangtown, today's Placerville, is obvious. Still, the system had its flaws, as when a Lynch mob, belatedly realizing its mistake, apologized to the widow, saying, "We hanged Jim for stealing a horse, but come to find out, he didn't do it. So I guess the joke's on us."

In 1853 when John Studebaker arrived in Coloma, the site of Sutter's mill, the town had become so important it was in competition with Sacramento, San Francisco and Chinese Camp to become the state's capital. Coloma was well known nation-wide, was strategically situated on the chief transcontinental trail and was well ahead of other gold-rush towns, whose names will always suggest the color and vitality of the era; Poker flat, Red Dog, You Bet, Whisky Town, Petticoat Slide, Rough and Ready, Skunk Gulch, Angel's Camp, Piety Hill, and Hell's Delight.

From these towns and others like them, the gold yield in 1850 was \$50,000,000; in 1853 it was \$65,000,000. Yet, in all, only 10% of the motherlode has been extracted - contemporary geologists say 90% of the gold still lies buried in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada! No wonder the annual international gold-panning contest will be held in Coloma in 1998!

Ask us about the American River and we'll show you a nugget of history.



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

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Discover California!

Sesquicentennial! A hard word to say, let alone spell. In 1848 gold was discovered in Coloma, California, just a few short miles from Sacramento, the capital of our great state. 1998 will be the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of that event.

Since 1848, Sacramento has grown and is now the tenth fastest growing city in the United States. Rich in history, Sacramento is nestled in a long valley, where two rivers meet. The High Sierras with many snow-topped peaks lies to the east, and the Coastal Range which separates the valley from the blue Pacific lies to the west.

Mark your calendar April 19, 1998. Let us help you Discover California!

MY AFRICAN VIOLET PET

by Harry George
Houston, TX

*No Kick, no scratch, no bark, no bite,
My African violet pet is a sheer delight.
No fuss, no mess, no leash, no vets,
My violet is really a great pet!
If you think this is silly, or just a crock,
Consider the guy with his million dollar
Pet Rock!*

AFTER THE SHOW IS OVER

by Iris Keating
Claremont, CA

Now that the show is over, it's time to reduce the size of our plants and repot them in preparation for the fall shows.

African violets do not respond well to being repotted in hot weather. Often the plants will react by developing transplant shock markings on the foliage - anything from criss-crossed hairline reticulation markings to larger light tan splotches on the leaves. When that occurs, the grower has no choice but to let the plant grow enough to remove all the marked leaves, losing months of growing time.

My plants will soon have a few rows of leaves removed, the foliage given a refreshing bath at the sink (I have become sold on bathing my violets at regular intervals but have learned not to use anything but reverse osmosis or bottled water in a sprayer to avoid white mineral deposit marks on the dark green leaves - it is difficult to remove them), and then will be repotted into fresh potting mix. I limit my single-crowned African violets to three rows of leaves. The leaves are healthier because the plant does not have to work so hard to supply food to the outer leaf edges and lower rows. In the case of standard varieties, leaves are much larger, more easily managed, and the foliage is more symmetrical. If a grower wants the plants to have more rows of leaves, it is better to allow another row or two closer to show time.

Some violet varieties show more of a tendency to yellowed leaf edges, or "haloing", than others. I have heard many theories about its causes, but I have yet to learn of a more plausible reason than my own hypothesis. The plant is essentially starving and is unable to supply nutrients out to the leaf edges. It is one of the first signs of a pH imbalance, indicating that the plant can't utilize the fertilizer being provided.

The easiest way to correct haloing is by foliar feeding. RA-PID-GRO® 23-19-17, 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water, or VF-11® at the usual strength are both excellent fertilizers for foliar feeding at one- to two-week intervals.

Keep in mind that a plant absorbs 90% of the nutrients within 10 minutes of foliar feeding and only 10% of the nutrients with regular feeding. The latter method then results in the other 90% being deposited on the soil surface as mineral salts, requiring either periodic flushing or repotting to remove.

*Reprinted with permission from "The Violeteer",
publication of the Pomona Valley AVS, CA*

Long Necks Only Look Good On A Palm Tree

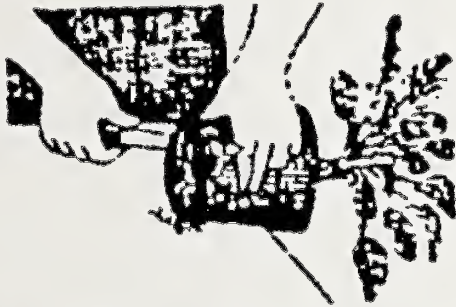


The basic structure of an African violet can easily be divided into three sections. The **central stem**, which produces **leaves** at the top and **fibrous roots** below the soil. When tiny new leaves appear one by one in the crown, the stem grows slowly taller.

Each leaf is supported by a stalk called a *petiole*. As each new leaf grows larger, its petiole becomes longer. Each leaf blade is exposed to light, while the petiole is hidden under the leaf blade just above it. This is how the beautiful rosette of foliage is produced. A leaf may live for a year or more, but eventually it, and its petiole, will wither, dry up and drop off. The leaves may be removed, leaving a bare spot of scar tissue on the stem. As this bare stem grows taller, it is referred to as a *long neck*.

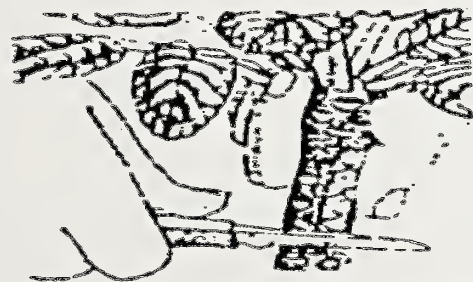
Remove the plant from the pot and cut a slice from the bottom of the rootball. This will allow the entire neck to fit in the pot, under soil.

Pack moist mix in the pot, make a pocket in the center and fill with vermiculite, then insert the plant neck until the mix reaches the bottom leaves.



Hold the plant sideways and gently scrape the top layer of brown scale from the neck, to reveal the green surface below. You may scrape the entire neck, or only a strip on each of the four sides.

Discard the neck and leaves that are left in the old pot.



You may want to tent the plant in plastic for higher humidity, if your growing conditions warrant it.



Dust the scraped area with rooting hormone (I prefer to use sulphur). Set the plant in your prepared pot and add fresh mix up to the bottom leaves. Water well.

If the neck is too long or crooked, the entire rootball can be cut off and the crown can be treated as a cutting. Cut the neck off about 2 inches (for a 2 1/2" pot) or 3 inches (for a 4" pot), from the rosette. Scrape and treat as above.

*Reprinted with permission from 'Violet Talk',
publication of the Portland AVS, OR*

PESTS AND DISEASES

by Patsy Harms

The best preventative for pests and diseases is to keep your plant growing area and all of your equipment clean. Keep plants clean and well-groomed. Wash and sterilize all pots, containers, and saucers before re-using them. This can easily be done by washing and then soaking in a solution of 1 cup liquid bleach to a gallon of hot water.

Some growers suggest you use only sterilized or pasteurized soil.

Do not introduce new plants into your growing room. Keep them in quarantine until you are sure they are bug- and disease-free (at least 6 to 8 weeks). Disbud all plants after a show. This includes both buds and flowers.

Disinfecting a leaf

Wash the leaf under running warm water, then soak it in a solution of 1 part household bleach to 10 parts water. After five minutes, rinse the leaf, re-cut the stem, and plant it in the usual manner.

Drenching

Spraying is of no use against bugs that attack the roots of plants. Drenching is the treatment for all soil-borne pests. Drenches are applied to slightly damp soil. The drench must thoroughly wet all the soil in the pot. Excess should be drained from the saucer after 10 minutes. Drenches contain a weaker solution of insecticide than sprays.

Spraying

Be sure to read all directions on the product. Use rubber gloves. If possible spray outdoors, where there is better circulation.

Following are some of the common pests and diseases which attack African violets:

ROOT NEMATODES

Number one killer (Helen Van Pelt Wilson's *African Violet Book*). Foliage loses its good green color, becomes pale and dull, the outer leaves droop, the low center of the plant stalk feels soft, and plants often produce many suckers. These pests infest the roots of your plants. They cause a swelling, which cuts off the supply of nourishment to the plant.

Unpot the plant and examine the roots for small, lumpy nodules. There is no cure. Most experts recommend throwing the plants in the garbage (not the compost pile). It is considered reasonably safe to take the crown, with just the three small center leaves, to propagate a new plant. Nematodes are very infectious and can be transferred through water in communal trays, contaminated soil, and dirty hands or utensils. Be sure to sterilize all pots and

utensils before using again.

FOLIAR NEMATODES

The center stops growing, veins appear swollen, as well as the stems, particularly at the base. Lower leaves may show triangular spotting. Scratch a sodium selenate systemic into the top soil. Water it in well. Use the milder sodium selenate, P-40.

MITES

The number two killer of African violets. There are three kinds of mites: cyclamen mites, broad mites, and red spider mites. Controls and preventatives are the same.

Cyclamen Mites

The smaller leaves of the crown get a sickly gray or yellowish-green color. Buds, blossoms, and blossom stems are distorted. In the later stages the central crown will have been destroyed. Act fast. Mites reproduce at a rate of about 2,000,000,000 in three months.

You can use a contact insecticide as a spray or a dip. Follow the container directions. Repeat the treatment three times with 7 days between each treatment. Maggi Crist (*African Violet Magazine* Sept./Oct. 1992) said she had great luck with Avid®. It is a little expensive, but took only a little to make up a gallon of spray.

When I had mites I saved only a few plants. I took leaves from the plants I really wanted to save and washed them in a bleach solution. I potted them in separate small cups, and put them in plastic bags. I kept them separate from my healthy plants. (They were in another room.) Even when they grew into small plants, I watched them for a long time before I let them back into my plant room.

Broad Mites

Leaves become brittle and curl under at the edges. Leaves will split and become ragged. Use the same treatment as for cyclamen mites. Some experts recommend disposing of plants.

Red Spider Mites

Foliage gets a rusty or mottled look, and fine, spidery webs can be seen. If you shake the leaves over a piece of paper you may see tiny specks that crawl around. Isolate plants. Spider mites dislike moisture, so a regular spraying with water will discourage them. Use the same treatment as for cyclamen mites.

SOIL MEALY BUGS

Also known as Pritchard mealy bugs. It looks like a very white sesame seed, or grain of rice (Marge Huntley,

African Violet Magazine Nov./Dec. 1988). Small, white, oval, waxy specks that resemble pieces of perlite. Prod with a pin and, if it is a mealy bug, it moves, but very slowly (Pauline Bartholomew, *African Violet Magazine* March/April 1989).

It lives underground and can be seen around the neck of the plant, just under the soil, and on the outside of the soil ball. It is found throughout the root. If community trays are used, mealy bugs will spread from plant to plant. If wick watering, they may be seen floating on the surface of the water.

Solution: Diatomaceous earth is your safest defense against soil mealy bug (Georgene Albrecht, *African Violet Magazine* May/June 1992). Foliar Sprays will not control this pest. The accepted treatment is to drench every week for six weeks, and then again every two or three months for a year. Malathion has been used with varying degrees of success (*African Violet Magazine* Nov./Dec.1988).

FOLIAR MEALY BUG

White, cottony specks on petioles, in axils, and on backs of leaves.

Pauline Bartholomew recommends that the whole plant be put in a plastic bag and trashed. If you really want to save the plant, you can dip a cotton swab in alcohol and touch each cottony speck with it. After applying the alcohol, hold each plant on its side under a slow-running faucet of warm water. This will wash off excess alcohol. You should repeat this every day until they are gone. If the infestation is advanced, spray the entire collection. Mix 1/4 teaspoon of 50% malathion with one quart of warm water. Repeat three more times at seven-day intervals. Or to reach safely all foliage folds, put a plastic collar around the soil and dip the plants in a solution of malathion 50 or Cythion®.

THRIPS

Thrips is both plural and singular. But the chances are if you see one thrips there are a lot more thrips (Walt Maurus, "A Thrips Trip", *African Violet Magazine* March/April 1990).

They may look like a bit of "dust" on your violet. They chew into the yellow pollen sacs on your violet flowers, and their activity spills the pollen on the flower petals, making them look dusty. If you blow on the flower, you may see them running outward from the center of the flower to the "safety" of the underside of the petal. They are very mobile and can run, jump, and fly.

Solution: The most effective treatment is to remove all buds and flowers once thrips are seen. Buds, too, because somehow thrips can be found in buds before they open. Spray plants with PT-1300® (18 oz aerosol spray) about once every 5-7 days for two or three sprayings, as eggs may be hatching on the plant. This is a systemic, meaning it

is absorbed by the plant, so you don't have to spray as often (Neil D. Lipson, *African Violet Magazine* March/April 1993).

SPRINGTAILS

Small, light-colored pests around the bottom of pots and in saucers. They will not eat your violets - they eat soil. Rubbing the pot with soapy water will discourage them.

FUNGUS GNATS

Small, dark flying insects that fly out of pots and usually up your nose at the slightest movement. Place No-Pest Strips on each light stand for a few weeks. You can tap the pots and then zap them with bursts of aerosol pesticide spray. Also spray the soil surface of each pot. Do this every day for 10 days or so (Pauline Bartholomew, *African Violet Magazine* March/April 1989).

You might try a drench of malathion used at half of the recommended strength.

An old-fashioned cure is one tablespoon cloudy ammonia to 5 liters of water, used as a drench (Marge Huntley, *African Violet Magazine* Nov./Dec. 1988).

FUNGUS DISEASES

Fungus diseases (crown rot, root rot, and powdery mildew) may be caused by poor air circulation, crowded conditions, high humidity, or nights with temperatures much colder than daytime.

I have found using Physan 20® prevents fungus diseases from accruing. It can be put in the water you use for watering your plants (1/8 teaspoon per gallon of water).

Crown Rot

The long outer leaves droop over the edge of the pot. The leaves are limp. The crown breaks away from the root ball under very little pressure. The plant can easily be lifted off of the pot.

Root Rot

Leaf stalks become jelly-like where they droop over the side of the pot. You may find an orange-brown or rust-colored lesion where the petiole touches the pot rim. Remove any affected leaves, and cut as far down on the stem as you can. Flush the soil with heavy watering using Physan, three times in an hour.

Powdery Mildew

Appears as a white powder on the leaves, flowers, and flower stems.

Treatment for all fungus diseases: Spray with fungicide such as Benlate®. You can also use Subdue® (1/2 teaspoon per gallon of water).

Reprinted with permission from "African Violet Leaves", publication of the Illinois AVS, Inc.

Question Box



James H. Smith
1449 Paloma Lane
Dunedin, Florida 34698-4317

It has been about ten months since departing Buffalo. Life in Dunedin has been wonderful. It is great to be able to grow Gesneriads under the bushes, trees, front porch, and every where else that I can plant or hang them. There is a nice breeze from the Gulf of Mexico that is non-stop, even on the hottest of days. The humidity is starting to climb into the 90's and the orchids love it. I have collected about 25 plants and they are already blooming.

The aforementioned plants are doing well, but the violets need a little more work and patience. When I first transplanted the violets, I used the potting medium brought from Buffalo. In the north, we used heavier soil mixes (some with soil), and this mix does not work here in Florida. Plants stay wet too long. I get "yelled" at all the time that I need to "change my ways" and think southern. Well y'all, after much work and repotting, finally I see some improvements. The potting medium is as light as a feather (two thirds Promix to one third perlite). The porosity is very high and water passes right through the mix. Since the humidity is very high here, a lighter mix is necessary to allow the plants time to dry out (not bone dry) between watering. There is still much to learn. When you move to a different part of the country, the growing conditions are going to be different.

QUESTION: *Why is it important to set containers of water intended to become fertilizer water aside for a period of time? Should one add the fertilizer before setting the water aside?*

ANSWER: In many parts of the country, water can be treated with heavier amounts of chlorine or fluorine. These chemicals, which are added to combat bacteria, can be harmful to the tender roots of some plants. Since these chemicals are a gas, they will evaporate from the water over time. Water set overnight in an open container will have small amounts of these chemicals and will be less harmful. If you do set water overnight, fertilizer can be added before use, or at the time the water is drawn. It really does not matter when the fertilizer is added.



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

QUESTION: *Should I alternate fertilizers? If so, how often?*

ANSWER: All plants, indoors and out, need an adequate supply of nitrogen, phosphates and potash together with small amounts of trace elements. There are three types of fertilizers: insoluble or soluble powders and granules, pills and sticks, and liquid feeds. Some or all contain the necessary nitrogen, phosphates, potash and trace elements. You must read the analysis written on the label. By law the label must state the analysis of the product. Should you alternate? This depends upon what type of fertilizer is being used. All plants need trace elements such as boron, copper, iron, cobalt, calcium, magnesium, zinc and molybdenum. So, a fertilizer containing all of these elements would be the desirable one to use, and therefore, alternating fertilizers would not be necessary. I do not alternate fertilizers. Select one brand such as Peters professional all purpose plant food (20-20-20) plus trace elements. In using fertilizers, it is important to be consistent. If you tend to feed once a month, or use a weaker feed in between, you will end up with uneven growth. One quarter teaspoon of fertilizer added to a gallon of water is the best method of insurance that your plants are receiving all the nutrients required, all the time.

QUESTION: *Are timers a necessity when growing under lights?*

ANSWER: When violets are grown under lights the normal light exposure for good even growth is between nine to ten hours per day. The light can be adjusted prior to show to speed up or slow down the blooming process. Unless you want to be bothered to turn the lights on and off daily, a time clock is a necessity.

QUESTION: *Why do some growers place a layer of perlite on the bottom of the pot before adding regular potting soil?*

ANSWER: Adding perlite to the bottom of the pot before adding soil helps with drainage. If the potting medium contained enough perlite to increase porosity, the perlite at the bottom of the pot would not be necessary. It depends upon your growing conditions as to what type of potting medium to use. The general rule that I follow is that the more humid your growing conditions are kept, the higher the soil porosity must be. In Florida, this rule is very important during the summer when temperatures are in the 90's and the humidity is near 100% each day! Perhaps I should eat some perlite to stay cooler!

QUESTION: *When wicking plants, does it make a difference how the wick is arranged in the soil? I know one grower who circles it around the bottom of the pot, and another, who draws it to the top of the soil.*

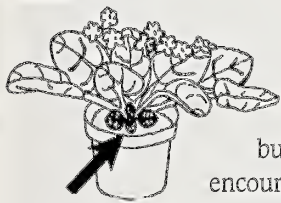
ANSWER: The purpose of using wicks is to ensure that the soil makes contact with the water source via capillary action, keeping the soil evenly moist. As long as this is the end result, it does not matter how the wick is arranged in the soil. If the soil dries out, either the wick is too small in circumference, or it needs to be re-arranged. Keep the reservoir filled with water. Check with someone who wick-waters successfully as to the method that works best.

QUESTION: *My energy-conscious husband constantly turns the lights on my plant stand off (when I'm not home), claiming that the natural light coming in from the near-by patio door emanates the amount of light my violets need. I say they need consistent amounts of light each day. Who's right?*

ANSWER: A SLAP ON THE HAND IS WORTH A POUND OF CURES! Inconsistent light or not enough of it will cause the foliage to reach and twist. This causes uneven growth. HANDSOFFTHELIGHTSWITCHEN!

QUESTION: *Recently, I had to purchase florescent light tubes, and noticed that the only ones available were 34 watts. I couldn't find the regular 40 watt tubes that I usually used. The manager told me that they would work and that they were energy saving tubes which emitted the same amount of light that the 40 watt tubes did. I brought them home and installed them and all they did was flicker rapidly. I brought them back for a refund and now I am stuck!*

ANSWER: In 1992, Congress in its Energy Act decided that manufactures had to come up with more energy efficient lighting methods and supplies. This has caused major problems with individuals and industry, because the 34 watt tubes would not work in some of the existing fixtures. After many complaints from customers (mine was probably the loudest) at the local lighting store, 40 watt tubes suddenly appeared. The manufacturer was Philips. I was told by the manager that the 34 watt tubes emitted the same light as the 40 watt tubes. They still didn't work. I contacted an engineer at Philips who told me that all manufactures had to stop making the old tubes as of last October. However, Philips told me that they do make a 40 watt energy efficient tube. This tube worked in my fixtures. The old tubes contained halo phosphors, which used more energy to illuminate. Now, the material used is called rare earth tri-phosphors with a color rendering index of 70, which uses less energy. The lumens of the old 40 watt tubes were 3050 with a color index of 62. The lumens of the 40 watt energy efficient tubes are 3200 with a color index of 70. To make a long story short and less confusing, the new tubes are stronger. Each time tubes are replaced, reduce the timers to about six hours per day for a week, with a gradual increase of one hour per day until you reach nine hours. This will help the plants to acclimate to the change. If you are still confused, you may reach Philips at 1-800-555-0050.



WHAT IS A SUCKER?

A sucker is the beginning of a new crown. Once growth shows four leaves and no evidence of a bud, it is considered a sucker. Suckers should be removed on single-crowned plants. Suckers should be encouraged on multiple-crown plants, such as trailers, some species plants and other gesneriads.

According to AVSA rules, a single-crown African violet shall be eliminated from consideration for an award if it has a sucker. This means that if a judge sees a sucker on a miniature, semiminature, or standard African violet, they cannot judge it.

So, if one of your single-crowned plants has a sucker, remove the entire sucker before you enter it in an AVSA Judged Show.

Sources: AVSA Handbook For African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges. Line art from "Growing To Show" by Pauline Bartholomew

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Showcase

Mid-America

*New Introduction from Display Table of
The Violet Showroom*

*1997 AVSA National Show
Standard*

Photo Credit: Gus Francisco



Rob's Toorooka

Best Trailer 1997 National Show

Exhibited By: Ron Ennis

Hybridized By: R. Robinson

Photo Credit: Gus Francisco



REPRODUCTION

by Keith Lind
Australia

African violet growers are certainly very fortunate to have so many "Irons in the Fire", so to speak, when it comes to reproduction of their favorite plants.

Reproduction by leaf cutting is the most commonly used method and in fact the only method used by most growers.

By using seed resulting from hybridizing one is able to produce a very large number of plants. Unfortunately, few of these bear resemblance to the parent plants and many are actually very inferior to the parent plants.

Many plants will not reproduce true to variety and this is especially so in the case of chimeras.

The most commonly used method of propagation to ensure a high percentage of plants like or similar to the parent plant is to grow from side shoots. Side shoots are produced by most plants from time to time. It is generally accepted that young plants are more prone to produce side shoots prior to coming into flower for the first time. Side shoots are in fact small plantlets that develop in the axil of some of the leaves where the leaf joins the main stem or trunk of the plant. They should not be mistaken for developing flower stalks and are quite easily recognized once the grower has a little experience.

A side shoot has four small leaves whereas a flower stalk has only two small leaves or leaflets. The first developing flower bud can be seen positioned in the center of the two tiny leaflets. The flower bud will usually show some color, making it quite distinguishable from a side shoot.

Side shoots should be removed as soon as recognized so that the plant will direct all its energy into the production of roots and leaves, and ultimately flowers. If allowed to remain on the plant, side shoots will continue to grow and cause a multi-crowned plant to develop. Flowering then is inhibited and the plant loses its pleasing shapeliness or symmetry. Occasionally side shoots are produced from the main stem or trunk of the plant below soil level. Some people refer to them as suckers, but suckers and side shoots are one and the same thing and should be carefully removed.

These side shoots can be very valuable as a source of new plants which in a high percentage of cases prove to be the same as the parent. If using side shoots to grow new plants, allow them to develop until reasonably large enough to handle. They can then be removed by using an

instrument to gently gouge them away from their point of connection, which is at the base of a leaf. It is also partly connected to the main stem, or trunk, so that when it comes away a considerable amount of tissue forms the base of the side shoot.

Growers all have their individual methods of planting side shoots, but basically they can be treated similarly as a plantlet that has been grown from leaf. The only difference is that most side shoots do not have a root system when removed. I use my regular potting mix in a small pot and simply make a small depression in the mix into which I gently press the base of the side shoot and water sparingly. Do not fertilize for approximately four weeks, giving the tiny plant time to have developed a root system. Once the plantlet is growing nicely, it can be treated just like any other African violet and potted up when large enough.

A fourth method of propagation is available by use of the flower stalk or peduncle. I find this is the most reliable way of obtaining plants that are true to variety. That is to say, they mostly bear the same characteristics as the parent plant.

Chimeras and some fantasies are best propagated by this method but it can take from six to twelve months or even longer to produce plantlets. The flower stalk should be taken from the mother plant when at least one flower on the bunch is fully open. It will be noticed that immediately beneath the flowers and buds two tiny leaves, or leaflets, project from the flower stalk almost at right angles on either side. Gently cut off all the flowers and flower buds taking great care that even the tiniest buds are removed. Cut the flower stalk off at about 2 cm below the leaflets. This piece of flower stalk, still with its two leaflets attached, should be planted in a small pot using your favorite potting mix. Dampen the mix and insert the short flower stalk into the mix but leave the two leaflets just above soil level. It is a good idea to make a small terrarium in which to place the pot then place it in a warm position in good light.

Depending on the conditions, tiny shoots should appear in the axils of the two leaflets within about eight weeks but it does sometimes take much longer. As the shoots appear try to encourage them to produce roots by gently banking the mix against their base. Do not disturb them until it is seen that they are growing into healthy young plantlets (usually eight to twelve weeks from the appearance of

shoots). They can then be potted up and treated like any other African violet.

I somehow always feel that these plantlets are a little bit special and tend to watch over them more carefully than those grown by other methods.

I must warn here that not all attempts using this method are successful as the very small pieces of plant material used tend to rot off. I find, however, that if they survive the first two or three weeks there is a good chance

they will produce plantlets.

Now that you are familiar with these methods of propagation there should be no shortage of plants in your collection, with hopefully a few making it to the show tables and perhaps a few left over to sell at displays and promotions.

*Reprinted with permission from "The African Violet"
The Official Journal of the AVA of Australia, Inc.*



Experiences of a New Judge

by Chris Orcholski • Huntington Beach, CA

I had the pleasure of judging my first African violet show last month. My mom had told me how special it was to judge a show, but I didn't know just how special until I did it for myself. I took the test, given by Ralph Breden, last July. That was an experience in itself.

I passed the test and received my judge's card; then there was only the wait. February came around and I went to my first judge's council meeting. It was a treat seeing all those experienced judges and well known figures in the African violet and gesneriad communities. I was in awe.

My name went on the judges list that is sent to all the clubs, and a week later I received a letter inviting me to judge at the South Coast Show. I was excited, especially when my mom was also invited to judge the show. I really don't know how I would have done it without her. I was a little nervous. A few days later, another letter came, and it was another invitation. I couldn't believe it – two shows!

The day of my first show finally arrived. When we got to the Botanical Gardens, my mom gave me the scoop on what to expect. We were warmly greeted by members of the club, then browsed the sales tables. What a selection to choose from! I put a few plants aside for later and was introduced to the other judges as they arrived. What wonderful ladies! We shared a yummy breakfast, then got

to work.

We split into two panels and Ralph handed us our list of classes to judge. I wasn't completely sure how to judge a show and was surprised to find it easier in some ways than I had expected. I was given some very good pointers on how to judge plants, what to look for, and how to choose the Best In Class. Boy, that can be tough! I have to tell you though, there weren't too many plants without blue ribbons! That was the most beautiful show I have seen in a very long time. The number of standards entered was unbelievable, and they were just gorgeous. After the judging was completed we had a great lunch, and I went back to cruise the sale aisles once more. Almost everything was gone! I'm not kidding! While we were eating lunch a couple of buses pulled up and the passengers bought almost everything in sight. I was sure glad that I had picked out my favorites before the show!

I had a marvelous time being treated like a dignitary and encourage everyone to become a judge! That was a day I'll never forget.

*Reprinted with permission from the
"Grow 'n Study News" Publication of the
Grow & Study Gesneriad Club Newsletter, CA*

In Memory

BETTY SHIELDS

Betty Shields of Minneapolis, MN passed away in March, 1997. A dedicated member of the Minnesota AVS for 35 years, Betty served as Treasurer, Secretary, Director, Historian-Librarian and Membership Chairman. Also a member of AVSA, Betty served as Convention Treasurer for the 1973 AVSA Convention in Minneapolis.

YVON DECELLES

Yvon Decelles passed away in April, 1997. A leading French-Canadian grower, shower, and hybridizer of

African violets, Yvon will long be remembered for his enthusiasm in the pursuit of beauty, and his devoted friendship.

SUSAN EMMERGENCE PYLE

Susan Emmergene Pyle of Pensacola, FL, passed away in January, 1997. A Charter Member of the AVS of Pensacola, she was also a member of AVSA, Life Member of Dixie AVS, and served the AVS of Pensacola and Dixie as Parliamentarian for many years. Susan was also a Master Flower Judge.

HOW TO FIND A POTTING MIX

You may think that all potting mixes sold at nurseries, hardware stores, etc., are more or less the same. Some brands are lightweight (will dry out too quickly) and others are very heavy (having a lot of sand in the mix will make it compact tightly.) So as you can see, they are not all alike. The labels that list the ingredients of the mix often don't list everything or even the exact amount. Peggy Campbell of the Molbak's Nursery in Woodinville, WA said, "They can put almost anything in a bag, slap a label on it, and call it potting soil." Usually the ingredients on the label are listed in descending order according to quantity. For example, Canadian sphagnum peat moss (or "peat," compost, fir bark or "forest products.") and sand, perlite, pumice, dolomite limestone, and a wetting agent.

The first thing to help you know what combination of ingredients is good for your plant needs is to acquire some knowledge of individual ingredients. Second and most important is trial and error - to determine what works for your personal environmental conditions.

Garden Soil

For plants that are growing in the ground, there is a natural gravity pull (assuming there is no hardpan that will limit drainage.) This pulls water down through the soil to drain away. One of the main reason not to use garden soil: Containers are too shallow for gravity to be able to work properly, so you have to create good drainage by using ingredients (perlite, pumice, sand & etc.) of the right size to create good drainage.

Peat Moss & Ground Bark

Canadian sphagnum peat moss, fir or redwood bark are widely used in potting mixes. When 'peat moss' is listed on the label, beware because this may be Michigan or Delta peat - neither has good air-holding capacity.

Sphagnum Peat Moss

A more expensive product, it is durable (doesn't break down as fast as forest products), has a high water-holding capacity and good aeration. Even if the planting medium is wet, air is still available to roots. If it dries out, it is difficult to rewet.

Forest Products

Less expensive, and break down faster than peat moss.

The mix eventually compacts - limiting aeration. This product should always contain perlite or pumice in the mix. The best bark for potting mixes is composted. If it is too fresh, it could be high in tannins (toxic substances). Wood products use up nitrogen as they break down and it will be depleted from the mix. Manufacturers try to compensate for this by adding nitrogen. If too much has been added a high salt content will result - which can burn the roots of sensitive plants.

Compost

Compost can be made from almost anything, but not all compost products are good to use. If the label says "composted fir bark and sawdust" this is better than "mushroom compost", which is often high in salts and are potentially harmful to sensitive plants.

Pumice, Perlite and Sand

Adds airspace for improved drainage. *Perlite* (more expensive) and *pumice* (*vermiculite*) are lightweight materials derived from volcanic glass (and are sterile). The best mixes contain 10 to 15 percent *perlite* or *pumice* (and/or *vermiculite*.)

Sand (the cheapest), doesn't hold water, is heavy, and, if it's rounded and too fine grained (like table salt or fine sugar), it can clog airspace and hinder drainage. *Mined sand*, which is coarser and sharper-edge, is preferable.

Limestone, pH, and Fertilizer

Manufacturers add limestone (dolomite is preferable) to the soil to raise the pH. Potting mixes that contain peat moss are acidic, usually with a pH of 4 (the optimum range is 5.5 to 6.5 for potting mixes).

Nutrients and Additives

Most manufacturers don't list nutrient analysis on labels because doing so would bring them under fertilizer label laws. If listed, the nutrient amounts may be insignificant.

Earthworm castings are sometimes included in organic potting soils, which add nutrients to the mix. When combined with peat moss, they're beneficial. Too many castings can make the mix as hard as a rock, when water is added.

continued on page 37

BLUE BOY

by Susan Baumgardner
Knoxville, TN

If I could grow only one African violet (scary thought isn't it?), it would be Blue Boy 1948. I can always depend on Blue Boy to bloom even when neglected.

I started Blue Boy from a leaf sent to me from an elderly violet judge now deceased. She had grown Blue Boy since the early days of violetry.

One of the earliest named varieties from Armacost and Royston in California, Blue Boy was very popular. According to author Montague Free's All About African Violets, 1951, "Blue Boy in particular captured the interest of the house plant public because of its color, floriferousness, and ease of culture."

Blue Boy also played an important part in violet history. The first double bloom, first pink bloom, and first geneva-edged bloom were all sports of Blue Boy.

Old varieties that drop their blooms, like Blue Boy, are not popular today. However, Blue Boy has a simple classic beauty of bloom and foliage that has almost disappeared from the violet world.



A lot of African violets have come and gone since Blue Boy appeared on the scene. I believe Blue Boy still deserves a place on my window sill, and should not be forgotten.

SHOW TIPS

TIP FOR MEASURING MINIATURES

Use a 6-inch (inside diameter, if possible) embroidery hoop to measure miniatures. Set the hoop on a table, place each miniature in the middle of the hoop. Since a miniature must be 6 inches or less – no leaves should touch the hoop. Blooms can extend past the hoop, but not the leaves.



TIPS FOR MEASURING SEMIMINIATURES

Basically the same as for miniatures. But, use an 8-inch (inside diameter, if possible) embroidery hoop to measure semi-miniatures. Blooms can extend past the hoop, but not the leaves.



Reprinted with permission from the CA Council News

"How To Find A Potting Mix" continued from page 36

Wetting agents help the peat moss in your mix absorb moisture. When soil mixes containing peat moss dry out, it can be very difficult to moisten. Mixes that list a wetting agent are considered one of the better choices.

Soil polymers are water-absorbing gels that supply water to plant roots. When added to your mix it will benefit those who do not water uniformly or are inconsistent. Care must be taken not to over-water or your mix could stay too wet and may cause problems with rotting.

Sewage sludge (may be listed as biosolids) can be

tainted with heavy metals. Avoid using them when growing vegetables.

Choosing a commercial mix

The label should specifically identify the products inside. You may want to avoid any mix where the label just says "peat," "forest products," or "compost." The label on an inexpensive brand may be misleading, as the label may state "sphagnum peat moss" but it may only contain a minuscule amount. "You get what you pay for" could be true here.

Reprinted with permission from 'Violet Talk', publication of the Portland AVS, OR

From Dream To Reality

by Frankie Pletzer • Beaumont, TX

About twelve years ago, a young Beaumont, Texas horticulturist by the name of Warren Loose, had a dream. His dream was to someday see a conservatory in the Garden Center in Beaumont's Tyrrell Park. The Garden Center was the only public garden in southeast Texas, was visited by people from all 50 states and many foreign countries, but it needed a crowning jewel; a conservatory.

Unfortunately, Warren did not live to see his dream come true. He died in 1993, but he did live long enough to see his conservatory idea approved by the Beaumont Council of Garden Clubs.

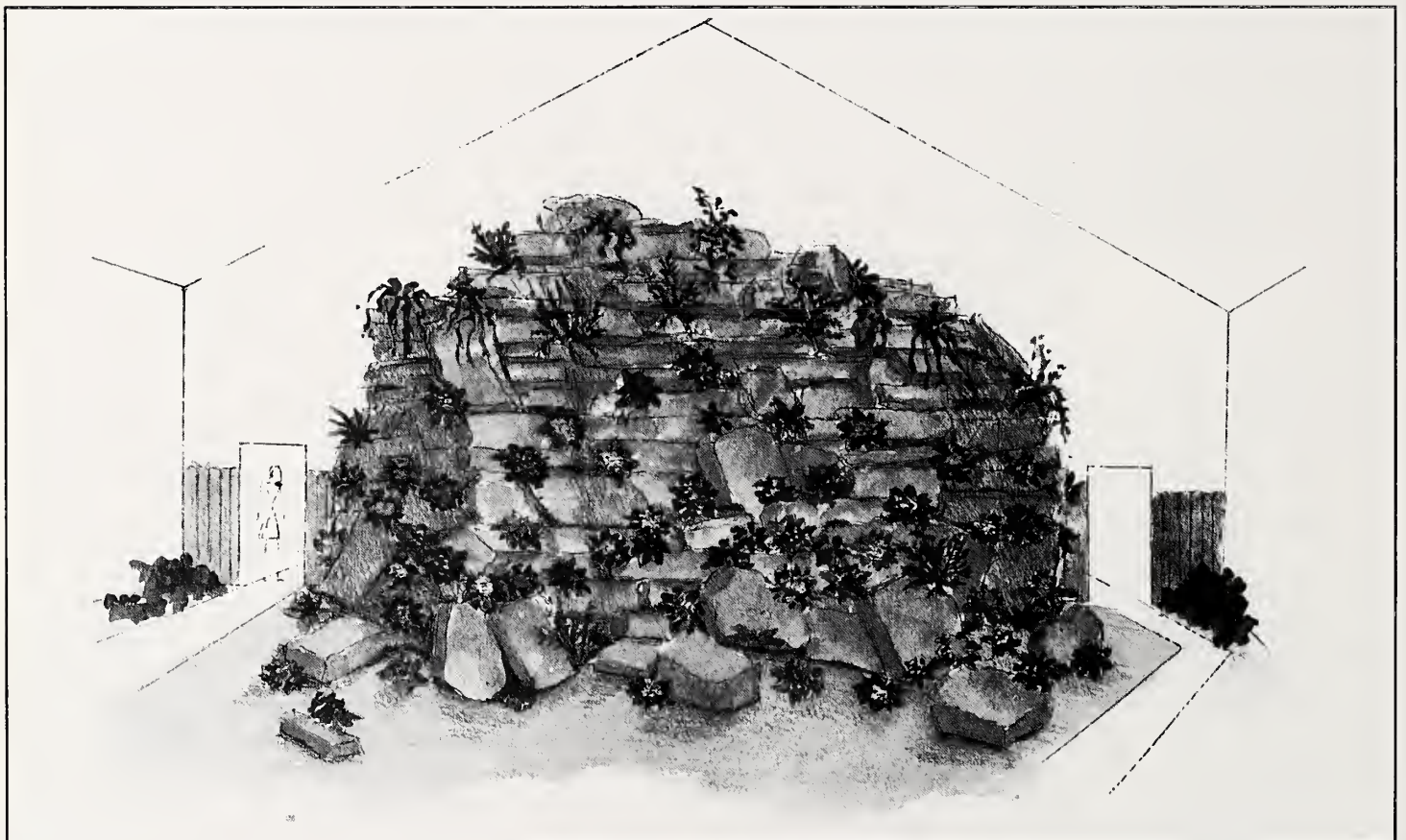
After his death, his mother, Muriel Loose, and his business partner, Bob Whitman, along with the Council, took on the staggering challenge of raising enough money to build the structure. Finally, the Warren Loose

Conservatory began to become a reality.

The fund raising for the conservatory has been done mainly by private and corporate donations and individual bequests. Construction on the half million dollar, 10,500 sq. ft. facility began in April, 1997 and the dedication is planned for September 7, 1997. What a thrill it is to see this dream finally coming true!

The conservatory will house important plant collections, and will offer unique educational opportunities for plant lovers from all over the world.

One of the important features will be an African violet rock mountain. The African violets, and related gesneriads, will be planted on a 14 ft. high, 28 ft. long mountain, as well as along the base at ground level. The plants will be set in crevices that have been bored into the rock and will



Planned African Violet Rock Mountain

be watered by a misting system that is to be built into the mountain during construction. The result will be to show how violets grow in their wild, natural environment.

It is hoped that a *Saintpaulia* species collection can be started and maintained here, as well as some of the original African violet hybrids. It seems only fitting that this collection be in the same city as the AVSA national office. It would be great publicity for AVSA and its members.

Other features in the conservatory are a Cactus and Succulent House; a Prehistoric House complete with dinosaurs for the young and old alike which will be planted with palms and ferns among a vast collection of petrified wood. There will also be a Tree of Life Memorial festooned with bromeliads, ferns, orchids and jungle cactus and a tropical waterlily pool, as well as a plaza with a vine arbor suitable for weddings. The focal point is a 42 ft. rectangular pool with a giant waterfall at the end, opposite the front entrance. On each side of the waterfall will be lush cascade gardens.

The conservatory is the largest horticultural undertaking in our area and it will be staffed by volunteers from the various clubs that make up the Beaumont Council of Garden Clubs. My club, The AVS of Beaumont, has been a member of this organization since July, 1973.

For 25 years the Council has built and maintained the Gardens in Tyrrell Park. Recently, a decision was made to change the name of the Gardens to Beaumont Botanical Gardens, only the fifth in the State of Texas. The Council is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and most funding for the conservatory will come from tax-deductible contributions. Plans have been drawn for a Visitors Center and Gift Shop, and a small fee will be charged to view the conservatory, but the bulk of the funding will be from private donations.

If you would like to be a part of promoting the African violet by making a contribution of money or plants, please contact the Conservatory Chairman, Bob Whitman, 2355 Rusk St., Beaumont, Texas 77702, or phone (409) 835-0644.

For those of you coming to the Lone Star Convention in Houston this November, please make plans to stop in Beaumont and visit this new attraction, along with our AVSA national office. Also, those coming to Houston for the AVSA National Convention in April, 1999, think about making us a MUST place to visit. By 1999 we will be "full-grown" and even more spectacular. In the meantime, to each and everyone, I'd just like to say, "Y'all come to see us!"

HOW WELL IS YOUR WELL WATER?



by Lucille Prutsman
Nashville, NC

Ever hear of "sick" water? African violets, being the fussy plants they are, often cannot tolerate conditions unsuitable to their needs.

I've grown violets over 30 years and never experienced the problems I've had since I began using a new water supply from a deep well years ago. At that time, I began noticing that the underside of mature leaves exhibited large, 'watery' areas unless kept very dry. Eventually, all leaves in the outer row yellowed and needed to be removed, resulting in very small plants. Some varieties developed a "wet looking" line circling the leaf edge, and always on the underside. It stayed there although those leaves never yellowed. The plants were very slow-growing, many leaves cupped upwards, and there was excessive hairiness in the crown.

The rest of my fellow club members had city water and had not experienced this problem.

I tried different fertilizers and soil mixes, changed

culture, temperature and humidity and still nothing improved. I received lots of advice from friends trying to help. Leaf samples were sent to various experts and also to the state lab. They had tested my water at 6.8 and found it good for growing violets. I remembered seeing the same malady at a commercial grower once, and wondered if other violet lovers experienced the same thing.

Then, a member of our African violet club suggested that I try Physan, 1/2 tsp. to a gallon of water, for all watering, especially in the reservoirs. Because of the problem, I had given up on wick watering.

Physan is a disinfectant used to control fungus, bacteria and algae in water, and surprisingly, it proved to be the cure! Is there a fungus in the well water that I use?

Whatever the cause, I'm rejoicing, and so are the violets! The cure was so easy, I just wished I had tried Physan a few years earlier!



Aeschynanthus hildebrandii 'Topaz'

Blue Ribbon Winner

1997 AVSA National Show

Exhibited By: **Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses**

Photo Credit: Gus Francisco

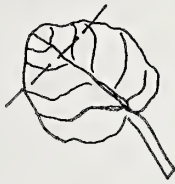
Potting African Violet Leaves

by Barbara Wyckoff
Sun City West, AZ

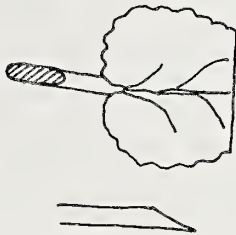
SUPPLIES:

- Healthy, Medium leaf with 1 1/2" stem
- Potting mix (recipe below)
- Small cup (Solo), aprox. 2 1/2"
- 6" piece of 2 ply yarn (or other synthetic fiber string)
- Small plastic bag

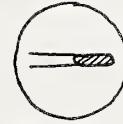
1. Prepare Potting Mix - equal parts perlite, vermiculite & potting soil
2. Moisten mix slightly with WATER ONLY to snowball consistency. (No fertilizer)
3. Punch hole in bottom of cup.
4. Label cup with plant name.
5. Prepare wicks - cut and wet
6. Insert wick through hole in bottom of cup. Hold at top of cup edge.
7. Put a spoonful of potting mix into pot and pack down slightly.
8. Fold wick top back into cup, cover with more potting mix, press, add more potting mix almost to top of cup.
9. Cut off 1/4" from the top of the leaf.



10. Slice the stem at a slant.



11. Lay leaf, face down, on top of cup edge for 30 minutes.
12. Poke hole in mix near edge of cup. Put leaf with slant at stem away from edge of cup into the hole.



13. If soil mix appears too dry, add small amount of plain water.
14. Put plastic bag over top of cup and seal with a rubber band.
15. Put the bag at the edge of the light stand for 1 month. Check occasionally. If no moisture is apparent in the bag, add a slight amount of water, then recover until baby plants are present.
16. When baby plants have dime-sized leaves, remove the bag. Place wick in fertilized water or capillary matting.
17. Remove mother leaf when the baby leaves are nickel-sized.
18. Transplant into starter pots.

TRANSPLANTING BABIES

1. Put 2-ply wick into starter pot.
2. Add 1/2 layer of wet perlite to bottom of pot.
3. Lay the top of the wick across the perlite.
4. Cover with the prepared potting mix.
5. Press down lightly.
6. Fill pot to top with potting mix.
7. Make a hole for the plant and insert the plant.
8. Gently tuck the mix around the plant.
9. Place on a reservoir or mat.

The information above was sent to me by Reneé Rossman, a big fan of Barbara Wyckoff and fellow member of the Desert Sun AVS of Phoenix, AZ.

When your club presents an interesting program, please follow Renee's example and submit it to the AVM, to be shared with all our members.

Editor

"And the winners are..."



Mary Loewer
3504 Parkhaven Dr.
Plano, TX 75975

The Shows and Judges Committee recommended that the form used by affiliates for the "And the winners are..." column be revised for brevity and clarity. The new form will contain the following information: Best Standard AVSA Collection, 2nd Best Standard AVSA Collection, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection, 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection, Best In Show, Best Standard (one single crown plant), Best Semiminiature (one single crown plant), Best Miniature (one single crown plant), Best Trailer (one multiple crown plant), Best species, Best Gesneriad (one only), Best Design (one only), Horticulture Sweepstakes, and Design Sweepstakes. Any additional information will be eliminated from the column.

BLUFF CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Melodie Kimi, Lela Marie; Best Standard: Lela Marie, **Carolyn Cooper**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Von's Baby Jay, Little Prize, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best In Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Wichita Baby, **Katherine Steele**. Best species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marian Zoller**; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

AVS OF GREATER NY INC., NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jean, Heavenly Notes, Bud's Melanie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Heavenly Notes; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rose Ghossn**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sarsparilla, **Ray Coyle**. Best Miniature: Pixie Skies, **Grace Crawford**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Sylvia Svitak**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Helen Szymko**.

THE LATE BLOOMERS, WI - Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Candy Crystals; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Hand Painted', **Jan Kutzleb**. Best Standard: Maverick's Faded Jeans; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Diamond; Best Trailer: Rainbow's Weeping Clown; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mable Lewis**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Carole Zimmerman**.

ILLINOIS AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ms. Pretty, Harbor Blue, Ness' Blue Velvet, **Stephen Covolo**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Fantasy Lace, Ness' Blue Velvet, Optimara California; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Rob's Bo Peep, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Luv-It', **Andrea Worrell**. Best in Show: Bleu Lorraine, **Adelle Johnson**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Martha Compton**. Best Trailer: Teen Trail, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Randy Hillmann**. Best Design, **Ed Johnson**. Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Jean Willey**.

CARLSBAD AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Fantasy Maker, Favorite Child; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lyn Sweeney**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Radiant Haven, Optimara Molokai, The King; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Design, **June Strong**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Audrey Hanthorn**. Design Sweepstakes, **Thurlo Schindler**.

FIRST HALIFAX AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, NS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Leonardo Davinci, Picasso, Playful Dreamer; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Bogeyman, Optimara Little Aztec; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer, Pixie Blue; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ina Beaver**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Shy Bue, Bogeyman; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Anne Brown**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Achilles', **Shirley Turner**.

BAY STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mauna Kea, Satin Sandra, Evening Shade; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mauna Kea; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Susan Gimblet**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Orchid Frills, Super Duper, Country Lilacs, **Althea Major**. Best Semiminiature: Little Shimmer, **Zelda Owens**. Best Miniature: Wunnerful, **Sherry Pearl**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Caitlin Muello**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Bright Eyes', **Pat Couture**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Clark**.

AVSA JUDGES' COUNCIL, ONT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard

Collection: Party Print, Ness' Coral Sunset, Optimara Ontario; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Shirley, Rob's Gray Ghost, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betty Tapping**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Ness' Viking Maiden, Pink Patti, **Tony Hullemann**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Miniature, Ness' Angel Babe, **Irene Henry**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*, **Paul Kroll**. Best Design, **Sonja Sinclair**. Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

POMONA VALLEY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Cirelda, Milky Way Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Gini McCanne**. Best Standard: Mauna Loa, **Marilyn Koeppe**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Iris Keating**. Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Marna Music**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus' x 'Strawberry Crush', **Denise Fortain**. Best Design, **Pat Vinciguerra**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Juanita Perkins**. Design Sweepstakes, **Hilda Douglas**.

CINCINNATI AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fatale Florale, Windy Day, Ode to Beauty; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Chimney Sweep, Rob's Hopscotch; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boondoggle; Best Standard: Fatale Florale; Best Miniature: Everdina; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Black Panther', Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Heather Herzner**. Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Wichman**. Best Design, **Jeannette Martin**.

VENTURA COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, Suncoast Paisley Print, Wild Irish Rose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Suncoast Paisley Print, **Floyd Lawson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Ethel Twiford; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Everdina; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Marcia Shaver**. Best species: *Saintpaulia diffilis*, **Florence Naylor**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Happy Willie', **Leslie Cox**.

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AVC, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Hawaii II, Optimara Van Gogh, Optimara Colorado II, **Mary Ann Switzer**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ashley, Narnely Nancy, Minda Brooke; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sheer Peach, Definitely Darryl, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Marilyn Evensen**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Seduction, Snuggles Rising Star, Rob's Scooter; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ardath Miller**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Phobos, **Marion Hamtil**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Janet Graves**. Best species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **Gary Dunlap**. Best Design: **Fran Russom**. Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Helen Blanton** and **Fran Russom**.

STAMPEDE CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, AB - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Disco Doll, Hector, Definitely Darryl; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hokie Pokie, **Evelyn Tse**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Rob's Ice Maiden, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Miniature: Ami-Peanut; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Margaret Gratto**. Best Standard: Phobos, **Winston Goresky**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Kaiser Friedrich', **Erika Hargesheimer**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Faraway**.

AVS OF SOUTH BAY, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sister Ancilla, Fredette's Moonflower, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Kermit; Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Cherokee; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Evelyn Allustiarti**. Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad (flowering): *Sinningia leucotricha*, **Celine Chase**. Best Gesneriad (foliage): *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Anne Jantzen**. Best Design, **Marge Dado**. Design Sweepstakes, **Irene Thomas**.

UNPREDICTABLE'S AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, MO - Winners: Best

AVSA Standard Collection: The King, Christmas Candy-o, Ness' Bangle Blue; Best Standard: The King, **Wilma Wolverton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Warbonnet, Ness' Candy Pink, Phantom Flash; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina* light; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Linda Golubski**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Rob's Dust Storm, **June Bartrum**. Best Miniature: Rob's Tippy Toe; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Checkerboard', **Katie Davison**.

HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, FL - Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Touchable; Best Miniature: Petite Tart; Design Sweepstakes, **Debbie Dawson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Sundance'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bobbi Johannsen**.

THE VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Lyon's Crown Jewel, Makin' Romance; Best in Show/Best Standard (green foliage): Makin' Romance, **Kay Lorenz**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Anastasia, Granger's Wonderland; Best Standard (variegated): Suncoast Lavender Silk; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bea Marx**. Best Semiminiature (variegated): Moon Craze; Design Sweepstakes, **Lynn Dimaio**. Best Miniature: Shirley's My Trudy, **Gene Allerton**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie', **Jana Nunez**.

TIDEWATER AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Mindi Brooke, Party Print; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Ivory Lace, Rob's Firebrand, Ness' Angel Blush; Best in Show/Best Standard: Still Waters; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hopscotch; Best Miniature/Best Trailer: Wood Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Knight**. Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Rose Dudley**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Norma Griswald**. Best Design, **Carol Van**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marie Mulroy**.

LONG ISLAND AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Lady Blue, Makin' Romance; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Double Brocade', **Dorothy Vogt**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Jewel, Makin' Romance, Bud's Gianna, **Mickey Schnaufer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bashful, Boo Man, Bashful Baby, **Dolores O'Sullivan**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Lil' Hotshot; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeanne Maier**. Best Miniature: Persian Prince, **Diane Lohan**. Best Trailer: Princess Trail, **Marie Caruso**. Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Lillian Banchik**. Best Design, **Lois Szostak**. Design Sweepstakes, **Rosemary Macaluso**.

MOONLIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Dean's Sonata, Teen Surprise; Best Semiminiature: Dean's Sonata; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Diane Clark**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dust Storm, Lavender Rage, Rob's Heat Wave, **Mural Fort**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Standard: Magnolia; Best Miniature: Fourier, **Kyle Coleman**. Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Early Bird', **Velma Lewis**. Best Design, **Jo Cheryl Holcombe**. Design Sweepstakes, **Bonnie Harris**.

FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Picasso, Louise Constant; Best in Show/Best Standard: Party Print; Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Velma', **Martha Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles Rising Star, Dean's Sonata, Spin-Out; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Glendel Dixon**. Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Virginia Linson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Davidson**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ice Queen, Tiger, Christmas Candy-o; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ramblin' Moonbeam, Beacon Trail, Rob's Woolloomooloo; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lee Smith**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Moonlight Valley', **Ann Shirley**. Best Standard (green foliage): Smooth Sailing; Best Standard (variegated foliage): Wild Irish Rose, **Judy Ellis**. Best species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Karen Brownson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hello There, Ness' Moody Blues, Dathyn; Best in Show/ Best Standard: Dathyn; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Adelle Johnson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Irish Flirt, Memory Maker; Best Semiminiature: April Romeo; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Trailer: Linda Darnel, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'White Sprite'; Design Sweepstakes, **Milly Aske**.

OSHKOSH VS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Halo's Aglitter, Jean-Pierre Croteau, Lemon Cream; Best in Show/Best Standard: Caprice; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Mary Ann'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner**. Best Semiminiature: Baby Blue, **Michelle Kretzmann**. Best Miniature: Wee Dreamer; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, Best species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **William Greider**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betsy Fox**.

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue is Blue, Vintage Wine, Stolen Dream; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Best Standard: Vintage Wine, **Louisa Sando**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara New Mexico, Optimara Maui, Granger's

Wonderland; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Sheen'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jo Ellen Bowden**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Glow, Rob's Penny Ante, Rob's Cloudy Skies; Best Miniature: Rob's Cloudy Skies, **Cal Iskra**. Best Design, **Ebby Coleman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Margaret Schmierer**.

LAKE SHORE AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Teen Surprise, Sassy Shirley; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Teen Glow; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jan Bruns**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Willawong, Rob's Woolloomooloo, **Carol Alligrette**. Best in Show/Best species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*; Best Standard: Tomahawk; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Morgan Simmons**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Periwinkle', **Patsy Harms**. Best Design, **Jan Bertram**.

THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Cindi, Bud's Melanie, Muffy; Best in Show/Best Standard: Bud's Cindi; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina* light, **Jane Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Jane, Kumiko, Lela Marie, **Marie Rodenburgh**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Mini Sota, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Hopscotch; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles, **Bud Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Sioux, Rob's Pewter Bells, Snuggles; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita pteropoda*, **Edward Bradford**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein**.

BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Blueberry, Woodland Sprite, Sasha; Best Miniature: Rob's Cloudy Skies; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Cloud Nine', **Florence Di Liberti**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Ode to Beauty, Looking Glass, **Barbara Church**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hopscotch, Little Katherine, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Design, **Lee Borey**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whippoorwill, Ness' Angel Glitter, Rob's Sweet Dreams, **Joe De Simon**. Best Semiminiature: Wee Be; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Frank Senna**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Deborah Powell**.

SUNDOWNERS' AVS, LA - Winners: L'Ambassadeur, Shades of Autumn, Bud's Melanie; Best in Show/Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Mary McFarland**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Irish Flirt; **Robert Truax**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Dean's Aquarius, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Velvet'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Elmer Godeny. Design Sweepstakes(tie): **Elmer Godeny** and **Mary McFarland**. Best Standard: Bridal White; Best Semiminiature: Dean's Plum Peacock, **Lura Weathers**. Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Phillip Martina**.

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF WICHITA FALLS, TX Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Arizona, Optimara New Mexico, Jean-Pierre Croteau; Best in Show/Best Standard: Jean-Pierre Croteau, **Allene Puff**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Lakeshore Silver, Rob's Pink Peek; Best Semiminiature: My Keepsake; Best Trailer: Rob's Willawong; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Walbrick**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Vee Sanger**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Mary Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly', **Jeanie Sleeper**.

COPPER CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Harbor Blue, Pink Patti, Blue Mink; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Porcelain Doll; Best Standard: Pink Patti; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Annabelle** and **Wilson Hart**. Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Ness' Firefly, Aca's Merry Mary; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Match Point; Best Miniature: Midget Lilian; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Laura Holland**. Best Design, **Cathy Best**. Design Sweepstakes, **Robin Yager**.

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Northern Star, Astral Peace, Pensi Alpha, **George Starr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Cirelda, Beacon Trail; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Design, **Linda Lube**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Ness' Firefly, Dean's Plum Peacock; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Little White Clouds, **Louise Merritt**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Jan Kurtz**. Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Jones**.

NORTH STAR AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Alamo Jewel, Bob Serbin, Bud's Cindi; Best in Show/Best Standard: Bud's Cindi; Best Miniature: Petite Tart; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sharon Johnson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Maki, Melodie Heather, Pearls 'n' Rubies; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boo Hoo, Irish Flirt, Rob's Shadow Magic; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fateful Twist, **Barbara Werness**. Design Sweepstakes(tie): **Lottie Krosch** and **Barbara Werness**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Catch Me, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Prince; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Sun Dance', **Sandy Officer**. Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Carol Semaru**. Best Design, **Jinean Schofield**.

HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Satin Ruffles, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, Granger's Angel Frost;

Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Gray Ghost, Rob's Shadow Magic; Best In Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Shadow Magic; Best Standard: Rodeo Bonanza; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha*; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Black Gold', **Catherine Ross**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Pink Skies, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, **Peggy Payne**.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blushing Ivory, Melodie Heather, Melodie Maki; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina* light; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Stargate, Lela Marie; Best in Show/Bug Standard: Opera's Cecilia; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Mars', **Doug Burdick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Perfect Peach; Best Miniature: Rob's Cloudy Skies, **Ralph Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Persian Lace, Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Whodunit, **Diane Evans**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Jean Samiec**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red October, Favorite Child, Wrangler's El Diablo; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Cindy'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Richard Nicholas**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Tutti Frutti, Irish Flirt, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito; Best Design, **Anne Nicholas**. Best Miniature: Rob's Cherry Soda, **Phyllis Reuss**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Design Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry**.

NASA AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Touchable, Wee Be, Dean's Sonata; Best Standard: Purple Robe; Best Semiminiature: Lavender Rage; Best Miniature: Rob's Cherry Soda, **Verna Lawrence**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Pewter Bells, Dean's Cupid; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Onalee McEwen**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Al's Pal', **Dale Martens**.

THIMBLE ISLAND AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sea Drift, Radiance, Optimara Arizona, **Nancy LeMere**. Best in Show/ Best Standard: Ness' Ballyhoo Blue, **Madeline Clem**. Best Semiminiature/Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Gaffan**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Louise Cacace**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*, **John Cacace**.

AVS OF WESTERN NEW YORK, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Designer Dress, Enchanted April, Fantasy Maker; Best Standard: Enchanted April, **Jo Wells**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rapid Transit, Robert Croteau, Optimara Barbados; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina* light; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fred Packer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Heat Wave; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Lace Shadows; Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Laura Fallacaro**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Melanie, Rebel's Ambrosia, The Alps, **Ruth Bann**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, The Alps, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Palma Trapp**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Monkeyshines, Rob's Scooter, Little Pro; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sheer Peach; Best Miniature: Everdina, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginners Luck, Snuggles, Rob's Doohickey; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kenneth Rein**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Faith Drewianka**. Best Trailer: Falling Snow, **Jane Donaho**. Best species:

Saintpaulia grandifolia, **Jude Neumann**.

EVENING AVC OF DES MOINES, IA - Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Ken Wilkinson**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Suzy Mathews**. Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka, **Joyce Jochems**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Striped Leo', **Joan Watts**. Design Sweepstakes, **Kathy Mathews**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Judy Zegers**.

THE MONTGOMERY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Ruff Stuff, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Semiminiature, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Miniature: Rob's Zippidy Doo; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Moseley**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Silver Spook, Ness' Tutti Frutti; Best in Show/Best Standard; Best Design, **Donna Ferguson**. Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Peg Phythyon**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita angustifolia*, **Mary Chamberland**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blushing Ivory, Pink Patti, Optimara Tennessee II, **Patsy Boddy**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Maggie Lee, Apache Blanket; Best in Show/Best Standard: Sonoma Ringo; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Oscar Faoro**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dandy Lion, Irish Flirt, Rob's Calypso Beat, **Leona Faoro**. Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Ronnie', **Marjory Heer**. Best Design, **Mae Mendes**.

INDIANA STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, IN - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hippy Hop, Rob's Pink Puff, Little Prize; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pink Puff, **Judi Nuest**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Trinidad; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Mikita**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Chris Poore**. Best species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* 'Parker'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Libby Watkins**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Wintermint', **Brad Chambers**.

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Flair, Rhapsodie Erika, Red Robe; Best Standard: Rhapsodie Erika; Best Semiminiature: Lollipop Kid; Best Design, **Dale Jasaitis**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Amazing Grace, Rhapsodie Mary, Pink Hill; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jee Jim, Little Pro, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka; Best Miniature: Lavender Imp; Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Panther', **Annemarie Beardsley**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko**.

CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Windy Day, Optimara South Dakota; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Sneed**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Tradition, Kathe Denise, Powwow; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Maxine Garlick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Lemon Cookie, Texas Teen; Best Semiminiature: Texas Teen, **James Sneed**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Pink Patches, **Jo Anne Rogers**. Best Trailer: Rob's Willawong, **Gloria Du Bose**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Hand Painted', **Gayle King**.

AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara West Virginia, Optimara Florida, Blue Is Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Red Flash; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara West Virginia; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Fun Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mildred Patrick**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Ke Wee', **Debbie Hall**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marcella Wright**.

space will be provided at AVSA Convention shows so that they may still be viewed by others.

The yearbooks, especially, offer program ideas to others so we hope you will continue to submit them for display. A name and address will be provided in the January African Violet Magazine.

The designated recipient will display the publications and pass them on to the AVSA Library at the conclusion of the show. Thanks to all of you for the interest you have shown in this area in the past and we encourage you to continue to share your publications by submitting them for display. They are of great interest to many who visit our convention shows.

Attention Affiliates

At the recent AVSA Convention in Florida the AVSA Board voted to eliminate yearbooks, magazines, and newsletters from competition at AVSA Convention shows. Affiliates, when two or more cosponsor a show, Council, State, and Regional groups may continue to include these as a part of their Special Exhibits at their shows. "DISPLAY ONLY"

EQUIVALENTS

3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon
4 tablespoons = 1/4 cup
5 1/3 tablespoons = 1/3 cup
8 tablespoons = 1/2 cup

16 tablespoons = 1 cup or 8 ounces
1 cup = 8 fluid ounces
1 cup = 1/2 pint
2 cups = 1 pint

4 cups = 1 quart
4 quarts = 1 gallon
8 quarts = 1 peck
4 pecks = 1 bushel

MEASUREMENTS FOR COMMONLY USED PRODUCTS

SUPERTHRIVE - Add 1 drop to each gallon of fertilizer solution as a boost to plant growth and vigor of finer roots.

BLOOM BOOSTERS - 1/4 tsp. to gallon only to produce extra bloom for short period.

FISH EMULSION FOR FOLIAR FEEDING - 1/16 tsp. in quart of warm water.

LYSOL SPRAY - Spray over plants from 18" away to eradicate mildew. Will spot blooms.

BAKING SODA - 1/4 tsp. to 1 cup warm water sprayed on leaves to help with mildew. May leave residue spotting.

LYSOL CONCENTRATE - 1/4 tsp. to 1 cup warm water. Spray on leaves for mildew.

PHYSAN - 5 drops to a quart of warm water. Spray for mildew. 1/4 tsp. to gal. of fertilizer mixture to reduce fungi, algae and molds.

CHIPCO - 1/2 tsp. to gal. warm water. Fungicide for Botrytis Blossom Blight.

KELTHANE - 1/4 tsp. per quart of warm water. Use for mite infestation. Spray at 1 week intervals for 3 weeks.

MALATHION - 1/4 tsp. per quart of warm water. Same as Kelthane.

ORTHENE POWDER - (75%) 1/2 tsp. to one quart warm water. Repeat twice at 7 day intervals.

CYGON 2E - 1/4 tsp. to 1 quart of water.

WHITING, BONEMEAL - 1/2 tsp. to gal. warm water. To correct acidity in soil.

EPSOM SALTS - 1/2 tsp. to gal. of warm water. To correct acidity in soil.

DOLOMITE LIME - 1 tbs. per gal. of warm water, twice a month. To correct acidity in soil.

Copy this chart and hang in the plant room for easy reference.

These measurements were collected from violet members and magazines. The amounts are as used, as some containers are not specific. Please **remember to test any product on just one plant**, and be sure, when using chemicals that you wear proper protective clothing. **Always follow all precautions on packages.** These products are safe when used as package directions dictate.

Reprinted with permission from "The Violet Connection" publication of the Ohio State AVS

THIS THING CALLED 'pH'

The expression "pH" is an acronymous reference to 'Puissance de Hydrogen', characterizing the relative level of acidity and/or alkalinity attended to a substance. It is a value expressed in terms of the relative amounts of hydrogen ions (H⁺; protons) and hydroxide ions (OH⁻) present. More succinctly, it can be described as the negative logarithm of the molar concentration of H⁺ ions, or simply $-\log (H^+)/= 10$ pH. And, with that, so much for the academics of the matter!

An acid or base strength of a solution is described as its pH index on a scale of 0 to 14. While the value '7' is neutral, '0' is strongly acidic (something like battery acid). The value '14' on the other extreme would be strongly basic or alkaline (akin to lye or some such substance). Fruits would be an example of slightly acid pH; while pure water is neutral, and soaps would exemplify a slightly alkaline condition.

The measure of pH is crucial to quantitative chemical analysis,

and must be determined with rather precise titration. Control of pH is of major concern in the manufacturing process of food, paper and chemical products, etc. It is no less important in effecting good crop yields in agriculture, the maintenance of water supply quality and such other efforts as acid rain studies and the like.

For the African violet hobbyist there are several means of testing for pH; but, perhaps the best way is with a soil testing kit. There are several kits on the market. Dependable electronic testers are quite expensive, and the tester using litmus paper is too unreliable. Our own preference is to check our water with a pH kit sold by aquarium stores. Regardless of the test method used the results should be reliably verified several times to insure that an accurate check is being made.

Reprinted with permission from "The Violet Connection", publication of the Ohio State AVS

CONTAINER GARDENS

Container Gardens are miniature scenes in which one or more blooming African violet plants, along with other plants, are actually planted and growing in the container. A container garden may be one of four types:

terrariums are plantings in a covered, transparent container;

bottle gardens are plantings in a transparent container with an opening too small for a hand to enter;

dish gardens are plantings in a shallow, dish-like container;

natural gardens are plantings in a container formed from natural material such as driftwood or lava rock.

RULES FOR CONTAINER GARDENS

1. Established container gardens represent the skill of the grower in maintaining long-term growth in a confined space. Therefore, it is suggested that class titles be carefully worded so most established container gardens may be adapted to titles appropriate to the theme of the show.
2. All plants shall be planted in the container and no cut plant material shall be permitted.
3. If exhibits are to be viewed from several sides, this requirement shall be stated in the schedule.
4. Plants in terrariums and bottle gardens shall be completely confined within the container. Terrariums shall have their tops covered; the covering of the tops of bottle gardens is optional.
5. Dish gardens shall not have a cover. "Shallow" is defined as that type of dish in which the preponderance of the foliage extends above the rim of the dish. Thus a bonsai dish and a long stemmed compote would both qualify as dish garden containers. The dish shall not have multiple or divided planting areas.
6. Natural garden containers may have more than one planting area or pocket.

CONTAINER GARDENS AVSA SCALE OF POINTS

Landscape plan	40 points
Suitability of materials	20 points
Condition of materials	20 points
Cultural perfection	10 points
Relation to container	10 points

CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDGING CONTAINER GARDENS

The purpose of container gardens is to demonstrate the creative use of African violet and other plants in a confined space, and in the case of terrariums and bottle gardens in a specific environment.

Landscape plan: The plants and accessories are arranged to create a landscape in miniature. This can be either a portion of a broader scene or a suggestion of meadows, woods, valleys, cliffs, formal or informal gardens, and so on. The effect should be of an established planting and points should be deducted if the exhibit appears to be newly planted.

The concepts of good design should be followed. The combinations of materials should be harmonious and there should be contrast of texture, size, color; and height to add interest. The size of the plants or foliage should be in reasonable proportion to each other. Distinction and originality should be taken into consideration. If the exhibit is to be viewed from more than one side, the design should be effective from more than one side.

Suitability of materials: Plants should be those that are compatible when grown in the same cultural environment. Therefore, African violet plants would not be compatible with cacti or similar plants. Accessories should be appropriate to the class title, the type of planting, and reasonably scaled to the size of the container and each other.

Condition of materials: Plants should be properly groomed and the container and accessories should be clean. Transparent containers should be free of scratches, soil particles, and stains.

Cultural perfection: Cultural perfection is not judged as rigidly as in the horticulture division, but plants should be well-grown and free of pests and diseases. African violets should have a reasonable amount of bloom. Plants should not be leggy or leaning in one direction due to poor light conditions.

Relation to container: Consideration must be given to the size and amount of planted material in proportion to the container. Consideration should also be given to the color and texture of the container in relation to the plants and the landscape style. The container should not dominate the plant material in size, color, or texture.

AVSA Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges

"A Good Leach"

by D. Keith Dabney • San Francisco, CA

Leaching, or flushing, means watering a potted plant with plain water or some other non-fertilizer solution in order to remove any accumulated salts. These salts, or minerals, are present naturally in most water sources, and in fertilizer solutions. Many are important micronutrients (elements other than the "big three" macronutrients listed in the three numbered analysis of fertilizers. Many African violet and other plant growers use a "constant feed" program, meaning that they feed their plants a diluted solution of fertilizer with each watering (called fertilizing "weekly, weakly"). This method makes it nearly impossible to forget to fertilize, which used to be a bad habit of mine.

Recently on Gesneriphiles, the Internet mailing list for people who grow gesneriads including African violets, someone wrote of leaching a plant and winding up with a droopy plant. Even though information on leaching or flushing plants is mentioned in nearly all house plant books, I think that the basics of the process bears repeating, in case it is new to some readers. We may have a reader or two who do not read book after book on basic indoor gardening for pleasure and for those occasional gems of cultural wisdom.

Many, if not most growers have heard that over watering kills more plants than under watering. Perhaps fewer know that an over watered plant may look like it is dying of thirst. Wilting in an over-watered plant is due to the root hairs and other of the smallest roots having "drowned" and died, leaving the plant with inadequate root area for the amount of water uptake which it needs.

The person who flushed with water and wound up with a droopy plant probably added the water for flushing to a plant which already had nearly saturated soil. An over-watered plant looks droopy, with wilted-looking leaves, and the natural reaction is to water. This worsens the problem, and may even kill the plant. To avoid such a situation when flushing plants with water, it is best to wait until the next time the plants need watering, and then to add an amount which will leach accumulated salts from the medium.

As for how to leach plants, one suggestion which I read was that for a 6" (15 cm) pot, one should leach with 1 quart (about 1 litre) of water. Another method is to add water until it pours from the bottom holes of the pot, and to repeat this one or two times. Since I wait until a plant needs watering before leaching, it takes me a while to work through my collection of the roughly 120 potted plants. Not long after I begin the leaching chore, I have forgotten which plants I have leached, and which should receive the diluted fertilizer mixture with which I normally water. Such worrying over leaching a plant twice may appear trivial to some, but I don't think that it is overdoing it. Since we have such a mild climate here in San Francisco, some pots may not require watering more than

every two weeks, especially during a foggy spell. This means that if I forget and leach a plant twice, it will go without fertilizer possibly an entire month.

To avoid this, I have tried making a mark on the side of a pot which I have just leached, and then resume regular feeding. At the office, where I "only" have 40-50 plants, I have made a list of the plants, and put a check next to each one as I am leaching the collection. Both methods have drawbacks. Marking the side of the pot sometimes looks unattractive, especially on a light-colored pot, and I have to change the mark each time, or have a row of marks.

In their book "Orchid Species Culture" (1991, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon), Margaret L. Baker and Charles O. Baker discuss leaching in relation to potted orchids. They point out that symptoms of excessive salt buildup include a white crust or deposit on the surface of the pot or planting medium. In their discussion of leaching, they add an interesting step.

"The pot should be watered at least an hour before it is to be flushed, allowing time for moisture to dissolve the salt crystals. Then an amount of water equal to twice the volume of the pot should be run through the pot. For example, a 6 in. (15 cm) pot holds approximately 2.5 qts. (2.4 liters) of water, so 5 qts. (4.7 liters) should be used to flush the pot. Flushing should be done before fertilizer is applied."

Some people chose not merely to flush with water, but to use de-ionized or reverse osmosis water, even if they do not use it as part of their normal regimen. Others use water with an additive to aid in the leaching (a sort of "super leaching", I think, and also noteworthy). One such person is commercial orchid grower Harry Tolen of Chula Orchids, who wrote in his newsletter of June 1996:

"...about once a month, use a half a teaspoon of Magnesium sulfate, Epsom salts, in a gallon of water and leach the pots to get rid of excess fertilizer and minerals, they will respond better.

"You can actually clean up your old clay pots by soaking them in Epsom salts. Use a heavy dose, say a tablespoon to a gallon and let them soak overnight. Next day all that crummy stuff will wipe off."

Epsom salts are available in drug stores and grocery stores.

So there we have it. These are my thoughts and experiences on leaching (flushing) potted plants to avoid potentially dangerous build up of harmful salts, along with information on the same topic from more experienced growers. I hope that, rather than scaring the reader, this might inspire even better plant care.

*Reprinted with permission from
"Chatter" Journal of the AVS of Canada*

Miniature Transportation

Mary Ann Switzer

In a previous article (March-April 1994 AVM) I wrote about making a carrying case for your miniatures and semiminiatures for transporting by airplane. In this article, I will describe an easy method of transporting the little ones by auto.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 cardboard underbed storage chest 30 1/2" x 16" x 6"
- 1 piece styrofoam beadboard insulation 3/4" thick, approximately 29 1/2" x 15 1/2".

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION

These boxes are sold at hardware and discount stores, or anywhere closet organizers are sold. Different brands will have different dimensions, but they are all quite similar. Make sure that you get one that is at least six inches high so there will be room for a full head of bloom. Put the box and lid together according to the directions that come with the box. Measure the inside of the bottom of the box. It will be about 29 1/2" x 15 1/2" for the box size stated above. You will need to cut a piece of styrofoam beadboard insulation to fit snugly in the box. The easiest way to cut beadboard is to score it with a utility knife and then snap it apart. This beadboard is sold at hardware stores in sheets 2' by 8' or 4' by 8'. If this is too big for your car, take your utility knife with you and score it and

break it while still in the parking lot, then put it in your car. If you buy it on a windy day, Mother Nature will break it for you, but not necessarily where you had intended.

Next, you will need to decide how many plants you intend to transport, and how far apart they should be in the box. Then you will cut out a hole for each plant, the size determined by the size of the pot. I find that a hole 1 3/4" across holds a 2" pot, and a hole 1 7/8" across holds a 2 1/4" pot. I cut the holes with an inexpensive fine toothed thin bladed knife usually used for slicing tomatoes. In the

photo you will see that I have cut holes for full grown semiminiatures. If I were transporting minis, I could have many more plants per box.

These boxes can be used year after year. You would be surprised as to how many of these boxes can fit in the back of a station wagon or van. You can stack the boxes and then place boxes with standard size plants on top.

Also, these boxes have slots for your hands on the ends, which makes them easy to carry.



Underbed storage box with beadboard insulation inserted in bottom, holes cut for pots.

CONCLUSION

I hope you will give this method of showplant transportation a try. It has worked well for me and for several of my fellow club members.



Growing African Violets In Natural Light

By Dorothy Bullen
Melbourne, Australia

When you have found the best position in your house to produce flowering plants you will have solved 90% of your problems. Light and warmth are the two necessities required when deciding on the best spot to grow African violets in natural light. The other essentials are tepid water, food, and a light potting medium. Most plants are killed by over watering and over feeding.

Plants can be grown on window sills or shelves close to the light source. Choose a window as clear as possible of bushes, trees, fences, or wide eaves. I have two stands in almost floor to ceiling windows. Each stand has four shelves and each shelf will hold six kitty litter trays lapping over each side. I made a nylon curtain on elastic and the height is adjustable. It protects the plants when the sun is shining directly in.

The plants at the front nearest the windows always come into flower first, so when watering, their position is changed to bring other plants forward. Remember to turn each pot or tray regularly, (every time you water is best) so light is distributed evenly, and the leaves are encouraged to grow in a nice flat rosette.

A venetian blind is useful. During winter nights I drop the blind and close the slats upwards to preserve every bit of warmth.

If your house is not heated at night, an electric radiator on a thermostat is helpful. I use a fan heater. Don't let it blow directly on the plants; they don't like draughts, hot or cold.

If plants are cold their leaves will grow down to hug the pot. To avoid this problem, I make a collar by cutting a

hole in a paper plate and slip it up from under the pot to a little below the leaves and hold in place with another pot. Do this when the plant is on the dry side to avoid breakages.

TIPS FOR SELECTING THE MOST REWARDING PLANTS

1. Are the stems long enough and strong enough to support several blooms, holding them well above the foliage?
2. Are there a good number of flowers on each stem?
3. Do the flowers last long, or do they fade or drop quickly?
4. Does the foliage grow into a compact plant or does it grow in a very open manner?
5. Does it bloom well on a young plant and have good color, or is it a slow grower and bloomer?

HANDY HINTS

Brush the leaves regularly, always in the direction in which the hairs grow. If plants are grouped they create their own humidity.

Reduce or delete fertilizer in winter.

Remove unwanted leaves to let more light into the plant. Clean the windows; you need all the light you can get.

Read your culture books.

*Reprinted with permission from the
Early Morn AV Group Newsletter, Australia*

Coming Events



July 19 - CALIFORNIA

Northern CA Judges' Council Judging School
San Francisco County Fair Bldg.
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA
Info: Gary Beck (415) 771-2342

August 21 & 22 - MINNESOTA

Minnesota AVS Annual State Fair Show
Great MN State Fair Grounds Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN
Info: Lucille Woolover 483-4839

September 13 - OREGON

Mt. Hood Gesneriad Society & Portland AVS Plant Sale
Mall 205 Shopping Center
9900 SE Washington St., Portland, OR
10am - 7pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771-5762

MY FLIRTATION WITH THE “OTHER GESNERIADS”

By Dorothy Anderson

At the shows I have been to recently, the fastest growing section has been the “other gesneriads.” As a judge, I felt that I should have a better understanding of them other than just seeing them on the show table. Last year I embarked on a new adventure in growing them. The following is what has happened. I am including names simply because these are the varieties I chose - not wisely in some cases - so what I say is not to be taken as criticism of the variety; just my experience.

The two genera that appealed to me were *Streptocarpus* and *Sinningia*. I had grown two or three streps before and had finally figured out that to keep them alive over the summer I should place them on the very bottom shelf on my light stand. In the winter I grow them in an east window with success.

As for sinningias, they had been a study in failure, and maybe now success. The literature I've read says they need more light than African violets so I put them a little closer to the lights. For extra humidity I was using a plastic lid on a regular tray. The lid was getting a little old and milky. The plants began looking sick, and worsened, until someone suggested that I put them in one of the domed terrariums with a hole in the center of the dome. The dramatic change for the better was hard to believe. Almost all of them are miniature and the flowers and foliage are now normal. I may even have one to enter at the next show.

I then thought I should branch out a little. I have three episcias; one, a “Cleopatra” that I have nursed for about three years. I tried many different containers with little success. I thought I would give it one more try (mind you this is a little plant about 5" across, and has never produced a stolen). This time I combined all of the advice I had gotten from other growers and put the plant in a clear plastic container in which broiled chicken comes at the grocery store. Charcoal and perlite were put on the bottom, then I added about an inch of soil. I also cut a hole in the center of the dome top. It is growing, for how long I don't know, but it is growing.

I am not fond of things that vine all over, and I planted

“Silver Skies” in about an 8" saucer and “Limeade” in a 12" saucer, managing to keep them contained to the point that I have grown to like them.

Most of my choices from a catalog were made because the description stated that they were either miniature, upright or compact. *Columnea* “Bill Saylor” can't decide whether it is upright or spreading. It really blooms for a small plant; but I don't quite know what to do with it at four or five inches. *Koellikeria erinoides* “Judy” is interesting. My cutting survived only for a short while. I was about to throw out the pot when I saw this green thing looking almost like the front of a caterpillar coming out of the soil. It now is about an inch long and still looks like a caterpillar. It is nestled in with the sinningias, and curiosity will keep it around for a little while longer. *Kohleria* “Strawberry Field” and *Kohleria* “Tane” are blooming very well right now. The catalog said that “Tane” was compact, but it seems to be growing almost as big as “Strawberry Field”. The blossoms are very similar but the leaves of “Tane” are a little smaller and not mottled. The one drawback so far has been their legginess.

I also planted some mixed gesneriad species seeds. There is nothing wrong with their rate of germination. The first plant that came up was a very aggressive large leaf which I thought would be an unifloiate, but a stem came up and it is now almost 3 feet tall. It's a *Chirita* *lavandulacea*, and I was sorry to learn that it is an annual as I have sort of grown fond of it. There are lots of light lavender flowers on top if it now, and it looks like the weed, velvet leaf. *Sinningia cardinalis* is in bloom. What a beautiful red color in the blossom. *Sinningia eumorpha* has also bloomed well for me, and I think I will keep both species. I have many more plants to identify from this batch of seedlings. Another bit of my advice from this experience is to get “named” seeds. I have a couple of trays of unnamed plants and it's very frustrating.

*Reprinted with permission from the
Missouri Valley AV Council Newsletter*

AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson
1100 Huntingdon Dr. #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

1984

Betcha #3144 (Swift)
China Pink #3429 (Fredette)
Chris (Maas)
Optimara Colorado #3152 (Holtkamp)
Coral Radiance #3672 (Lyon)
Dear Ellie #3439 (Lyon)
Gr. Wonderland #3419 (Granger)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Sammye Ballard #3563 (Granger)
Sanibel #3377 (Leary)
Silver Lining #3629 (Fredette)
Snowy Trail #3678 (Lyon)
Sparkle Plenty #2786 (Egenites)
Tiger #3433 (Fredette)
Wanderlust #3786 (Granger)
Verna Lynn (Fredette)

1985

Autumn Honey #4462 (Groeneman)
Black Ace #3541 (Nadeau)
Cherry Frosting #4333 (Fredette)
Disco Dazzler #3909 (Lyon)
Gr. Carnival #4298 (Gr. Gardens)
Gr. Heart's Desire #3407 (Gr. Gardens)
Irish Angel #4054 (Annalee)
Kristi Marie #3914 (Lyon)
Polly Doodle #4339 (Fredette)
Rhap. Barbara #6979 (Holtkamp)
Something Special #3668 (Nadeau)
Splish Splash n/r (Lyon)
Spring Fling #3553 (Nadeau)
Sundown #3598 (Utz)
Swamp Fever #4046 (Sisk)

1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)
Dominique #4345 (Fredette)
Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)

Optimara Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)
Optimara New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)
Gr. Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)
Optimara Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)
Interlude #4935 (Gr. Gardens)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)
Gr. Valencia #4051 (Granger)
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)
Trail Along N/R (Lyon)
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)
Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)
Dumplin #3931 (Swift)
Fairy Queen N/R (Fisher)
Kiwi Dazzle #5888 (Snell)
Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)
Optimara Alabama #6542 (Holtkamp)
Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration #4490 (Smith)

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)

Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
Melodie Kimi n/r (Sunnyside)
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045 (Johnson)
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (Johnson)
Optimara™ Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

1994

Optimara Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared on the Best Varieties list for five consecutive years.

The African Violet Marketplace

David Buttram

P.O. Box 193 • Independence, MO 64051

Rooting Hormones



A new rooting hormone from Holland is now available to African violet growers. Sold in three dry powder concentrations, Rhizopon AA Plant Rooting Hormones have received United States EPA registration and are registered for sale in all states. In fact, Rhizopon AA #1, #2, and #3 are the only dry powder rooting hormones of their kind that can be sold and used in every state. Rhizopon AA #1 is the formulation suited for leaf cuttings.

V-J Growers Supply, 500 West Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka, FL 32712 (800-327-5422) is the exclusive USA distributor of Rhizopon AA, but will distribute to all major horticultural distributors in the U.S. For further availability and technical information contact Mr. Bill Christopher, Vice-President of Sales at V-J Growers Supply at the above address or telephone number.

Horta USA will supply UNLIMITED technical support on the propagation of plants by cutting. Call (212) 929-1626 with your question and mention the African Violet Magazine.

Water Measuring Device

This next item comes from our Just-When-You-Thought-You-Have Seen Everything Department. Simply stated it is a musical Plant Soil Water Tester.



We know a healthy plant is a beautiful plant and healthy plants live longer. Keeping your plants in top condition requires the correct amount of water. Over watering drowns your plants and under-watering

dehydrates them. But how can you be sure? Try the Plant Soil Water Tester which is a handy little item perfect for all size plants. Measuring only 5 x 1 inches, you can use it at home or take it with you to wherever your plants need tender loving care! The Plant Soil Water Tester is accurate and so easy to use. Never kill another cherished plant. Simply insert the tester into the soil. A melody will play if your plant has the proper amount of water. If you don't hear the melody - add water until you do. It couldn't be easier. Your days of wondering are over! Keep your rare and expensive plants happy and healthy longer with the Plant Soil Water Tester. It is perfect for experienced plant enthusiasts and novice plant lovers alike. The Plant Soil Water Tester makes a great gift. Contact the importer who says orders will be shipped within 4 - 6 weeks. Send \$5.95 plus \$1.35 shipping and handling for each item ordered to: The. M.D. Watson Co., 808 Highridge Road, Dept. E4, Carroll, LA 51401-2665. For fast service use a money order or call in with credit card orders: (712) 792-2569.

Self-Watering Pots

Another self-watering pot is available to African violet growers. Called Alive & Well™ Nurturing Planters and manufactured by Bemis Manufacturing Co., the "controlled watering" system protects against fatal over-and-underwatering, while providing plants with a better oxygen supply. Unlike ordinary topwatering planters that cause excess water to displace oxygen from the soil, the "controlled watering" process utilizes a raised, ventilated platform that creates a pocket of air between the plant and the water reservoir.



Using a Nurturing Planter is simple. Water is added to the base of the planter through a side opening (see photo) designed to prevent overfilling. The water level in the base can then be periodically checked when convenient. Columns of planting soil extend from the platform to the

continued on page 53

AVSA HONORS OLDEST ACTIVE JUDGE

Mrs. Floretta A. Willets of Kingston, TN, was honored on Friday, June 6, 1997, in St. Pete Beach, Florida, as AVSA's oldest active judge. Mrs. Willets will celebrate her 97th birthday in October. In a brief ceremony preceding the instruction meeting of AVSA Judges and clerks, Bill Foster, Shows and Judges Chairman, introduced Mrs. Willets, presenting her with a corsage created especially for her by Joyce Stork.

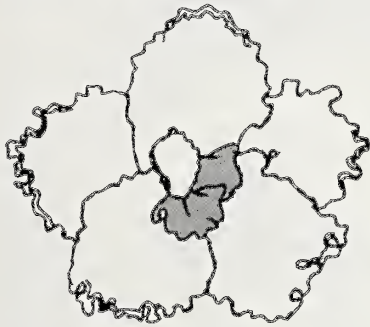
Along with her daughter, Nancy, Floretta Willets began growing African violets from leaves in 1948. Together, they joined the Nightshade AVC and participated in the club project of growing African violets for shut-ins. Both of the Willets began judging in the mid-1960s.

They have a "violet room" in the basement of their home with approximately 250 plants at this time, but admitted to having plants "everywhere". Over the years they have developed a file system, which helps a great deal in keeping up with their hobby.

When asked if she had a particular plant, or size, that was her favorite, Floretta Willets laughed, and with a smile, admitted, "I like them all."



Mary Boland, Bill Foster and Floretta A. Willets,
AVSA's oldest active judge



"The African Violet Marketplace" continued from page 52

bottom of the planter, drawing up water to the plant's root system in a continuous, gentle sipping action.

Designed to look like more expensive planters, Bemis' Indoor Nurturing Planters are made of durable plastic and are perfect for either household or commercial use. A variety of styles are available including cylinder shaped nurturing planters, hanging pots and window boxes.

"After Bemis conducted extensive research on the habits and tendencies of plant growers, it was found that while people want to nurture their plants they often don't know the best way to go about it," said Dr. Charles Powell, a leading plant pathologist.

"With Bemis' convenient bottom-watering system, people have greater flexibility because plants will always be

protected."

Made to be gentle and stress-free for both plants and their owners, controlled watering lets the plant absorb only the water it needs - when it is needed. And because the water in the base adjusts to room temperature, it protects the plant from being shocked by water that is too warm or cold.

Colors for Alive & Well™ Nurturing Planters include Newport Blue, Saffron, Sage, White, Black, Hunter Green, Burgundy and Twilight Blue. Priced from \$1.99 to \$20.99, Nurturing Planters come in a wide array of styles and sizes, and can only be found in a special Bemis Alive & Well "controlled-watering" section, new to garden departments across the country. Or contact Bemis Manufacturing Co., P.O. Box 906, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085-0901 for more information.

WATERING AFRICAN VIOLETS

There are many different ways to water African violets. A few popular methods are listed below.

Things to remember:

Violets will suffer from "not enough water" or "too much water".

Never use cold water. Cold water can shock the roots.

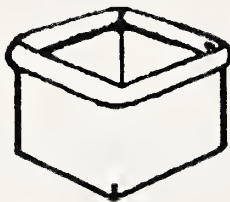
Never fertilize a dry violet. Give it plain water, a little at a time.

If your soil stays too wet, add more perlite and/or vermiculite.

TOP WATERING: Violets are individually watered from the top. Try not to spill fertilizer on the leaves. Throw away the water that drains out from the bottom of the pot.



MOIST-RITES: A type of self-watering container where the walls hold the water. Test the 4 holes (inside, near the bottom of each wall) to make sure they are not plugged. Add a layer of coarse sand, then soil.



WICK WATERING: A self-watering method where a wick in the pot draws up the water from a bottom reservoir. Use large reservoirs when you go on vacation.



OYAMA PLANTERS: These 2 piece self-watering containers come in different sizes. Water lines in the bottom container show how much water to add. Slots in the top pot allow for aeration.



TEXAS-STYLE: With this self-watering method a pot sits in a saucer of water. Add perlite, until it reaches the row of holes for aeration, then add soil. Some growers get larger leaves and bigger plants this way.



MATTING: A self-watering method where one or more pots sit on a wet mat that is inside of a saucer or tray. Water is absorbed through the holes in the bottom of each pot.



Regardless of which method you pick, you still need to check on your violets to see if they need water. The self-watering containers or reservoirs still need to be refilled.

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Coming Events Form



To ensure that all of your information is correctly printed for Coming Events, please copy the form below and use it to send in your club announcement. Type if possible, if not, PLEASE PRINT. Also, please copy on regular size (8½ x 11) piece of paper. Thank you for your cooperation.

month and date(s)

state

club name and event

location (including place and address, city, state)

dates and times

name and phone number for more information

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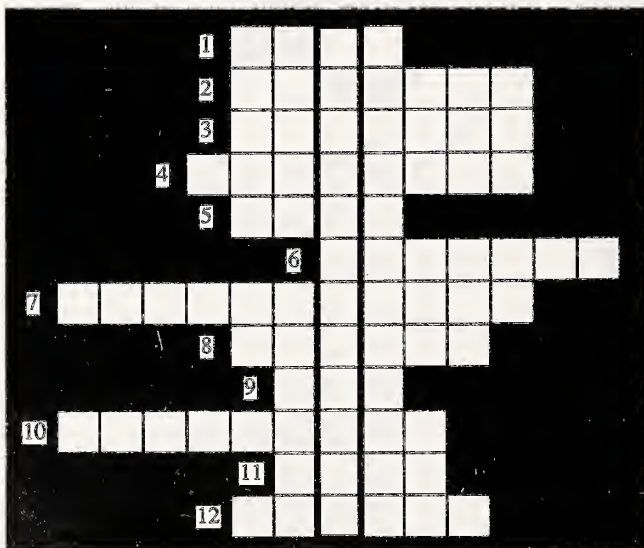
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NO AFRICAN VIOLETS IN GERMANY?

By Kyle Coleman

A friend of mine spent a year studying in Germany and was surprised to find that the German people had never heard of an African violet. After seeing one in a store, she asked the proprietor the name of the attractive house plant. It seems the Germans use a different common name for our friend, the African violet. Below is a simple crossword puzzle to help you figure out the German name. Using the hints printed below, fill in the horizontal boxes like a typical crossword puzzle, then read the German name down the column of outlined boxes in the center. Did I fool anybody? (The answers are on page 57)

1. Type of blossom that is single with long narrow lobes.
2. The structures that support the anthers.
3. Sometimes referred to as a pinwheel.
4. The category of violets that grow large.
5. Violet pest.
6. The stem that connects the blade of the leaf to the crown.
7. Foliar spots and splotches of white, yellow, blue, purple or red.
8. Blossom with at least two layers of petals.
9. What sick violets require.
10. The affectionate category of violets that remain very tiny.
11. Compound leaves with one large and two smaller lobes.
12. The female part of the flower; the ovary, style and stigma, collectively.

answers on page 57

ARE YOUR PLANTS MISSING SOMETHING?



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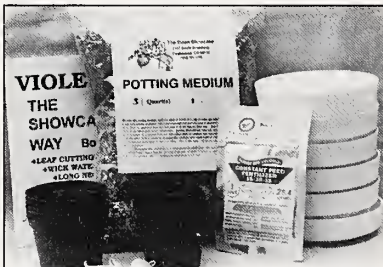
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ROB'S HAND PUPPET: Loads of sdbl. pink pansies w/blue pinwheel stripes; dark foliage; semimini chimera (\$10)

ROB'S HOT FOOT: Very fluffy dbl. carnation blooms of very deep-deep burgundy-red; nearly black, glossy, pebbled, serrated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S HUMPTY DOO: Everyone wants this one - a must have!; sdbl. blue w/wide white pinwheel stripes; distinctive and very striking; very profuse semimini chimera trailer (\$5)

ROB'S MIRIWINI: Adorable single pink pansies w/blue pinwheel stripes and speckling; semimini chimera trailer (\$5)

ROB'S RUFF STUFF: Very unusual dbl. deep pink w/blue fantasy speckles and very frilly green edges; dark, serrated foliage; odd and beautiful!; semimini

ROB'S SARSAPARILLA: VERY DIFFERENT! - you'll love it or hate it; wild, heavily fringed sdbl. rust-pink w/edging of dark red-brown, touches of green; nearly-brown blooms will last forever!; wavy, heavily serrated foliage; extremely prolific semimini

ROB'S TIPPY TOE: Fantastic tiny mini showplant; masses of dbl. white stars w/blue edges and shadings; tiny, pointed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer

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BRISTOL'S TRICKY TREATER: My favorite; very dark burgundy-black sdbl. blooms held in bouquet over compact foliage; beautiful, heavy blooming, and a great grower

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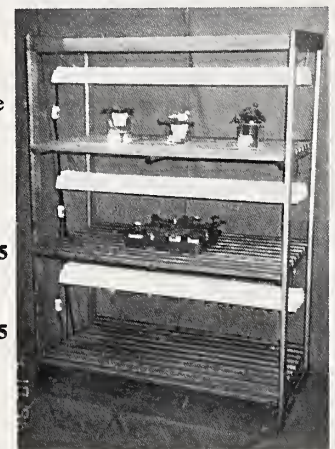
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2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
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6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
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8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

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Size	Color	10	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	8"	5.10

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9"	6.40
10"	7.30
11"	10.25
12"	11.75

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5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
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6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

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	Color	1	10
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#2 Starter 22"L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
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3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
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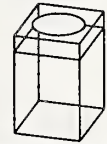
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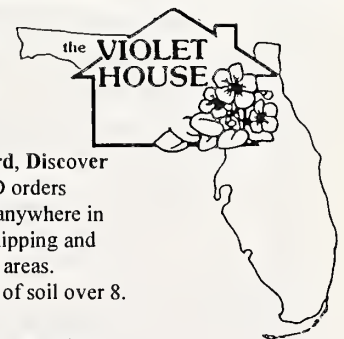
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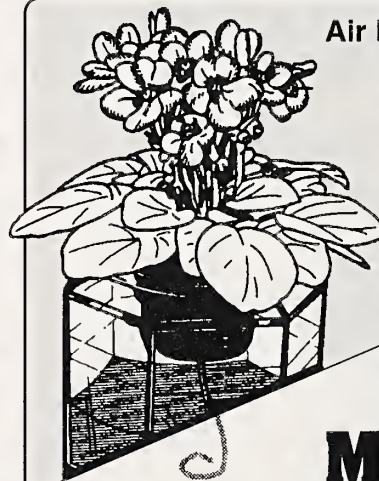
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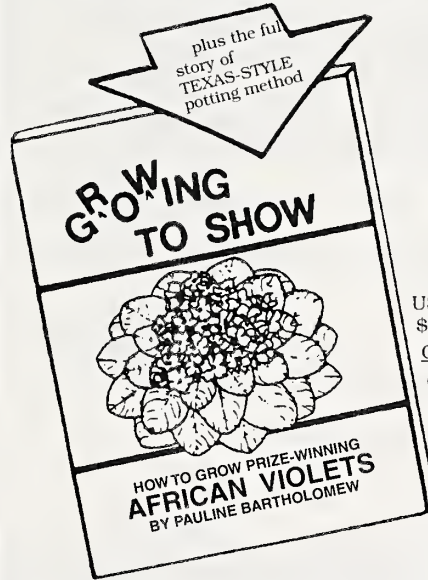
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3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
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African Violet

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September • October 1997

Volume 50

Number 5

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

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The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. * Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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African Violet

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

September • October

Volume 50

Number 5

CONTENTS

FEATURES

Help Us Upgrade the Office Computer System	7	Limit Your Collection - Pauline Bartholomew	41
Your Plants and the Changing Seasons - Sue Hodges	15	Green Is Beautiful - Robyn Harris	41
Original Articles Needed For the AVM	17	California State Convention	44
"The National Show Was Only Two Hours Away..." - Barbara Cole	19	Lone Star AV Council Convention	44
1997 Commercial Display AVSA Convention - Ruth Goeke	21	Mid-Atlantic AVS Convention	44
African Violet Arrangements Add Individual Beauty to Your Home - Anne Tinari	24	Choosing the World's Best 25 African Violets! - Floyd Lawson	45
Two New Videos in AVSA Library	26	Minutes: 1997 AVSA Board Meeting	48
Handle With Care - Carolyn McAllen	27	State of Condition	48
Dividing Your AV Plantlets - Pam & Keith Kennedy	30	A Real Winner: Phyllis King	49
Designing With Decorative Wood - Mary Stallings	31	In Memory: HARVEY STONE	50
Disbudding: What's It All About? - Ruth Coulson	32	Kwa-Zulu Natal AVS Show - Joan Halford	51
Faster Growing - Byron Borck	33	African Violets In Any Language - Don Geiss	51
The Tale of a Plant Who Thought He Could - Pat Richards	34	Stacking Plants - Pauline Bartholomew	51
In Memory: ELLIE BOGIN	35	Happy Trails To You - John Beaulieu	52
Color Photo: 'Ann'	36	Algae & Wicks - Keith Lind	54
Anticipation of Beautiful African Violets - Carolynn Mussett	37	Let Your Violet Be Your Guide - Karen H. Palmer	55
		Coming Events Form	57
		Order Your AVSA Address Labels	57

DEPARTMENTS

Staff & Officers	2	AVSA Commercials: A Closer Look, Bayou Violets - David Buttram	38
Index of Advertisers	2	Coming Events	42
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells	3	AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	43
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4	Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	43
AVSA Office Memo - Cindy Chatelain	5	"And the winners are..." - Mary Loewer	46
AVSA Affiliate Clubs - Bev Promersberger	6	In Memory	49
AVSA & Today's Technology - John Carter	7	AVSA 50th Anniversary Book & Pin	50
Question Box - Ralph Robinson	8	Advertising Guidelines - Judith Carter	56
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	10		
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	12		
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	16		
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	18		
Registration Report - Iris Keating	20		
Shows & Judges - Bill Foster	22		
Vintage Violets & AVSA's Most Wanted - Barbara Elkin	26		
AVSA Building Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	27		
Showcase	28		

CONVENTION

Time Is Ticking Away - Linda Golubski	15
Discover California	17

COVER

Clockwise from the top:
Rob's Sarsparilla
Best New Introduction,
1997 National Show
Rob's Smarty Pants
New Introduction from Best
Commercial Display Table,
1997 National Show
Rob's Boogie Woogie
2nd Best New Introduction,
1997 National Show



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations 60
 Alannah's AV's 63
 Allegro..... 61
 American Gloxinia and
 Gesneriad Society 59
 American Orchid Society 58
 AV Enterprises Press..... 57
 AVS of Canada..... 58

B

Bayou Violets 58
 Belisle's Violet House 59

C

Cape Cod Violetry..... 64
 Cryptanthus Society 58

D

Dyna Gro..... 62

F

First Austin AVS..... 57

G

Gardener's Greenhouse..... 62

H

Hattie Baggett's African Violets.. 59
 Herbal Garden Ceramics 62
 Hobby Greenhouse 62

J

J & F Industries..... 59

K

Kent's Flowers 61

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents 61

M

Mighty Minis 60
 Mudhole Productions 62

O

Optimara 25

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets 61
 Rozell Nursery 58

S

Schultz..... 60
 Shirley's House of Violets 63
 Sonja's African Violets 61
 Source Technology-Phyton 27 .. 58

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund..... 59
 Teas Nursery 60
 Tinari Greenhouses Back Cover
 Travis' Violets..... 60

V

Violets by Appointment 60
 Violets Etc., Inc..... 59
 Violet House..... 40
 Violet House Inside Back Cover
 Violet Showcase..... 62



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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.

THE TYPO

The typographical error is a
 slippery thing, and sly;
 You can hunt till you are dizzy
 But it somehow will get by.
 Till the forms are off the presses
 It is strange how still it sleeps;
 It shrinks down in a corner,
 And it never stirs or peeps.
 That typographical error
 Is too small for human eyes;

Till the ink is on the paper
 When it grows to mountain size
 The boss just stares with horror
 Then she grabs her hair and groans.
 The copy reader drops her head
 Upon her hands and moans.
 The remainder of the issue
 May be as clean as clean can be
 But the Typographical error
 Is the only thing they'll see.

Anonymous



President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

It was indeed a joy to read the July issue of the African Violet Magazine with the photos from this year's convention in St. Petersburg Beach and the list of award winners from the convention show. It was especially exciting for the members of my local club, the Mid-America African Violet Society. The plant featured on the cover, 'Ness' Crinkle Blue', was grown by one of our members, Pat Richards, and received Best in Show honors at the convention. To our surprise, one of the beautiful color photos inside the magazine was a plant named for our club. 'Mid-America' was hybridized by another member of our club, Ruby Cox, and was shown by one of our council members, Shannon Ahlman, on his commercial display table. Congratulations Pat, Ruby, and Shannon! Your fellow members of Mid-America AVS and Missouri Valley AVC were proud to share your excitement with all of AVSA.

I must also recognize our editor, Ruth Rumsey, for accomplishing the monumental feat of including so much information from the convention in the July issue. Following the convention, Ruth had just a few days to get everything to the printer and still have the completed magazine in the mail on time. Good job, Ruth!

In my July letter, I failed to include Dr. Charles Cole as the new chairman of the Research Committee. Many of you know Dr. Cole from his articles in the African Violet Magazine, his presentations at conventions, and his book Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets. I understand that he already has prospects for several new research proposals. We look forward to putting your donations to the Boyce Edens Research Fund to good use in the next few years.

The minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting in St. Pete Beach are included in this issue. Copies of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meetings may be requested from the AVSA Office in Beaumont. The members of the Board of Directors spend a great deal of time, both during the convention and throughout the year, on behalf of the members of AVSA. We appreciate their dedication.

With this issue, we are proud to welcome Bev Promersberger as a new columnist. Bev was appointed Chairman of the Affiliate Committee at the convention in June. Her committee has been busy revising the materials for new clubs and developing ideas that will be helpful to our affiliate groups. Welcome, Bev, we look forward to your articles.

The new Technology Committee is busy exploring options for replacing the computer system in the AVSA Office in Beaumont. Our goal is to have a new system in place sometime this fall. Special donations to help defray the cost of the new computer, software, and training for the staff would be helpful. Please send your contributions to Bill Lyons, Booster Fund Chairman, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

Now that summer is almost over, we are all looking forward to cooler weather and our fall shows. These events can provide many opportunities to tell visitors about the activities of your local clubs and about AVSA. Be sure to check the Coming Events section for shows in your part of the country or in areas where you may be traveling. Visiting shows sponsored by other clubs and councils can be a lot of fun.

Since so many of our members are finding e-mail to be a fast and convenient means of communication, we have included the e-mail addresses of your AVSA Officers on page 2 of this issue. We welcome both your e-mail messages and your letters sent by traditional "snail mail".

Happy growing and showing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA President

Editor's Notes

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

Now, with vacation time over, our Affiliate Clubs will be gearing up for fall shows and other club activities. Our new Affiliate Club Chairman, **Bev Promersberger**, is anxious to offer suggestions and share ideas with your club.

Some growers feel that they just don't have the time to become involved with a local club, but are pleasantly surprised when they make the time. Our Affiliate Clubs are the backbone of this organization, and have so much to offer. Not only do they provide a social situation in which many long-term friendships are forged; local clubs also give the novice grower an opportunity to learn from experienced growers, and give all members a chance to exchange ideas, solutions to problems and new growing methods.

Much of the material I print in this magazine comes from our affiliate club publications, and I know first hand how valuable the exchange of ideas between members can be. If you are not a member of a local club, please check the insert in this issue. Affiliate Clubs are listed by state with the current president's address.

AVSA recently lost two dedicated friends, **Harvey Stone**, former AVSA President (page 50), and **Ellie Bogin**, former AVM Columnist, better known as the "Mini-Mam" (page 35).

David Buttram, author of the regular feature, "Commercials: A Closer Look", has been hitting the road again with his wife (and typist) **Beth**. In this issue, they travel down to steamy New Orleans for a visit with **Genelle** and **Al Armstrong** of Bayou Violets (page 38).

David has written this column for many years, and it's great that he and Beth are having the opportunity to do more traveling. African violet growers are always interested in knowing as much as they can about the folks who sell these treasured plants.

At the 51 st AVSA Convention in Florida, **Phyllis King** won the award for Amateur Horticulture Sweepstakes with fifty-one blue ribbons! I know just how beautiful those plants were. At each convention it's my duty to hire a local photographer and have photographs taken for the next six AVM covers. After we have the cover shots, the "Photography Gang", (**Yvonne Ozio**, **Jane Rexilius**, **Ruth Goeke**, **Meredith Hall** and I) select other beautiful plants that we think would look good in the magazine. After a while we had to start checking the name

of the growers, as so many of the plants we chose were grown by Phyllis, and we needed to highlight other blue ribbon growers, too. Read about Phyllis' growing methods on page 49, and see three of her plants in the color pages of this issue.

My good friend, **Pat Richards**, our "Thinking Small" columnist, shares her award-winning techniques in the article, "Tale of a Plant Who Thought He Could", the saga of her Best In Show winner, **Ness' Crinkle Blue**, featured on the cover of the July/August AVM.

My hero is **Jackie Jones**, Library Chairman. Due to the late date of the convention in Florida, and the AVM deadline, I needed slides from the June convention for this issue. Our photographer only takes a certain number of shots, so I turn to the Library slides for other photographs. In a pinch, Jackie sent me several slides before the programs were completed. Thanks again Jackie, to you and the **Library Crew**.

I turned to longtime supporter of AVSA, **Pauline Bartholomew**, author of **Growing To Show**, for two brief articles in this issue. Pauline sent several copies of this wonderful, informative book to the office for us to send out to novice growers, and each of them was very excited to receive the book. GTS is one of the most easy to-follow horticulture books available, with clear instructions and helpful illustrations. See Pauline's ad on page 57. This is a book for all growers of African violets.

The Spring Branch AVC, Houston, was not listed in the Coming Events. They will hold their fall plant sale on October 11, at the Fair Haven United Methodist Church, from 9 - 5pm. Give **Lenora Munk** a call for more information (713) 468 - 0844.

James Smith, one of the authors of our "Question Box" column, will be happy to write back with answers to your questions if you'll send him a self-addressed, stamped envelope. His address is on page 8 in this issue.

Our AVSA officers have listed their email addresses on page 2, so you will be able to reach them electronically now. They are very interested in your ideas and opinions.

The new **Advertising Guidelines**, prepared by our new Advertising Manager, **Judith Carter**, are on page 56. Please refer to these for advertising deadlines which have been modified to allow our advertisers more time to get their ads to us.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Memor

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager

2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702 • offmgr@avsa.org

Once again, it is time to remind all Affiliate Presidents that a packet with information about Affiliate Liability Insurance will be mailed to them in September. Please watch for it and if you don't receive it by October 15, contact the office. The packet is mailed to the person listed as the current president. If you receive the packet and are no longer president of that organization, please pass it on to the new president or call me at 1-800-770-2872 and I will send another one. When you receive the packet, take time to review the information and return the enclosed forms by October 31.

I didn't have a column in the last issue, so I have not had the chance to tell you what a wonderful convention we had in St. Pete Beach, Florida. The convention site was breathtakingly beautiful, the show was outstanding, and the local members who worked to put the convention and show together were the **greatest!** The spirit of cooperation, the enthusiasm, and the hard work by all members involved with the convention was noted and truly appreciated by those who attended. I especially want to thank Carol Schreck who spent so many long hours at the registration table. She was chairman of that committee and did an outstanding job. Her husband had surgery the week of convention and even though I know her heart told her she needed to be with him, she was committed to her duties which she carried through beautifully. I also want to thank Anna-Marie and Hank Rinick for assisting the registration table so diligently. Hank and my husband, Ray, carried tons of cartons of goody bags, moved boxes and computers and did numerous other jobs the entire week. This was all done with a smile on their faces (and a few aching muscles). Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make the St. Pete Beach convention one we will always remember. If you have never had the chance to attend a national convention, make it a goal to do so. You will always remember the breathtakingly beautiful plants, the wonderful hard to get items the commercials sell, the great tours, and the fabulous meals. Most of all, you will treasure the new friendships you make.

I was fortunate to meet so many friendly and interesting people. One of those was David Harris of Springfield, Missouri. David grows lots of nice violets and is also into computers. He has a "violet" garage sale several times a year and hands out culture folders that he makes using his computer. These are interesting and informative culture folders with an AVSA membership application on

each one. What a wonderful individual effort on his part to get new members for AVSA! I am sure that if each AVSA member had the same dedication and made the effort to sign up just one new member a year, we would see enormous growth in our organization.

The office staff is excited about getting new computers! We want to thank the Board of Directors for recognizing this need and acting swiftly to purchase the equipment and software. I am especially happy that we have someone as knowledgeable and talented as John Carter to head this monumental task. This society is very fortunate to have people like John and Judy Carter who are willing to volunteer their time and expertise for the betterment of AVSA.

If you see an error in any of the listings in the supplement, please give me a call and I will make a correction in a future issue. Unfortunately, some material gets to us too late to be added or updated.

We are currently working on having a new Judges Handbook printed. Bill Foster's committee is doing a thorough review of the current handbook to make necessary corrections and bring it up to date. We expect the new handbook to be ready by the end of September or middle of October. We ask for your patience until then. There are still copies of the 1994 handbook in stock if you need one before the new handbooks are ready.

I am continually astonished by the dedication and hard work of the volunteers on our various committees. Bill Lyons is tops on my list! Lizeta Hamilton and Nell Sue Tyson were two longtime AVSA members dedicated to making the dream of an AVSA National Headquarters a reality. To honor their memory Bill has been hard at work raising the funds to purchase plaques which will be displayed here, in the Beaumont office. Contributions and donors will be listed in Bill's Booster Fund column. Bill constantly amazes me with his creative ideas and ability to get the job done. He and his talented wife, Kay, are always at the convention manning the Booster Fund table and helping out other chairmen. Kay works many hours creating hand-crafted items to raise money for the Booster Fund. And, with Anne Tinari, they gave workshops at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show early this year. Tireless in promoting AVSA, they are now working to raise money from donations for the purchase of items so important to our business office. Thanks Bill, from the office staff, for all of your hard work.



Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Committee
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132

How can we serve you? How can you help us? This column is dedicated to the AVSA Affiliates. An affiliate is a club or society of members in a local area that chooses to work with AVSA to provide a convenient association for those interested in African violets and to stimulate interest and education in the propagation and culture of African violets. The Affiliate Committee is here to serve you. We need your suggestions as to how we can do it better.

The Affiliate committee is here to establish contact and communication with individual members, to establish contact between individual members and local clubs, and between the local affiliate and the national society, AVSA. We seek to do this with your help in the following ways:

1. Through the Affiliate column in three issues of the magazine each year (January, May, and September).
2. At the Affiliate meeting each year at convention.
3. By answering letters that you write us, keeping us informed of what you are doing, what your needs are, and your new ideas or suggestions.

This column will be a combined effort of the Affiliate committee. Our committee members are: Karen Anderson (CO), Judy Barnett (FL), Sue Hoffmann (VA), Barbara Liedtke (CO), Norah Otto (CO), Edna Rourke (CT), Janice Sorensen (CO) and Mary Boland (VA, Honorary member). In order to be most effective, we need to hear from you. We need to know what you are doing, what has been successful, and how you can help us to help others. We hope you will share your ideas, strengths, and your tried and true experiences so that we, AVSA and affiliates, can grow together.

The first thing I would ask all affiliates to do is to check this issue of the magazine to make sure that the president listed under "AVSA Affiliated Clubs" in the center insert is current. If it is not up to date, please send a postcard with an update to the AVSA office. If you are not a member of

an affiliate, check the list of affiliate clubs to see if there is a club near you. If you are interested in meeting people in your geographic area to share information or cuttings, check the list of AVSA affiliate clubs, the list of AVSA commercial members and the list of AVSA judges for someone near you. If there is not anyone, contact me for information to assist you in starting a new affiliate or meeting informally as a study group.

Some of the topics we want to address in the Affiliate column are: (1) Membership - creative ways to reach the public (2) Keeping the interest of experienced growers and educating new growers at the same time (3) How to get the members to volunteer (4) How to keep the membership attending - Programs/Education (5) Forming a new club. We want your ideas and suggestions in regard to each of the above topics. Do you share any of the above needs? What solutions have you tried? We also want to know if there are any other subjects you would like us to pursue. It has been said so many times that if the affiliates are strong, AVSA is strong. The more the affiliates share, the stronger they become.

The topic for the January issue is: Why join an affiliate? If you are not currently a member of a local club, you will want to read what other members find advantageous in belonging to an affiliate. If you are a new member, you can see what you have to look forward to, and if you are an experienced member, we hope you will share with others what you have gained by being a member of a local club or society.

In the meantime, we hope you, the affiliates, will let us know what you are doing. You can write to me at the above address, or *E-mail* promers@juno.com. If you can, we'd even appreciate it if you would share a spare copy of your newsletter or yearbook. Let us truly share and grow together.

AVSA and Today's Technologies

by John Carter
AVSA Technology Committee



If you attended the recent Florida convention, did you take a minute to view the AVSA Home Page on the computer at the registration table? Or have you logged onto your own computer to browse the Internet? Have you noticed the computerized mailing labels on your African Violet Magazine? Computers are touching our lives more every day and AVSA is no stranger to this. In the last issue of the AVM it was announced that the AVSA Board of Directors had approved the establishment of two special committees. One will oversee the use of the Internet for the benefit of AVSA and is chaired by Lynn Lombard. The second will oversee the use of computing technology within AVSA and is chaired by John Carter.

Computers have been used by the AVSA office for a number of years. They are used primarily to maintain information about the 10,000 plus members of our organization and to prepare the mailing labels necessary to deliver the African Violet Magazine. The computer is also used to maintain the inventory of AVSA literature and jewelry items and record sale and delivery.

The year 2000 is getting a lot of attention because of the impact it will have on all computers in calculating dates. The computer in the AVSA office is no exception. The program used to maintain the membership list will not function using the year 2000 so it must be replaced. The physical computer is also at the age where it must be replaced. The new Technology Committee has been charged

with getting the office computing environment upgraded to meet the current business needs of AVSA.

Separate computers are also used for the convention registration and classification and entries at the convention. The Technology Committee will also be looking at these areas and any others where the use of the computer can make the organization operate more efficiently for its members.

Does your club or council use a computer for your shows? Would you like to? The Technology Committee would like to establish a directory of programs which member clubs would be willing to share with other clubs or councils or even AVSA. The initial effort will be to just create a directory of what programs are available, their functions and where a copy can be obtained. The program should have enough instructions with it so that someone could use it without much difficulty. It should be small enough to fit on a floppy disk and easy to install. Documentation of the operating system, memory and disk space requirements should also be included.

Once a directory is established, if you would like to use a computer program for your organization, you may send for a copy of the directory. Of course it will not exist until the information is sent in and that is where we need your input.

Please share your computing experience with others. You may send your information or request to John Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, Texas, 77094-3412 or you may email your request/information to JTCarter@worldnet.att.net.

**Upgrading the
Computer System
in the
AVSA National
Office**

The computer system in the Beaumont, Texas office is now outdated. Fortunately the Board of Directors has made the replacement of this system a priority. To help defray the costs of such an important office system, please send your contributions to the

**AVSA Booster Fund
Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057**

Question Box



James Smith
1449 Paloma Lane
Dunedin, FL 34698-4317



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

Writing this column is one of my final "things to do" before heading off to sunny Florida for this year's AVSA convention and show. As much as I look forward to it, I can't say the same for the drive there - about 1,300 miles this year, one way. Unfortunately, bringing a large number of show plants makes this necessary. If you're flying, don't use this as an excuse for not entering next year's show, a half-dozen minis can easily be stored in a small carry-on box (I bring a great many more than this). Give this some thought when making plans for next year.

As always, if you'd like a personal response to your question, it's best to telephone during business hours. Letters will be read, but I haven't time to respond to each. The same goes for e-mail, though I often can reply if the answer isn't too complex. I can be reached this way at robsviolet@aol.com. Those with access to the internet might also want to check out our web-site, www.robsviolet.com, which contains a wealth of cultural information, including illustrated "how to" lessons on propagation, potting, etc.

QUESTION: *I recently purchased a florescent light stand. Leaves on the plants on the outer part of the shelves seem to be reaching for the light. Lowering the lights hasn't helped. Lights were 12" above the plants, now are about 10" above. Any ideas?*

ANSWER: This question is paraphrased from a recent telephone discussion. Plant leaves will "reach" for light when the available light is insufficient or when the light source isn't directly above the plant. This is frequently a problem when growing in windows where exposure, season, climate, and the like often mean inadequate light. Even in the best windows, plants need to be frequently turned to promote even, symmetrical growth. This shouldn't, however, be a problem when growing under florescent lighting where light source, intensity and length can be controlled.

More likely, the problem here is that the lights may be too *close*. I've built dozens of home-made plant stands in my lifetime and I've found that when lights are much closer than 10 - 12" above the plants, that plants on the outer portions of the shelves will show leaves "reaching" toward the light. As lights are moved closer to the plants, the intensity directly beneath them increases, but they illuminate a narrower area

of the shelf. Therefore, moving the lights closer provides the plants in the shelf center more light, but provides the plants on the outer edges *less* light. How much less depends also upon the spacing of the bulbs in the fixture, the reflector (if any), the width of the shelf, and so on.

Also keep in mind that standard-size varieties, as a general rule, require less light than do miniature and semiminature varieties. Light fixtures need to be closer to minis, farther away for standards. My minis are about 10-11" below lights (foliage to tube), my standards about 18-20". I know other growers have success with lights at different distances, but relative difference between distances for standards and miniatures remains. There are also differences among varieties to consider. Some varieties seem to perform better under more or less intense light. As a generalization, I find that varieties produced by a given hybridizer usually prefer the same light. For example, I've found that my "Kent's" varieties do better under more light than my "Sorano/Lyon's" varieties. I simply grow the latter varieties on the outer parts of the shelves, or between light fixtures, where they do fine. Once you're familiar with the needs of the individual plants, you can maximize the usable shelf space simply by placing these varieties in their most preferred location.

QUESTION: *I have a problem with my roots dying off. My violets have little to no roots and they eventually shrivel up and die.*

QUESTION: *How do you keep a big violet big? Mine start dying off on the outer row. I take them off, then the next row of leaves does the same.*

ANSWER: These were two questions recently received from the same grower. The growing environment that was described seemed acceptable. She also mentioned that she "wick watered" and, lacking another explanation, this might be a factor. In "wicking", the soil is kept constantly moist by a "wick" (yarn, nylon string, etc.) extending from the soil into a water reservoir below (like an oil lamp). Since the symptoms described would be consistent with root rot associated with overly wet or heavy soil, this may be a factor.

Wicking is an acceptable and popular method for

watering violets. I've successfully used this method myself in the past but, like any other method, it has its limitations. Because the soil will be kept moist as long as water is being drawn from the reservoir, the soil medium must be *very* light and porous. I've used the following mix for wicking: 1 part Pro-mix (a peat and perlite mix), 1 part coarse vermiculite, and 1 part coarse perlite. Be sure that any mix used for wicking is at least this light - i.e. contains at least this much perlite and/or vermiculite (the perlite is important). I also believe that it's a good idea to occasionally let the soil dry out a bit - let the reservoir run dry between fillings. Also use fertilizer at a more diluted strength - instead of 1/4 tsp./gal., use only 1/8 tsp./gal.. Since the soil processes more water when wicked, it will still receive enough nutrients at the lower dosage.

Excess heat (and humidity) can also be a problem for wicked plants. Given the constantly moist and humid conditions in a wicked plant collection, violets can be particularly prone to rotting when temperatures and humidity are high. Plant tissues retain more moisture, since they find it difficult to transpire it into the surrounding atmosphere (like sweating on a hot, muggy day). Good air circulation is therefore very helpful, suggesting a fan, perhaps.

Another possibility might be the existence of soil mealybugs, which would also explain the absence of roots and the subsequent foliage loss. Evidence of such an infestation would be the masses of eggs that appear on and around the root system. These masses typically appear like white confectioner's sugar around the root ball. Mature mealies can be seen by the naked eye and will sometimes be seen *slowly* moving. They are off-white, waxy, and no bigger than a comma on this page. Some chemicals can be effectively used ('Marathon' and 'Enstar' are two), but I wouldn't recommend them for the home hobbyist simply because of their high cost and toxicity, (particularly if misused in a home environment). Unfortunately, the best solution here would be to discard the plant, perhaps rooting a crown or leaf cutting, after thoroughly washing these with a mild soap. Keep an eye on the re-rooted crowns or plantlets from leaf cuttings to be certain an infestation doesn't reappear... and keep all suspect plants isolated from the general collection.

QUESTION: *I am finding mini violets locally and am finding them easy to love. Most of these hardly ever have a single crown. Do the minis tend toward a multiple crown more easily? I picked up one that had such a beautiful bloom but so many leaves growing every which way that I couldn't begin to know how to divide it. Do they need repotting when they look like this? Will it hurt to just leave the multiple leaves or will it choke itself out?*

ANSWER: This tendency to "sucker" or multiple crown is *not* any more likely to occur on miniature than on standard-size varieties. It can be more of a problem, though,

in that any suckers that do develop can be more disfiguring on a smaller plant (a smaller pot accommodates less foliage). Many, perhaps most, of the violets commonly found in supermarkets and garden centers *do* have this problem, usually made worse by the lack of proper care and grooming by the seller. This is the advantage of acquiring plants through violet club functions or from AVSA commercials. These people generally grow varieties that grow well to begin with, and give them better care while they await sale. This is rarely the case at the local supermarket, for example. Ask around at your local club. Other growers may be able to suggest varieties that will do best in your conditions, and may even have some "free leaves". Don't belong to a club? Here's another reason to join! There's a number of reputable commercial sellers advertising in the AVM that can ship to you through the mail. Many may specialize in just the kinds of varieties that you're looking for - standards, minis, trailers, chimeras, etc.

As for remedying your problem, remove as many of the small excess crowns and leaves as possible, using a sharp, pointed tool (I like an Exacto knife). If you can then identify two or more fully-developed crowns, separate these by cutting between them with the knife or razor. If these can be separated while still keeping some of the root system, pot each individually into its own pot. For those crowns having no roots, fill and moisten a small (2- 2 1/2") pot of soil. Make a small "divot" in the soil surface, push the crown, or sucker, into the divot, and gently press the soil in around its base. Place in a sandwich bag, or other clear container, seal, and leave in a bright location (not in hot sun). In 3-4 weeks, this plant should be rooted, can be removed from the baggie, and placed amongst the other violets in your collection.

In the future, the best solution is a preventative one. As soon as *any* growth appears other than the flower buds or the main crown, remove it *immediately* (unless a trailing variety). The longer you wait, the worse the problem will become. No matter how well the plant may appear to be doing with the extra crowns, it will do better with only one crown. Why? Very simply, the violet has two ways of reproducing itself-vegetatively via suckers, or sexually via flowering (and possible pollination and seed formation). If the plant is allowed to do the former, it has less incentive to do the latter! You'll also notice that flower buds appear from leaf axils like suckers do, but rarely from the same axil - buds won't develop in a leaf axil from which a sucker is growing! Once the violet begins to bloom, you'll find that it will sucker less often, if at all. By promptly removing suckers, you'll also have a better-shaped plant, and will allow more light to reach the foliage and buds you want to develop, allowing them to mature more quickly and fully.

Name of columnist replying in bold print.

Thinking Small



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This year's convention was truly a Florida Fantasy! Thanks to the **African Violet Council of Florida** for hosting such a splendid convention. Now, on to the violets!

From the Top

Once again, small ones dominated the top awards. Their ease of transport makes them excellent show prospects for long distance travel. 'Ness' Crinkle Blue' was judged Best in Show. This excellent cultivar is well known for its very double dark blue with white edge blooms that last forever. Its foliage is dark green and perfect-forming, with lovely quilting that keeps the plant showy even when not in bloom. I never thought I'd have the opportunity to say this, but it was grown by.....me. The second best cultivar was perennial favorite, 'Little Pro.' This plant, too, grows itself into a wonderful show specimen, putting on abundant pink single blooms, the color of which varies with the type of fertilization used - all this atop perfectly symmetrical, dark olive green foliage. It was gratifying to see this Pittman hybrid on the winner's table. Finally, third best in show was awarded to a magnificent cultivar with striking coloration: 'Bogeyman.' Dedicated growers of this small one have known of its greatness for years, now hopefully many more will try it. It has extremely dark purple, semidouble blooms atop perfect-forming green and yellow variegated foliage. The latter two plants were exhibited by expert grower **Kathy Lahti** from Minnesota. Kathy had the best AVSA small collection with 'Little Pro', 'Bogeyman' and last year's winner, 'Beginner's Luck'. She also had best unusual container with a second 'Beginner's Luck,' the blooms hiding all but a few tips of foliage! It was a beautiful mass of pink! **Phyllis King** wowed everyone at convention with her lovely plants which included standards, other gesneriads and small ones. Phyllis won the purple rosette for the second best AVSA collection of small ones with three almost identical cultivars: 'Definitely Darryl', 'Mini Papa' and 'Dean's Bunny Blue.' All had tons of blue blooms atop variegated

foliage. My personal favorite was 'Dean's Bunny Blue' (carried by Shirley's House of Violets) because its foliage had a pink/rose/lavender undertone to it. Phyllis also grew the best miniature, 'Petite Jewel'. This classic cultivar has perfect-forming variegated foliage that always stays in size, topped by lovely lavender-blue blooms.

The Holtkamp collections were all composed of miniatures. I won't go into detail regarding each individual collection, but will tell you **Kathy Lahti** had the best collection, **Kay Gregg** took second best, and I had the third best. 'Optimara Little Ruby' was in each collection. This cultivar forms a perfect rosette of very dark green heart-shaped leaves, topped by vibrant ruby red semidouble blooms. 'Optimara Little Diamond' was in two of the winning collections. It has large white blooms with a blue eye above medium green foliage. Reliable 'Optimara Rose Quartz' was also in two of the collections. The pink, slightly rose-tinted blooms form easily above medium green, ovate foliage. Others from the winning collections included 'Optimara Little Crystal' with seemingly thousands of pure white wasp blooms, and 'Optimara Little Moonstone' which proudly displays thousands of white, blue-eyed double blooms above its light green foliage.

Of Note

Other cultivars exhibited in amateur horticulture included 'Tamsen', a lovely Albert Adams miniature with very well-behaved girl foliage. This plant easily puts up medium rose-pink blooms, with thin white edges and, if grown cool, green edges on very strong stems. 'Hug a Lug' has enormous pink wasp-like blooms. This is an old Pittman variety but still makes a great show plant. A cultivar that is very dainty with respect to looks, but able to withstand the rigors of show is 'Wee Be'. This Pittman introduction has the perfect combination of bloom to variegation, having pink blooms with a broad, frilly white edge feathered into the pink. The blooms are borne atop white, pink and dark green pointed foliage with a slight

wave to the leaf. It's a wonderful plant! 'Rob's Hallucination' makes a very striking plant! It has tan with light and dark green crown variegation topped by dark blue and pink "puff" fantasy blooms. It is a very nice grower!

'Irish Flirt' presents an interesting story. Each year Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse presents an award for the best entry of this outstanding cultivar. Eleven plants were entered in this year's show by exhibitors from Virginia, Missouri, Kansas, New Jersey, Florida, Tennessee and Iowa. The range of variety in plants was an interesting study in the variability resulting from growing conditions. Some were compact, while others slightly rangy. Some had completely green blooms, while others were mostly white with touches of green. Several had very dark green foliage while others were more "lime" green. All were blooming abundantly, and as a class they made quite a show! **Carol Schreck** of Florida won the award this year in very difficult competition.

Going Commercial

The best plant in the specimen commercial competition was **Bob Green's** 'Precious Pink.' Everyone knows the reputation of this cultivar! Bob also exhibited another beautiful specimen of 'Dean's Bunny Blue'. **Sidney Sorano** had the best AVSA commercial small collection with 'Rob's Flim Flam', 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl' and Lyon's 'June Bug'. All of these make great show plants! Lyon's 'June Bug' is probably the least well known of the three, but don't pass it over. It grows itself into an absolutely perfect show plant, with lovely variegation topped by brilliant fuchsia blooms. **Shirley Sanders** had the second best Holtkamp collection for commercials with 'Optimara Little Pearl', 'Optimara Rose Quartz' and 'Optimara Little Diamond'.

Other attractive cultivars coming from the commercials were two yellows grown by Sidney Sorano; 'Lemon Cookie' and 'Texas Buttercup'. 'Texas Buttercup' has lovely, large single blooms tinted a pretty shade of yellow. 'Optimara Little Hopi II' has gorgeous, vibrant fuchsia pink with dark blue-purple fantasy-striped blooms. It looks to be very good! Three thumbprint-bloomed plants were shown by Sidney, 'Little Axel', 'Little Rick' and 'Little Rose Blanc', with dark purple, light pink and rose colored thumb prints (respectively), on white blooms. There was also an absolutely charming specimen of 'Rob's Sugar Cube' exhibited by Sidney. This green and white variegated plant was topped by large white, pink and green double blooms.

The Best for Last

Congratulations to **Dr. Ralph Robinson**, this year's winner of the **Bronze Medal for Horticultural**

Achievement. Rob also had the Best New Introduction with a very intriguing semiminiature cultivar, 'Rob's Sarsaparilla'. This absolutely fabulous plant has wavy, pointed, medium green foliage which often shows a lighter green veining to add interest to the plant. It is crowned by "love it/hate it" blooms of light pink suffused with brown (?) with fine lime green ruffled edges. It is a TREMENDOUS bloomer! Try growing it in a small pot to keep it in size, then stand back and watch: you won't be disappointed! A more tame introduction by Rob won 2nd best new introduction: 'Rob's Boogie Woogie'. This dainty plant has creamy pink blooms atop very nice-forming crown variegated foliage. Watch for it next year! Other new ones from his display table (judged the best again this year) are 'Rob's Smarty Pants', which appears to have a white/blush pink ruffled bloom with faint pink, lavender and light purple streaks above medium green scalloped foliage; 'Rob's Thingamajig' is for chimera lovers, with its lavender and pink bell-shaped blooms atop pointed, variegated foliage. Finally, 'Rob's Snake Charmer' appears to be the perfect plant for the showman. It has huge, light pink, single blooms with prominent pollen sacks topping very dark green, pointed foliage. Wow!

Hector Becerra of the Mini Mansion showed Hortense's new introductions this year, several of which look like winners. Begin with 'Summer Charm', a rose semidouble with dark green foliage that has a white, pink and almost lavender edge - quite an attractive cultivar! 'Cool Blue' is just that: smooth, medium blue blooms with lots of "sparkle" topping slightly wavy very dark shiny foliage. Hortense continues to work with girl foliage, this year introducing 'Honey Blue Sensation', light blue with a green/white edge atop pointed foliage, 'Honey Blue Ace', a dark, medium blue bloom with a white edge, and 'Honey Puff', light pink with green edge topping dark green foliage. 'Petite Bubble' is a treasure, with candy pink blooms topping nice girl foliage. 'Summer Dreamer' has nicely shaped variegated foliage with single fuchsia blooms. Two other cultivars on Hector's table worth noting are 'Dean's Cupid', with very dark blue, semidouble blooms topping yellow and green variegated foliage and 'Teen Thunder'. The latter was shown in St. Pete Beach by several exhibitors, in all cases loaded with tons of blooms above perfectly symmetrical foliage. Indeed, 'Teen Thunder' looks to be a plant everyone needs to have in their collection. Please note: these are my descriptions of new varieties; I do not intend to supersede the hybridizer's descriptions.

The Mini Mam

We note the passing of **Ellie Bogin**, whose friendly column and gentle advice promoted and encouraged growing the small ones for so many years.

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
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Fremont, NE 68025

CAN THIS PLANT BE SAVED?

Saving an African violet from certain death is one of the most satisfying parts of growing. Recognizing which plants are worth saving is one of the most advanced skills.

GROCERY STORE SHOCK

We've all seen violets in grocery and discount stores that have been abused and are in shock. Violets are often sold in cellophane pot covers that do not permit excess water to drain away. Plants are crammed together on shelves with inadequate light. Employees are not trained in horticulture and often don't care. In fact, some stores sell at such a low mark-up that it is considered unprofitable to "waste" time worrying about distressed plants. If they don't sell quickly, throw them away and restock! Since you will soon know how to save them, take advantage of the marked-down price and get some new violets!

These store-shocked plants are usually quite easy to revive. They are literally in shock. Their systems have slowed or shut-down entirely. The roots may be shriveling; the flowers are probably fading; the leaves may be limp and droopy. So what do you do first?

Before making a purchase, remove any pot covers and be sure the soil is not so water-logged that the plant will never recover due to crown rot. Smell the soil in the store (ignore any passersby who choose to stare at you!) If it just smells earthy, it's probably okay. If it smells sour, however, walk away. You won't be able to save that one.

Once the plant is home it needs some very tender care. First, work to get the soil moisture balanced. If the plant is extremely wet, allow the excess moisture to drain off for a day or two. If the plant is extremely dry, water it very lightly (just a teaspoon or two the first day.) The next day, water it thoroughly until water runs through the bottom of the pot and then drain off any excess.

If the plant is limp, the system of xylem and phloem in the plant may not be functioning. These tubes carry water from the roots throughout the plant. If they are in shock, and not working, it won't matter how much water is in the

soil. This vital system will resuscitate gradually as the internal pressures balance. To speed that process, it is usually helpful to increase the humidity surrounding the foliage. Place the shocked violet inside a clear plastic bag and inflate the bag by blowing into it. Seal the bag tightly. The moisture in the soil and in the your "hot air" should provide enough humidity to cause droplets of moisture to form inside the bag. The leaves will absorb some moisture directly from the air, allowing them to begin to function again. As they begin to do their work, the rest of the plant will "wake up" and begin to function again as well. The plant really needs to stay in this environment for at least a week and several weeks is not detrimental. Once you begin to see growth in the center, or flower buds forming, you can be sure the plant is recovering from the stress.

If your store-shocked violet isn't limp, but has that weary look of abandonment, it still needs some special care. The Society of American Florists recommends that any African violet coming out of a dark closed box should immediately be exposed to good bright light for at least 12 hours. The bright light recommended would be about equal to the light generated twelve inches from a fluorescent tube in the very center of the tube. You could substitute a bright window, but be careful of the heat resulting from direct sunshine. Just a day or two of extra-high quality light can do wonders to freshen your tired plant.

What else can you do? Well, often plant boxes are tipped and bounced as plants are shipped. It is very wise to clean dirt and debris off of leaves. Blowing and light brushing are usually effective. A tepid bath under a gently running faucet followed by blotting with a soft towel or sponge will remove the determined grunge.

Finally, a really wise grower will remove all the open flowers and all the bud stems as soon as the plant is home. It is foolish to expect a shocked plant to keep blooming. It needs to spend its energy recovering.

Should you repot it immediately? No. Give your sickly violet even, consistent care (the one thing it did not receive

in the store) for at least a week or so. Once the plant has gotten comfortable, then you can surprise it with a transplant, and it will gain more resources to deal with overcoming stresses that transplanting can cause.

Repotting may be more urgent if the supplier has used a low quality potting mix or has severely overpotted the violets. If the soil is very heavy and dense, it is wise to move it into the lighter porous soils that violet roots crave. If the diameter of the leaves is not at least twice the diameter of the pot, it is probably overpotted. Chrysanthemums thrive in six-inch pots; usually violets do not! Not all greenhouse growers know the difference.

“MY FRIEND WATERED WHILE I WAS ON VACATION” DISTRESS

The treatment for this is remarkably similar to the grocery shock syndrome. The only real difference is that your friend was really trying to help you.

Your major problem most likely is that your plants suffered from uneven watering in your absence. The worst damage usually occurs if you are gone for more than two weeks.

The biggest danger here is the possibility of an invasion of pathogens like pythium or phytophthora (two groups of water-fungi) that can cause crown rot in over-watered violets. If the plants appear to be over-watered and are limp, smell the soil. (At least you are in the privacy of your home this time.) If you smell a sour scent, the plants are probably beyond saving. They need to be disposed of immediately, and taken away from your growing area.

If the soil smells fresh, but the leaves are limp, you may have some serious root or tissue damage. Remove the violet from the pot and examine the roots. Remove any soil that seems to fall away easily (this may be dead roots). Examine the stem. Soft, mushy, and darkened tissue at or below the soil line on the stem indicates damaged cells. These cells can collapse and rot without the fatal fungus being present! Your plant's problem can be corrected by scraping away the desiccated tissue until you get to a healthy green stem. Then repot into fresh soil.

If the stem is rotten all the way through, try removing some lower leaves and cutting above the rot line. Look at the cut surface of the stem. If there is any brownish stain there, you must cut again. . . higher up the stem. If the brown deterioration has not gotten all the way into the main crown, it may be stopped. Once the root system has been cut away, you'll need to provide some intensive care for the recovering plant. Repot and place it inside a clear plastic bag or container where the high humidity can provide some support while roots regenerate.

HEAT STROKE

There probably is no violet that looks more hopeless

than one that got too hot. It happens so fast! The outer rows of leaves become completely watery and limp in just a matter of hours.

Why does heat damage occur? The individual cells in violets are filled with water. As water gets warmer, the water molecules become more active and need more room. (This is most obvious when water reaches a boiling point on top of the stove.) The plants cells are able to stretch to accommodate this, but only up to a point. Usually around 90 degrees Fahrenheit, cells in the older leaves become stretched beyond their limits and some cells burst open. Older leaves have cells that are less elastic than the younger leaves, and they will always be the first affected by heat. The outer leaves will quickly collapse as heat rises and more cells burst and spill the water inside them.

The good news is that the newer leaves and the crown are quite resilient. When outer leaves are damaged by heat, they must be removed immediately. The crown will almost always survive and be fine.

Don't delay removing the damaged leaves! They are a favorite pathway for fungal infections. Remove the leaves promptly and your plant will be much safer.

FORGOTTEN AND IGNORED

Ever gone to a plant show or a violet meeting, come home with a plant, and totally forgotten about it until weeks later? It happens! We've also heard several stories of people who have found violets left behind by neighbors who moved or had been confined in the hospital for long periods of time. It is surprising how often these plants can be saved.

Forgotten plants are almost always suffering from extreme water deprivation. Since drought is not an uncommon occurrence in nature, violets have emergency systems that enable them to survive long periods without water. Basically, all of the plant systems close down in an effort to conserve water and energy. While this sort of "hibernation" is going on, violets are also able to tolerate a much greater variation in temperature than usual. As long as the leaves maintain a green tone, and aren't becoming crispy-dry, there is a chance that they can be revived.

The key to success is patience. The plant must reactivate its systems gradually, and any efforts to hurry this process can be even more stressful to the plant.

Begin by watering very lightly, only a teaspoon or two of water the first day. This will plump the roots up a bit and allow the water pressure inside and outside the roots to equalize. The second day, water from the top until water runs out the bottom of the pot. Allow the excess to drain away. Once again, place the plant in a clear closed container that will maintain high humidity around the plant. A plastic bag filled with your blown-in air is especially good because of the natural humidity and carbon

dioxide in exhaled breath.

Usually the leaves will respond and stiffen within several days. Expect most of the outside leaves to age and die within the next few months as new growth develops in the center. It will need to be transplanted at some point in order to bury the resulting neck, but there is rarely a need to hurry.

It may happen that your forgotten plant will go into a frantic suckering period, in which many new tiny crowns will develop. This is one of the emergency reactions that violets have to ensure the survival of the species. Allow the suckers to develop somewhat before removing them. Knocking these suckers out too soon may cause the plant to continue its emergency suckering. It will look like an awful mess, but as the plant stabilizes, it can be restored.

Sometimes the recovering plant blooms differently or grows differently than it did previously. This is because stress permits plants to mutate. It is another of the emergency reactions that nature designed to guarantee that a species would survive. Theoretically, a mutation may be more adapted to the new conditions and thus more able to grow. These mutations can be very frustrating to violet collectors who purchase unusual new varieties and then forget to take care of them! (There's a lesson here!)

TRUE TRASH

There comes a time when a grower should not try to save a violet. Most of the time we recommend that you do not fight to save African violets that are victims of fungus or, less commonly, viral infections. Remove them from the growing area quickly. Similarly, serious infestations from insects are best controlled by disposal of the plants.

This sounds harsh, but we cannot recommend that hobbyists spend the amount of money required to purchase chemicals for control, or that hobbyists expose themselves to the hazards of using those chemicals. The disposal method is far and away the cheapest and safest course to follow.

In some cases, it is possible to save a variety without saving the actual plant. If there is a leaf that appears to be disease or insect free, it can be used to propagate the variety. To ensure that the problem doesn't continue into the next generation, you must practice good sanitation. First, make a solution of bleach water (1/4 cup per gallon) or Physan 20 water (one tablespoon per gallon) - dip the knife and any tools used to prepare the leaf into the solution. This will help remove pathogens that could be passed on. After removing the leaf, submerge it in the solution for ten or fifteen minutes. This will help remove pathogens that are on the surface of the leaf. Finally start the leaf in an impeccably clean container using fresh (never reused!) potting mix. Isolate the leaf in a clear closed container. Otherwise, proceed as you normally would in

starting a leaf.

How do you recognize a fungus? Most will produce rotting or fuzzy growth (the conidial heads of a fungus that is reproducing). Fungi that cause crown rot will cause the soil to smell sour and generally need excessively wet conditions to develop. Powdery mildew shows up as a soft grey-white powdery growth against the darker background of foliage or blossoms. Initially mildew can be treated at home, but removing and disposing affected flowers is very wise to prevent further development of the disease. Blossom botrytis is very distinct in that it alters the color of the blossom to a grayer color, and stunts the center growth of the plant. Almost all fungal growth can be controlled by limiting humidity to 50% or less and maintaining good sanitation and space between plants.

How do you recognize insects? Once you see them move it's easy! Unfortunately two of the nastiest pests that are attracted to violets are very hard to spot.

Cyclamen mite invades the center crown, sucking juices from the newest growth. They are too tiny to see, but growers know they are present when African violet crowns begin to grow very tight and often have a glossier than normal appearance. Because the mite is feeding on only part of the new leaf or blossom stalk, the new growth develops a twisted or gnarled sort of appearance. Flowers that open often have a misshapen form.

Soil mealy bug is larger than a mite, but is very good at hiding in the soil. Its webs may be detected around the roots in the soil, or the mealy bug may be seen moving rather slowly. The actual bug is similar in size and color to a bit of perlite until seen through a magnifying glass where legs will be clearly visible. Growers are more likely to realize that soil mealy bugs are present when outer leaves begin to sag unexpectedly even when the plant has been watered.

If you find any of the above diseases or insects, cut your losses and dispose of your affected plants. Save your life-preserving skills for plants that are less dangerous to the rest of your collection!

TRIAGE FOR VIOLETS

Emergency medical personnel are trained to make decisions about which patients need immediate attention, which can wait for medical care, and which are beyond saving. Violet growers can do the same thing. Plants that are in stress need your attention now! Patient, gentle treatment can bring violets back to their previously healthy condition. Working with plants that are contagious or fatally infected is dangerously futile.

What about the plants that need watering today? They'll probably wait while you handle the more serious problems. Don't put it off too long, though. Stress isn't pretty!

YOUR PLANTS AND THE CHANGING SEASONS

by Sue Hodges
Australia

As the weather becomes cooler there are a number of chores that need to be done. I find that autumn is the busiest time of the year after spring. The chores that are done in autumn make a great difference to the plants that I have the following spring and for our Annual Show.

Any plants that I plan to really train for the show need to be well established before the weather gets cold. Although my room is heated, the plants grow slower over winter and I will not have plants the size I want unless I start early. At the moment, I have plants that are about 15 to 20 centimeters in diameter waiting to be potted into 10 cm pots. Later these will be put into larger pots depending on their growth. These plants will be fertilized in the hopes that they will make good, symmetrical plants with masses of flowers.

Plants that are not intended for show also benefit from attention at this time of the year. Those that look a little tired from the summer heat can be rejuvenated by repotting after stripping back some of the older foliage. I find that my violets do not flower well in the hot weather but really put on a great show once the heat eases. Some fresh potting mix and a tidy-up can increase the autumn display from your plants.

Although this year has not been very hot I have still noticed that some plants have been heat-affected. My room is quite hot in the afternoon and some plants respond by having blooms that are slightly distorted. Sometimes blooms are smaller with narrowed petals. Some blooms

have distorted stamens and pistils, if they have them at all. Bloom color is often affected by heat, with fantasy speckling being less and white edges much finer, if they don't disappear altogether. Some white blooms respond to heat by showing some pink coloration and bicolor plants sometimes have solid color blooms. My plants enjoy the autumn much more than summer!

My outdoor plants also need attention in the autumn. The *Achimenes* are in full bloom now but the flowers will lessen as the nights become cooler. As these plants become rather tatty, I decrease the amount of water I give them and allow them to go dormant. I leave the foliage until it is quite dry before trimming it back to soil level so that I can store the pots. I always leave the rhizomes in the pots until spring and give the pots a very occasional watering over winter.

Other gesneriads that grow outdoors will also start to go dormant. I find that kohlerias and smithianthas bloom later than the *Achimenes* and can stand cooler weather. The large sinningias will begin to go dormant, too. All these plants are stored outdoors until it is time to repot for spring.

Enjoy the show your violets put on in autumn, but why not pot up a couple of plants and train them for the Show? Maybe you could win Best in Show this year.

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African Violet News, official journal of the
African Violet-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.*



TIME IS TICKING AWAY

Now that our clubs are all back in full swing, how about donating an award to the 1998

Convention show in Sacramento, California?

All awards received by October 15, 1997 will be published in the January 1998 African Violet Magazine.

Remember that because of the earlier convention date, awards received after March 1, 1998 will be awarded the following year 1999 in Houston, TX. That all seems so far away, but time goes so quickly, that the California convention will be here before you know it!

Please send your awards to:

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski
AVSA Awards Chairman
1416 N.W. "A" Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 PM (CDT)

In Search of New Violets



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Several individuals have written concerning problems they are having using plants with double flowers in hybridization. The double flower mutation is a two-step mutation. The first gene produces more than two stamens in the flower. The second gene converts the stamens into petals. The combination of both genes results in the extra layers of petals found in double flowers.

The usual problem in using double-flowered plants for hybridization is getting viable pollen. There are often few if any stamens in the flowers and many times the anther of the stamen is attached to a petal-like structure. When the anther is broken open for pollen, the inside of the anther is wet and mushy and no viable pollen is present. This makes the flowers effectively male sterile and useless as pollen sources.

The best recommendation I can give in these cases is to keep looking at lots of flowers until one with viable pollen is found. Depending on the cultivar, this may mean looking at a lot of flowers. Sometimes the smaller side flowers are less developed, have fewer petals, and are more likely to produce viable pollen.

In desperate cases, fertilizer might be withheld from the plant, giving it fewer nutrients for making flowers. This should result in the production of fewer, but less-developed flowers, increasing the likelihood of proper stamen and pollen formation. After a time of fertilizer starvation, returning the plant to a bloom boost fertilizer (one with a high phosphate or middle number in the fertilizer formula) will sometimes cause the next round of flowers to have many petals and stamens. While these breaks in culture may wreck a plant for show, they might be what is needed to get a reluctant plant to produce the pollen needed for a cross.

Q: *What is the best time of the year for making crosses?*

A: I have found that crosses made during fall or spring

often are more successful because of the moderate temperatures and high humidity during those times of the year. High temperatures during the summer can stress plants and cause seed capsules to abort. During winter, lower humidity prevents fertilization making crosses less successful. However, since African violets are a house plant and are found in flower at all times of the year, crosses can often be made at anytime.

Q: *How many seeds can be produced per plant?*

A: Each seed capsule can produce from 50-300 seeds. Since multiple seed capsules can be produced on an individual plant, it is possible for several thousand seeds to be produced on a healthy mature plant at one time. If careful records are kept, the same plant can be pollinated by several different plants giving a wide range of seedlings from the seed parent.

Q: *If I use a chimera as a seed parent, will this improve the chance of getting chimera offspring?*

A: Chimeras are plants that have two different genetic tissues combined in the same plant. The cells of the leaf centers (mesophyll) have different genes for flower color than the cells of the leaf skin (epidermis). Since flowers are produced from both tissue types, the edges of the flowers have one color while the center of the petals have another. Studies seem to indicate that chimeras usually originate by chance and cannot be produced by breeding.

I have heard some hybridizers, however, report plants that appeared to produce chimera offspring on a regular basis. You might try using chimeras as seed parents just in case there is a genetic cause for chimera production. If you find a plant that seems to consistently produce chimera offspring, be sure to let me know.

Q: *What is an African violet "sport"? Is it when you self-pollinate and get something different out of the seedlings, or when you get something different during a leaf propagation?*

A: A "sport" is a sudden change or mutation in a plant produced from a leaf propagation. The sport should have a noticeable genetic change from the original parent plant so that the offspring is not "true to type".

Some African violet cultivars are more unstable than others and produce sports more frequently. 'Blue Boy', one of the original 10 cultivars, has produced over a dozen distinct sports. Other cultivars appear to be more stable genetically and rarely sport.

The leaves of African violets produce each new baby plant from a single cell. If something (chance, radiation, mutagenic chemicals) causes the genetic material in this single cell to change, the result will be sport. While it used to be common practice to produce

sports through the use of mutagens, many of the sports were not improvements on the original plant and this practice has been discontinued.

Q: *Should newly germinated seedlings be fertilized?*

A: I would recommend that the water used on seeds and germinating seedlings be plain or distilled water. Adding any amount of fertilizer seems to encourage the growth of algae on the germination medium. The algae will quickly overgrow the new seedlings and kill them. After the seedlings have been transplanted to regular soil mixture, a diluted fertilizer solution that is high in nitrogen, (the first number in a fertilizer formula), can be added to stimulate the growth of the seedlings. Once the seedlings are 1-2 inches in diameter, they should respond well to your regular fertilizer program.

DISCOVER CALIFORNIA

The human stampede to the Mother Lode came on foot, horseback, stagecoach, sailing ship, and paddle wheeler ~ and finally, on ribbons of iron.

Gold seekers coming by stagecoach were advised to bring a pair of blankets, revolver, knife, wine to mix with the brackish water and \$3 or \$4 worth of provisions to last while crossing the desert.

California steamboating was born in the Gold Rush era. Competition was unrestrained, and river captains ran their vessels until they wore out or met with disaster. In 1860 the elegant Chrysopolis was built, complete with marble-topped tables, red plush upholstery, glistening brass lamps and murals of California scenes. Today the historic 110-foot paddle wheeler Spirit of Sacramento provides passengers a leisurely tour of the scenic Delta area.

But nothing opened up California like the Central Pacific Railroad, which was completed in 1869. Eager to permanently connect California to the rest of the nation, the United States government paid for track laid by the mile with track over mountainous terrain bringing a much larger

fee per mile.

Shrewdly assessing the opportunity for vast wealth, four California shopkeepers started the CP Railroad. Though they knew nothing about building railroads, they did know about financing. The "big four" persuaded a geologist to agree that the Sierra Nevada Mountains started 40 miles closer to Sacramento, and their profits soon soared. Thanks to that geologist, Sacramento has some of the flattest mountains in the world!

Steam trains are still capturing the hearts of railroad enthusiasts who enjoy excursions and dinner on the Napa Valley Wine Train. Not to be missed in Old Sacramento is the California State Railroad Museum, with 21 restored locomotives, train cars and more than 40 exhibits documenting American railroad history between 1860 and 1960.

If you'd like to know where the railroad tracks begin their journey across the flat mountains of California, come to Sacramento and we'll show you!

ORIGINAL ARTICLES NEEDED FOR THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

You may have noticed that much of the material printed in this publication comes from various affiliated club newsletters and booklets. I will continue reprinting from these because of the high quality of the articles, and the varied ideas coming from around the country and world.

However, I would like to be able to print more original material in the AVM, (which the clubs may then reprint in their publications!) Please share your

growing experiences and ideas with the other members of the AVSA.

Send your submissions to:
Ruth Rumsey, Editor
African Violet Magazine
2375 North St.
Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey.earthlink.net

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Columnnea 'Broget's Stavanger' is grown on what was originally a fluorescent light stand for orchids: it has 2 shop light fixtures over each shelf instead of the single fixture recommended for African violets. All of my "other Gesneriads" seem to like this set up much better and grow very compactly. The tubes are what ever kind comes along at a good price at the time one burns out!

Peter's Professional Potting Soil mixed with styrofoam beanbag pellets in a 3:1 ratio is used for all my Gesneriads. I used to use perlite, but switched to styrofoam pellets after having some Miniature and Semi-miniature violets show fluoride damage. It solved the problem, along with switching to crushed granite chicken or turkey grit in the bottom of the containers for drainage and aeration underneath the soil mix. There is about a half inch of grit in the bottom of the Other Gesneriad containers.

All my Gesneriads are on wicks made of synthetic fiber macramé cord from the hobby store. The large pots have multiple-strand braided cord about 3/8 inch thick. The *C.* 'Broget's Stavanger' is in a ceramic insert for an African violet watering container, but it grew so long and trailing that I set it in the top of a large candle goblet for a reservoir (the insert just exactly hung on the lip of the goblet). This works with all of the vining Gesneriads I grow. A friend made the ceramic pot inserts for me with a hole in the bottom for draining water when I leach salts from the soil. This was plugged with a cork when using the short ceramic reservoir, but kept the plants too wet. They are much happier on the wicks.

The water in Jacksonville sometimes reaches a pH of almost 8, which has a serious negative effect on my Gesneriads. A treatment of 1 tablespoon Fertiloome Root Stimulator and Plant Starter Solution with its Indole-3-butyric acid, to a gallon of water, counteracts the pH, provides a great mild fertilizer, and stimulates healthy roots all at the same time. All the Gesneriads seem to really love it. It promotes a heavy bloom, too, within several weeks of each use. For several weeks between treatments, the plants do get tap water.

Additional Gesneriad Winners

Phyllis King's *Sinningia* kautskyi x *S. hirsuta* won Best Tuberous Other Gesneriad, and for the second time in a row,

This month's Gesneri-Advice comes from **Catherine Carter** who won AVSA's Best Other Gesneriad with her 6 year old *Columnnea* 'Broget's Stavanger':

won Second Best Other Gesneriad. **Mollie Howell** entered several large gesneriads. The one which caused the most interest, receiving a Judge's Special Award, was *Nematanthus* 'Stop Light' with long, dangling, pouched, reddish-orange blossoms. **Jo Anne Martinez** entered an outstanding *Episcia* 'Alice's Aussie' which received a Judge's Special Award. **Carol Schreck's** *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams' caused excitement because this 'Cleopatra' type plant normally with pink blossoms has again mutated displaying yellow blossoms! I won Best Miniature Other Gesneriad with my miniature hybrid, *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Fantasy', with streaked blossoms. **Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses** entered gorgeous, heavy blooming plants, winning commercial Best Other Gesneriad with an *Aeschynanthus*.

Gesneriads in Florida

Thanks to Mollie Howell for her efforts in putting together popular tours which focused on plants rather than sightseeing and shopping.

Dr. Hans Wiehier is the enthusiastic director of the Gesneriad Research Foundation in Sarasota. This private, non-profit scientific organization is devoted to research and preservation of the Gesneriaceae family. GRF sponsors annual expeditions into the tropical rain forests. Harriet Poss from San Mateo, California, went on the most recent 14 day adventure to Ecuador. She crossed a fast moving river on a bridge made of two bamboo poles! Her group collected 177 gesneriads including 44 new species. The gesneriads were bagged exactly where found, with each bag listing the location, altitude and name of the plant.

Richard and Patricia Dunn, in Largo, have greenhouses which house gesneriads they have collected in the rain forests. I was thrilled to see at the AVSA convention an exceptional display of gesneriads by Dunn's Nursery.

Selby Gardens, in Sarasota, provided an outstanding behind-the-scenes tour of greenhouses with gesneriads and other tropical plants.

Showing how popular the other gesneriads have become, ten commercial tables were selling gesneriads as plants, rhizomes or tubers!

"The National Show Was Only Two Hours Away ..."

by Barbara Cole
Cape Coral, FL

A National Show close by! A once in a lifetime experience. Wouldn't it be great if..? These thoughts kept wandering through my mind. The show would only be two hours away...

I settled on entering the category of "Optimara® Collection" primarily because for some puzzling reason I thought it would be a small category with few entries. (Later I found out there was a large award.) So off I went to several local supermarkets to find some Optimaras®. When I took them home I checked the AVSA Master Variety List to see that they were properly marked. I bought four (one extra in case I had any problems). Van Gogh, Rosalie, Kafka and one other that promptly died.

I immediately removed most of the roots and repotted them in a light soil mix appropriate for my south Florida area. Also, early this fall someone gave me a "fixer upper" they bought at a garage sale. I repotted it and when it bloomed I recognized it as Barbados. I was set!

I started to keep a journal, writing everything I did to these plants as the year progressed. I kept them disbudded, assuming the longer they were disbudded the larger the leaves. As the year wore on they began to look worse - or at best, ordinary. In addition to my profession as a teacher, other responsibilities came up, such as preparing plants for our Gulf African Violet Club show in November as well as our spring judged show. The Optimaras® continued to look ordinary. Small leaves, tight-appearing centers although there were no bugs (probably too much light).

In the meantime, several of my other plants really started looking great and they became the focus of my attention. They were moved to the center areas of the plant stands, given plant rings, disbudded, repotted, given regular baths and several doses of bloom booster fertilizer.

There was no room the Optimaras®, so I took them to my high school special education classroom. They were placed by the north windows where they were watered with fertilized water (when I thought about them).

Once our judged show was in the past, I again concentrated on my potential show plants at home. Leaves were washed and petioles were gently encouraged between

the leaves. They were petted, pampered and potted. Meanwhile, the Optimaras® were dodging spitwads.

Two weeks before the arrival of the national show, my precious darlings at home were beginning to tire. I was cutting off more blossoms than buds were opening. Leaves were developing spots. I cracked a leaf on one. The strain of being pretty was beginning to show. What to do?

The president of our club was going to take the plants to the show for me, and planned to leave Tuesday morning. The weekend before the show I looked around my plant stand to see if there was *anything* of show quality. The plants with great blossoms had spotted, cracked leaves while others had great leaves and few blossoms. They just couldn't get it together!

On Monday I looked around my classroom. Wait a minute! There was my Van Gogh blooming its head off! I looked closer at the leaves, surprised to discover that they looked good, too. Not big, but symmetrical.

I brought it home, cleaned it up and took off a few leaves. And this was the plant our president took to the show. All I hoped for was a ribbon. *Any kind of ribbon*, so I would have a souvenir of the National Show. I drove up after school on Friday. Several of my wonderful friends, (and fellow club members) met me in the terrace and told me I had won a blue ribbon! They had also won ribbons. We were so excited! Thrilled is a better word.

You would think that all's well that ends well, right? Well there's more. Our president also took my plant home for me since I couldn't stay late on Saturday. Tuesday, after our meeting, I picked up my plant from her house. As I was carrying it from her house to my car, the box slipped out of my hands. Violets are not aerodynamically correct and it immediately fell on its blooming head. Most of the blossom stalks were broken. I appeased myself with the knowledge that I would have taken the booms off anyway. (Needless to say, I never volunteer for the placement committee.)

The whole experience was worthwhile and fun. I wanted to go to the national show and take a plant to enter, and I did. Try it, you'll like it!



Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

Editorial Correction to the MVL No. 7, page 223

Rob's Doohickey (7884) 6/2/93 is a Miniature
as it was originally registered.

REGISTRATIONS

June Swift - Dallas, TX

- ***Lovey Lacy** (8595) 4/25/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble-double fuchsia large star/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Mister Sun** (8596) 4/25/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble-double fuchsia large frilled star/wide white edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy/red back. **Standard**

Elizabeth Wasche - Brigantine, NJ

- ***Black Russian** (8597) 5/5/97 (E. Wasche) Double red-purple ruffled pansy/green edge. **Variiegated** green, tan and pink, plain, pointed, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- ***Maid in Jersey** (8598) 5/5/97 (E. Wasche) Single-semidouble pale peach-pink pansy/fuchsia-red band, white edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Ms. Rosie** (8599) 5/5/97 (E. Wasche) Double dark rose large ruffled pansy/darker eye, variable black-red top petals. **Variiegated** medium green and white, pointed, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Rose Dust** (8600) 5/5/97 (E. Wasche) Single pink star/maroon fantasy, edge. **Variiegated** green and pink, pointed, wavy/red back. **Large**
- ***Silent Sorceress** (8601) 5/5/97 (E. Wasche) Single coral-red large pansy/burgundy ruffled edge. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- ***Stained Glass** (8602) 5/5/97 (E. Wasche) Single light lavender star/darker veins, light purple band, thin white edge. **Variiegated** dark green and tan, plain, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***Watermelon Summer** (8603) 5/5/97 (E. Wasche) Double red large frilled pansy/darker eye. **Variiegated** green and white, plain, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

George Ramirez - Morgan City, LA

- ***Kiss Me Love** (8604) 5/23/97 (Ramirez/Domiano) Semidouble blush white large star. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, ovate. **Large**
- ***Love Ya** (8605) 5/23/97 (Ramirez/Domiano) Semidouble rose-pink. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, pointed, wavy, serrated. **Large**

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.

Ralph Robinson - Naples, NY

- ***Rob's Boogie Woogie** (8606) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium shell pink pansy. **Crown variiegated** dark green and tan-beige, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Club Soda** (8607) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double white pansy/blue-speckled pink frosted edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Cool Fruit** (8608) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double white pansy/rose-pink edge. **Crown variiegated** medium green, white and yellow, pointed, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Gizmo** (8609) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium pink star. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Ice Ripples** (8610) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white ruffled star/wide medium blue edge. Medium green, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Lucky Penny** (8611) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white pansy/dark blue eye, variable thin blue edge. **Variiegated** light-medium green and white, pointed, glossy. Sucker propagation only. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Scarecrow** (8612) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double white star/peach-yellow mottling. Medium green, pointed, pebbled, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Silly Sally** (8613) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double dark pink star. **Variiegated** medium-dark green and white, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Smarty Pants** (8614) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white ruffled star/blue-speckled pink edge. Medium green, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Snake Charmer** (8615) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sparkle star. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Twinkle Blue** (8616) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue pansy. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Whoa Nellie** (8617) 5/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double fuchsia pansy/white edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, pebbled, glossy. **Semiminiature**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA

- * Mama Mia

1997 Commercial Display AVSA Convention St. Pete Beach

by Ruth Goeke • Brenham, TX

Each year at the AVSA convention, one of the highlights many of us look forward to is the commercial section, primarily the display tables. While we were disappointed that several commercials who normally have a display table did not have one this year, the six tables that were entered were very well done.

For the fifth time, Ralph Robinson of Rob's Mini-O-Lets of Naples, New York, received top honors of Best Horticultural Perfection and Best Display Table. His table featured 45 exceptional miniatures, semiminiatures, and trailers that were loaded with blossoms. A number of new varieties were displayed, including the Best New Cultivar, 'Rob's Sarsparilla'. This is a very unusual light pink fringed semidouble with "brownish" edging and touches of green. 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' was awarded Second Best New Cultivar, and it has pretty candy pink blossoms with crown variegation. 'Rob's Boolaroo' was awarded the best overall plant from the display table section. This quite lovely semiminature trailer was a light pink with blue fantasy markings and measured at least 15 inches across! Other new trailers to watch for include 'Rob's Humpty Doo' and 'Rob's Galiwinku'. 'Rob's Ruff Stuff', 'Rob's Neat Nellie', and my favorite, 'Rob's Smarty Pants', all look like varieties we will want to grow. Dr. Robinson was also recognized for his horticultural contributions by being awarded the AVSA Bronze Medal.

Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, Nebraska, had his usual gorgeous display of 15 large standard varieties and placed Second Best Display table. 'Run for Cover' received the award for Third Best New Cultivar and it has lovely dark pink blooms with dark purple fantasy markings and large, very dark foliage. It will have you "running" to add one to your collection! Another new variety you will want to have is 'Cathedral', a lovely soft pink with many dark blue-purple fantasy spots and splashes and dark green foliage. Other new varieties shown were 'Still Waters', 'Annabelle', 'Tapestry', and 'Baritone', for those of you who like wine-red semidoubles over dark green foliage. One always expects large beautiful plants from Kent, and this year was no exception.

Travis Davis, of Travis' African Violets, Ochlochnee, Georgia, exhibited his usual magnificent table with 15 standards and received the award for Third Best Display Table. There were two stunning plants of 'Georgia Lover', a proven show plant hybridized by Travis several years ago. 'Country Moonlight', with its glistening soft pink

blossoms, is one of my all-time favorite plants. Other tried and true winners were 'Country Cider', with its lovely variegation, 'Aca's Eye Knees', 'Peach Brandy' - and we cannot forget 'Lady Love', with its raspberry rose edge. Also striking were 'Bud's Melanie' and 'Anastasia'. Travis always does a great job.

Receiving Honorable Mention, Fourth Best Display Table, was Hector Becerra of The Mini Mansion, San Antonio, Texas. Although Hector has just recently started entering display tables, he has been growing for show for years and is a consistent winner. While we certainly missed having a display table by Hortense Pittman, we were happy to see many of her varieties featured on Hector's table, as well as several Dean's varieties. Especially eye-catching were nine plants of 'Teen Thunder', a striking new heavy blooming variety from Hortense. There is no doubt you need this one! Several other Hortense hybrids were 'Teen Kiss' and 'Petite Teen', perfect for those container gardens. 'Honey Puff' has soft blush blossoms with dark green miniature foliage. 'Memory Maker' made a few memories and 'Cool Blue' was on everyone's want list. 'Dean's Cupid' was another favorite with its vivid dark blue blossoms covering very symmetrical variegated foliage. 'Dean's Arctic Frost' also caught my eye. This was the second year for Shannon Ahlman of the Violet Showroom of Grand Island, Nebraska, to enter a display table, and he gave us another beautiful table. You would think he's been entering display tables for many years. He had 15 large blue-ribboned plants. Many favorite older varieties were featured on this table, including an impressive 'Ceremonial Dance', 'Wrangler's Jealous Heart', with its lovely variegation, and 'Raspberry Crisp', with its frilled raspberry edges. 'Paumanok', with tremendous foliage that literally shone, displaying soft pink blossoms; 'Annabelle', with pretty dark pink doubles, and 'Suncoast Paisley Print' with its fantastic fantasy blooms. We can't forget 'Harbor Blue' and 'Aca's Canadian Wonder'. 'Mid America' has many soft pink doubles over gorgeous, heavily pink variegated foliage. This is a new variety hybridized by Ruby Cox and named for her violet club, Mid-America African Violet Society. This is also the club our new AVSA president, Esther Edwards Wells, is a member of. It was difficult to pick a favorite - they were all so lovely.

Richard Dunn of Dunn's Nursery in Largo, Florida, had an interesting and unusual table that was for exhibit
(continued on page 47)

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150

Those of you who were unable to attend the 51st AVSA Convention really missed a treat. Even if one didn't have time to romp on the beach, it was amusing to watch others do so! Mary Lou Harden, Cheryl Hukle, Rita Hilton, JoAnne Martinez, Bob Green, Barbara Matthews, and everyone else who had a hand in this convention are to be commended for a fine job. We are also grateful to the exhibitors and the judges and clerks. There were many beautiful entries in both horticulture and design so the judges had a tough assignment.

As usual, with the committee meetings, board meetings, etc., a few changes came about. The most significant change was the revision of the scale of points for judging new cultivars (page 57). Please make these changes:

- Leaf pattern or form 25 points
- Condition 10 points
- Quality of blooms
 - (blossoms and buds showing color) 30 points
 - Blossom form (size and color) 15 points
 - Color of blossom 15 points
 - Improvement or difference from
 - any named variety 5 points

This change came about because many judges felt it was time for a change. Most feel that it is not likely that we are going to see plants that greatly differ from the present cultivars. For this reason, 20 of the 25 points for improvement and difference were allocated to leaf pattern or form, quantity of bloom, and color of blossom.

Page 59-Change 20 points in the first paragraph to 5

points.

Page 66-Change the first sentence under Hanging Flower or Plant Arrangements to read: Hanging flower or plant arrangements are arrangements that are suspended in air, either from a dowel or a bracket on the back of a niche or from an eye screw if a frame is used in place of a niche, which may or may not have movement.

Page 36-At the top of the page, delete item #11.

Page 73-In the first paragraph at the top of the page, delete "and AVSA Affiliate Publications and (which includes yearbooks, newsletters, and magazines)."

Page 74-Under Rules for Affiliate Publications, in the second sentence under #5 delete "AVSA Chairman of Publications" and insert, "to Shows and Judges Chairman."

You should have already noticed in the July issue of the AVM that Affiliate Publications will no longer be entered in competition at AVSA convention shows.

I have been asked to make a plea to the Affiliates to exercise care in filling out the "And the Winners Are..." reports. Mary Loewer, the newly appointed chair of this column may make a few revisions in the form for clarification. For the first time we have received a report that showed the best semiminiature and the best trailer as the same plant. This may have been a judge's error. Normally, the awards sheet that is given to the judges states that the best semiminiature comes from the classes for single crown plants, as does best miniature and best standard. Of course, any of these could come from the collection classes. Another report showed a trailer as the

best semiminiature and showed no best trailer. Please strive to fill out the report correctly so your awards can be reported correctly. Anything on the report that does not agree with the MVL (if listed in the MVL) will be omitted from the column.

I also want to make a plea to the sponsors of judging schools. Please read the rules for registering a school on page 90 of the HANDBOOK and try to adhere to those rules. We can bend a little on the 3 month rule, but remember that the teacher needs as much time as possible to prepare the lecture for the schools. Try to allow no less than 2 months. It would be very unfair to students signed up for a judging school if your registration was refused because you didn't follow the rules.

We have had many requests for guidelines for selecting "Best, Second Best, etc., in Show". We will be reprinting the HANDBOOK in the near future and will include some guidelines. These will be put on page 94, after the Judges' Quick Reference Guide. A reference to this page will be given on page 47. There will also be revisions to the section on African Violet Species when we reprint.

Here are some questions from the Judges' breakfast;

Q. Is there a possibility that the Society will get environmentally involved and prohibit the use of non biodegradable foil?

A. In 1992 it was voted to slip pot at convention shows. Affiliates still have a choice of foiling the pots, but I know of none that do. If there are still Affiliates that are foiling, consider slip potting. Once you start doing it you will not want to do it any other way!

Q. In classification which is more important, edges or fantasy?

A. Edges take precedent over fantasy or any other blossom color.

Q. When judging terrariums, should they be faulted for foliage touching the sides or the top?

A. They shouldn't be faulted for foliage touching the sides but foliage should not touch the top. It can easily be trimmed.

Q. I have been told that a floral design should not have more than one color of African violet blossoms and no other flowers, except for filler (like Baby's Breath). If it has too many contrasting flowers, it is not a "design", it is a "bouquet". Please comment.

A. First, a bouquet is an arrangement that you can pick up with one hand and move somewhere! When we do a design we are creating a work of art. Nothing in the HANDBOOK even suggests that we cannot use more than one color. A designer has the choice of using and blending as many colors as they choose in order to interpret the class. Sometimes the schedule will state that, for example, only red blossoms may be used. In this case, adhere to the schedule. Otherwise, you may use only one color blossom or as many as you choose to use!

Q. When judging terrariums, and the show schedule states that they are to be viewed from the front only, should a judge walk around to the back of the table to look at the back?

A. No, of course not!

Q. In a class for natural gardens a hollowed out rock had a straw basket placed in the "hollow" and the planting was done in the basket. What do you think about this?

A. The planting should have been within the rock and the basket should not have been used. Page 68 of the HANDBOOK defines a natural garden.

Q. What was the rationale behind the change in the entry tag? With no stub to remove and count, we had a more difficult time balancing our entries and ribbons in the show. In fact, one of clubs folded the claims checks and had the clerks write "red, white, or blue and the name of the plant and class" just so they'd be able to balance.

A. The extra "stub" was deleted because so many members complained about having to fill out a stub that was of no use! All the clubs that we are associated with use their entry books with all the pertinent information. It seems that the stubs would be hard to keep up with.

Q. How can one judge in Design if they have never made or entered one?

A. Probably not very well! If such a judge must be used, be sure there are two very knowledgeable judges on the panel. I am sure that some may have an eye for design but the best way to learn about elements and principles is by learning to use them in a design.

We will discuss more of these questions in the next column.

African Violet Arrangements Add Individual Beauty To Your Home

by Anne Tinari
Huntingdon Valley, PA

Dinner guests will be arriving within the hour. You have prepared a fabulous dinner, the silver and china are all neatly in place, but something is missing. If only you had thought to plan for a table centerpiece — not to worry. If you have a violet or two in bloom just scan your china closet for one of those cut glass bowls that usually collect dust. Wash it out thoroughly, line it with some soft color tissue or foil, cut the center out of a white doily and slip it under the foliage of your best blooming African violet. You can transform its appearance for the occasion. It will make your table sparkle with that personal touch and afford an opportunity for pleasant conversation.

African violets are well known and grown in most households. They can be used in various ways to add color and interest to your decor. A fireside basket of violets with a bit of color trim to match some accessory is in vogue. Baskets are used in various ways to accent a special theme. African violets make delightful party favors and special gifts for any occasion.

A single African violet in a china cup and saucer on a night table in your guest room or even a few cut violet blossoms in a miniature vase can initiate a gracious, warm welcome to an overnight guest.

Not only have we pursued perfection in growing, grooming and showing these versatile plants, but many growers have shown great ingenuity in using the delicate African violet blossoms and plants in competitive arrangements and artistic plantings. These can be seen in any of the local, state, and national African violet shows. The African Violet Society of America, Inc. has established rules in their Judges Handbook For Growers and Exhibitors where definite guidelines are outlined.

Any member who attended our national African violet show in St. Petersburg, Florida this year was pleasantly surprised with an abundance of very beautiful interpretive violet arrangements in ten categories which included: A Florida Fantasy, Romeo & Juliet, The Glass Slipper, The Oval Office and others. I have attended many conventions and truly this one was outstanding, especially in the arrangement classes. Such artistry and detail were never before expressed and in such beautiful taste in the well-proportioned violet niches.

Design is an art form that brings personal satisfaction and joy in accomplishment. An arrangement can be as

simple or elaborate as you prefer. One must be imaginative and original. Let your arrangement blend in with your decor to enhance your individual taste. Do not hesitate to add finishing touches to an arrangement with sprigs of greenery such as fern or ivy. Use appropriate accessories to compliment and emphasize your violet creation.

If you plan a more sophisticated arrangement, keep in mind the *principles of design* which are balance, contrast, dominance, proportion and scale. The *elements of design* are color, form, line, pattern and space. Without going into detail, common sense and personal preference play a very important part.

I have seen violet arrangements at our state and national shows that are outstanding. By keeping in mind the above standard rules one can accomplish this task through knowledge and experience.

A violet plant in a glass, plastic bowl or terrarium always causes one to take a second look and can be easily assembled. A terrarium environment can substitute for a self-operating green house as water vapor forms to create a humid atmosphere. Use coarse vermiculite to cover the lower half of the bowl, then nestle an African violet in the center, keeping the plant in its original pot so roots are confined for continuous growth. It can thrive and bloom in this moist atmosphere, if you are careful to give the plant a little water at pot top occasionally. Never cover the bowl as fresh air circulation is of great importance.

Many homes and offices do not provide proper growing facilities to maintain flowering, living plants but with so many types of fluorescent light stands available on the market you can accent any dark or special area in your room with fluorescent tube lighting.

Lights should be kept on 12 to 14 hours a day with 8 hours of darkness. By using a timer you can regulate light hours to suit your need. A tray of beautiful African violets can be the focal point in any room and with such a great color variety that is available you can select plants to your individual liking.

Anyone can be motivated to enhance their surroundings with colorful African violets, and using a bit of originality and imagination can glean the satisfaction and joy of growing and displaying flowering African violets for any special occasion. Happy violet arranging!



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
 28 Minot Street
 Falmouth, MA 02540
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 2325 Valley Road
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Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

There are many ways to lose plants, including African violets. It can be too hot, too cold, too wet, or dry. You leave a garden gate unlocked and the donkeys dine regardless of weather. (Been there, done that). Sometimes we lose a special plant, and of course it's the one that is hard to replace. Sometimes it's the one that can't be replaced. Fortunately we have so many people who are willing to share that the replacement percentage is continuing to climb. At our recent spring show in Sacramento someone, who didn't leave their name, dropped off four leaves of 'Millie Blair' for me. This was one of the times I thought the variety was lost and gone forever. Thank you out there for your generosity!

As you may have noticed, I now have an E-Mail Address, also a new computer. (I'm not very comfortable with either.) The computer glares at me with its one big eye and tells me I'm an dummy. Only time will tell if we

will ever be friends. Right now I don't believe its parents were married....

I am in the process of getting ready for our National Convention in St. Petersburg. At the Board of Directors meeting I will petition the Board to move my date for Vintage Violets from 1985 to 1987. I only keep records of plants that are over 10 years old. However, if I see a plant listed, that is fairly new, that someone has asked for, I will always let them know where I saw it listed. Please don't hesitate to ask me if I know where that special plant you are looking for is located.

Remember, when getting a start of something from someone kind enough to share, *always return the postage*, whether asked to or not.

A very big THANK YOU to all of you who have participated in saving our African violet heritage.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

American
Arctic Blizzard
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Donna Lee (Beck)
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Rainbow's Bantam Neon Glo
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TWO NEW VIDEOS IN AVSA LIBRARY

185L **New** "GROWING BEAUTIFUL" AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS". This is a 28 min. Cable TV production featuring Anna Jean Landgren of Illinois. One of a series of HOUSE PLANT HOW-TO programs.

186L **New** "TEACHING THE TRICKS". This is a 27 min. Cable TV production featuring Jean Willey of Indiana showing new member, Tracy Bruns of Illinois, how to get started from putting down an African violet leaf to dividing the plantlets. One of the HOUSEPLANT HOW-TO series. Excellent for beginning growers.

CALL THE AVSA OFFICE TO RESERVE LIBRARY MATERIALS (800) 770-2872

Handle with Care

by Carolyn McAllen • Member, Casper Bloomers • Casper, WY

Most people are familiar with the phrase about protecting your children by wrapping them in cotton wool. Well, most African violet lovers treat their plants like their children.

However, after receiving shipments from seven different growers (two from three of them), I feel qualified to contribute a few observations on the different kinds of packing that greenhouses use. This isn't criticizing anyone, just my observations.

Some starter plants have arrived in bloom. Neither the trip, nor my attempts to unwrap them, have stopped the buds. Don't try to convince me violets are fragile!

One of the most successful (survival-wise, that is) methods of packing, is wrapping plants in plastic then placing them into individual dividers in a box. They're easy to remove from the box and unwrap.

Another method really protected the plants; so much so that I could hardly remove them. These plants were wrapped in corrugated cardboard stapled at top and bottom. By the time I negotiated the staples and got through the plastic, the plants lost a few leaves. (Masking tape would be a suggestion to replace to the staples.)

A third method is placing the plastic-wrapped plants into styrofoam drinking cups. This is handy because the plants can literally be dumped out into your hand without damage. Problem was, the plastic was so tight around some of the plants that it was impossible to remove without losing leaves.

All commercial growers seem to be in accord that leaves should be contained in plastic baggies, and I agree. However, one grower simply put leaves in a bag without anything else – and, surprisingly, they arrived in excellent condition. Several others wrapped the stems in damp cotton. One also tightly wrapped the cotton in aluminum foil – which was

almost impossible to remove. Actually, the cotton in a sealed plastic bag provides as much humidity as a violet needs.

I would like to add a word of praise/thanks to the growers who send two of each requested leaf. This is a real plus. Somehow, at least with me, if I have just one leaf it dies. However, with two, both root. It's also nice to receive a "bonus" surprise leaf with the order.

As for tagging the leaves, most shippers put the name on the outside of the baggie. I was really surprised when one order came with tiny square tags bearing the plant name on each leaf. That's especially helpful if you have an order of 10-20 leaves and you're trying to keep up with the names and tags.

Insulating material has changed over the years. When I got my first order about 10 years ago, shredded paper was used as a filler. Next styrofoam, shredded and solid came as packing. This year my orders were wrapped in a cotton-wool type filler, along with some added paper mache top and bottom for extra support in one of the packages.

Most shippers are very careful about weather, even though the violet lover may be waiting on pins and needles for his/her shipment to arrive. Most will not ship until May 1 or 15. However, I received a package on April 24. Fortunately, temperatures had been in the 60s for a week. Two days later 16 inches of snow fell.

Of course, in Wyoming snow can fall 12 months a year, so you're taking a chance no matter what! Last year it snowed Aug. 28 and the year before on July 4. Let me hasten to say we have a lot of really hot temperatures (sometimes over 100) the rest of the summer.

My main suggestion to shippers is to continue being conscientious in your packaging. Just keep the person who is doing the unpacking in mind and don't offer too much of a challenge.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside • St. Charles, MO 63303

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Showcase

Tamsen

*Best In Class
1997 National Show*

*Exhibited by:
Pat Richards
Hybridized by:*

A. Adams

Miniature

Photo Credit: Library Crew



Wee Dear

*Best In Class
1997 National Show*

*Exhibited by:
Phyllis King
Hybridized by:*

H. Pittman

Miniature

Photo Credit: Library Crew





Teen Sweetheart

*Best In Class
1997 National Show*

Exhibited by:

Jean Marie Ross

Hybridized by:

H. Pittman

Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Library Crew



Grandmother's Halo

*Best In Class
1997 National Show*

Exhibited by:

Phyllis King

Hybridized by:

J. Domiano

Large

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Dividing Your African Violet Plantlets

by Pam & Keith Kennedy • Australia

Equipment:

1. A clean work area is essential. It's a good idea to put several sheets of newspaper down to protect the surface on which you are working; this can later be disposed of along with your discarded leaves and potting mix.
2. A skewer or knitting needle.
3. Fresh, moist potting mix.
4. 8 ply acrylic yarn cut into lengths approximately 8-9", moistened.
5. Small, clean, 3" pots.

If your pot has been used before make sure it is thoroughly cleaned of any fertilizer salts that may have built up around the edge, and sterilize in a 10% solution of household bleach.

6. White electrician's tape, and a permanent marker.
7. A small, soft brush.
8. Most importantly, healthy young plantlets ready to divide.

If your young plantlets are too damp, the leaves may tend to break off too easily, so it is wise to allow them to dry out for a day or so; not so dry that they are wilted, but enough to make them easy to handle.

Method:

1. Have a look at your pot of young plantlets and work out how many plants you will be able to separate.
2. With the white electrician's tape, mark (on the side of the pot, the name and description of the plant, and the date for future reference).
3. Insert a skewer or knitting needle through the hole in the side of the pot (if it doesn't have one you could use one of the bottom holes sliding the skewer in on a shallow angle), gently lifting the young plants out of the pot.



4. Now gently separate the young plantlets, taking off a few of the smaller, outside immature leaves. Leave at least 5-6 leaves to give the plant a good start.



5. Place the acrylic yarn through one of the holes in the bottom of the clean pot and leave enough length underneath to allow for wick watering. Coil the rest of the yarn on the bottom of the pot.
6. Fill the pot with potting mix, but do not pack it down too tightly.
7. Make a hole in the middle of the potting mix big enough to place the plantlet in without damaging the root system. The bottom of a pencil is useful for this.
8. Place the plantlet in the pot, making sure it is in the center (although I am sure they all grow legs and move over to one side within a couple of weeks). Then, gently push the potting mix over the roots to anchor the plant, making sure it is not planted too deeply, but yet is firm in the pot. Do not press the potting mix down too hard as this will not allow for good air circulation around the roots.
9. With a soft brush, gently remove any potting mix from the leaves and petioles.
10. Water with tepid water. Do not use fertilizer at this stage. Some people like to use a plant rooting hormone.
11. Drain off any excess water by standing on newspaper overnight if necessary. If the roots are waterlogged they have a greater risk of root rot.



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DESIGNING WITH DECORATIVE WOOD

by Mary Stallings • Ft. Worth, TX

The term decorative wood is used to encompass weathered wood, drift wood, treated wood, cypress knees, bark, palm spathes, dried branches, roots, and tendrils. (Cones and fungi are not considered decorative wood).

This term eliminates difficulties in flower show work as it allows the exhibitor the choice of material they may use without any question by the classification committee or judges.

Usage of decorative wood:

1. line material
2. container
3. base
4. background
5. a featured object
6. accessory
7. sculptural form

Decorative Wood as a design element:

1. Useful in both traditional and creative designs.
2. Twigs and tendrils may be used in miniature (5") and small designs (8").
3. Very large pieces may be used in designs 5-6 feet tall.
4. All the elements of design may be found in a piece of decorative wood - space - line form - pattern - texture - color - therefore a small amount of plant material is required.
5. Each piece of wood has its own character, enabling the designer to create a new image.
6. Shape may be altered by removing some portions or adding segments to increase size.
7. It is versatile, combining with most plant material - fresh or dried - nuts, fruits, flowers - yes - roses and African violets.
8. Manmade materials such as metals and plastic are also suitable in design if the schedule permits.
9. If the wood suggests a sculpture or figure (bird or animal) it may be elevated on a metal rod or dowel anchored on a heavy base.
10. The color may be changed by using water base paint, stains, or pastel chalks as they do not harm the natural luster.
11. Wood with pockets or openings can function as containers.

12. Wood may appear uninteresting until it is combined with plant material. Use bright colors and texture as they bring it to life.
13. Only the designer knows the weight of the wood as some are light and others heavy. Placing the wood up in the air lightens the visual weight. Large bases can be reduced by placement of foliage and flowers. A good example is a plant arrangement.
14. Stability is essential. The props used to achieve it must appear natural and integrated.

Preparation of decorative wood:

1. Most wood requires cleaning before using in a design.
2. Scrub with a stiff brush in warm soapy water. This may need to be repeated several times. Rinse well and allow to dry.
3. Spray with Raid House & Garden. Pay attention to areas where insect eggs might be.
4. Examine and turn in all directions to see how it is to be used.
5. Most pieces will require some form of alteration.
6. Most pieces of wood may be attached to each other with a wooden dowel. Nails and screws may cause splitting. Do not depend on a hot glue gun to hold.
7. I usually like the natural patina rubbed with a soft cloth. A clear plastic spray or floor wax may be used to add a shine.
8. Warm linseed oil can be rubbed on the wood and then rubbed with a soft cloth to darken the natural color.
9. Water-based paints can add beauty and interest.
10. Wood may be bleached in the sun for several weeks or in a clorox bath.
11. Some pieces of wood (example: monkey puzzle) may be soaked in hot water and tied into a desired shape and allowed to dry.
12. Stability is a must. Most common need is to stabilize a piece of line material. There are two methods of use:
 - A. Attach an inverted needle holder to the base of the wood with a screw. This is placed on an anchored needle holder in the container.
 - B. Use hanger iron (3/4"). Cut into 3 pieces (about 1 1/2"), place around the base of the wood and anchor with wire. Reinforce with hot glue. The strips should be placed to extend beyond the base of the wood, the length of the needles on the holder that is to be used in the container.

DISBUDDING

What's It All About?

by Ruth Coulson • Australia

So, the show is over. The winners have taken their awards, and the rest have gone home to think it all over, maybe to do better next time.

We don't necessarily enter to win, we tell ourselves. We just put our plants on the show bench to help support the show and to provide a spectacle for the public, and most laudable those aims are. But come on, admit it. It would be great to be a winner, wouldn't it? So what did the top plants have that others didn't? Or since that seems obvious (large size, beautiful shape and plentiful flowers), how did the growers do it?

Let me ask you a question. Did you disbud your show plants? No, it's nothing shameful. It's just the technique of taking off the flower buds as they form, so the plant can put all its energy into producing beautiful leaves until the time you want it to come into flower. In other words, it allows the grower to exert a fair amount of control over how the plant progresses. Although it is possible to produce a good show plant by letting it grow and flower naturally, hoping it will be at its peak when it is needed for the show, it is much more reliable to disbud the plant as it grows.

How do you go about disbudding?

The best results seem to be achieved by removing all buds as they appear, right from the time the plant is large enough to flower. That is, remove all except perhaps one stem with a couple of buds on it, just to check that the plant is flowering "true" to variety. This is especially important in the case of fantasy and other bicolors that often produce variable plants which may be wildly different from their description. Don't ignore this precaution with other varieties, however. It is worthwhile to assure yourself that the plant is truly that which is named on its label. We are all prone to make labeling mistakes. Should the plant not prove to be what you thought it was, you might want to find another to grow for the show, rather than persevering with an inferior plant.

When removing the buds, the idea is to leave a short "stub" rather than taking the whole stem off cleanly. It is said that this prevents damage to the tissue of the leaf axil, making it possible that later flower stems will arise there. In fact, the theory goes, when you take away one set of buds from the leaf axil, it can encourage the plant to produce two

(or even more) stems of buds from that axil later on. I must say I don't find this often happens and if it does, the result is sometimes fairly weak stems which struggle to reach above the leaves and only have a few blooms.

You can remove the top buds of each stem, and even the second bud if it is also opening so early that the flowers would clearly not last until show time. By removing these early, and then taking off all open flowers as soon as they start to fade during the period the plant is coming into flower, you will minimize the amount of grooming to be done at the last minute.

Of course, we would all prefer to have the flowers come up at exactly the right time so that virtually all were still fresh. Unfortunately this seldom happens, despite all the best strategy.

The downside of disbudding

Extra work. It can be bothersome to have to keep on disbudding a plant that seems absolutely determined to come into flower. You should also keep your eye out for buds growing under the leaves. Remove these before they distort the growth.

Tight growth. Preventing the flowers from forming sometimes causes a very tight growth, especially in the center of the plant. This can be prevented in one of two ways. First, allow an occasional stem of flowers to come up and open. This also gives you some color among your future show plants, so they don't look too much like a collection of "jolly green giants". Second, the hours of light received by the plant can be reduced slightly to help flatten the growth. This will also produce slightly larger plants, but it is most important not to reduce the lighting too much or you could have very open growth with the petioles and potting mix showing between.

Side shoots (Suckers). Constant, complete disbudding may cause some varieties to produce more side shoots. You will need to check regularly for these and remove them before they distort the growth. Although you can allow them to grow large enough to grow on as separate small plants it seems to me to be better not to attempt this with a show plant but take them off as soon as you notice them.

Removing of stubs. This is one of the final tasks

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BAKER GREENHOUSE, Paul Davidson, 1113 Herkimer Rd.,
Utica 13502
CHAMPIONS AFRICAN VIOLETS, Mrs. Duane L. Champion,
8848 Van Hoesen Rd., Clay 13041
LYNDON LYON GREENHOUSES, INC. Paul Sorano, P.O. Box
249, Dolgeville 13329
ROB'S MINI-O-LETS, Ralph Robinson, P.O. Box 9, Naples 14512
SCOTT'S MIRACLE-GRO PRODUCTS INC., 800 Port Washington
Blvd., Port Washington 11050
SMITH'S COUNTRY COTTAGE AV'S, G.T. Smith, 109 Ogden
Parma Tl. Rd., Spencerport 14559
VIOLET VENTURE, Fayanne B. Wagman, 52 Harper Dr., Pittsford
14534
VIOLETS BY APPOINTMENT, Bill Paauwe, 45 3rd St., W.
Sayville 11796

WESTBURY GARDENS, Linda Head, 4731 Spring Lake Rd.,
Wolcott 14590

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Apex 27502
CAROUSEL OF VIOLETS, Bonnie N. Cheek, 1403 C. S. Stratford
Rd., Winston-Salem 27103
VIOLETS BY NAN JEFFERSON, Nan K. Jefferson, 1221 Mardele
Ln., Winston-Salem 27105

OHIO

B & E CERAMICS, Betty Grant, 10290 Montgomery Road,
Cincinnati 45242
GRANGER GARDENS, Jim Eyerdorn, 1060 Wilbur Rd., Medina
44256
GREEN CIRCLE GROWERS INC., Susan M. Stieve, Plant 2,
15650 State Rte. 511, Oberlin 44074
VIOLETS PLUS, Susan Miller, 14240 Mohler Rd., Liberty Center
43532

OKLAHOMA

A NEW LEAF INC., Tina Lynn, 2306 S. First Place, Broken Arrow
74012
J.F. INDUSTRIES, Juanita Freeman, HC-65 Box 309-1, Pryor
74361
McCAWLEY'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, Edna R. McCawley, 1721 S.
Fulton, Tulsa 74112

OREGON

KERRY'S VIOLETS, Karyle Pasley, 1140 7th Ave., Gold Hill
97525

PENNSYLVANIA

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MELODY HARTMAN, 715 Kames Hill Road, Columbia 17512
SUSAN SHIELDS REIS, 1181 William St., State College 16801
TINARI GREENHOUSES, Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box
190, Huntingdon Valley 19006
VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS, Naomi Martin, 3217 Stateline
Rd., Waynesboro 17268

TENNESSEE

HOLTKAMP GREENHOUSES INC., Reinhold Holtkamp, P.O.
Box 78565, Nashville 37207
RUBY & CAROLS VIOLETS FOR ALL OCC., Mrs. Ruby
Littlejohn, 3428 Dupre, Memphis 38115

TEXAS

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AFRICAN QUEEN, Margery L. Clive, 2351 Ballycastle Dr., Dallas
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AFRICAN VIOLET SHOP, Lenora Munk, 2015 Bauer Drive,
Houston 77080
BIG THICKET VIOLETS, Mark Mason, Rt. 1, Box 312, Silsbee
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GATEWAY GARDENS, Mary Yaus, 7767 Culebra, San Antonio
78251
HILL COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLETS, Ken Froboese, 32005 I.H.
10 West, Boerne 78006
HORTENSE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, Hortense Pittman, 12406
Alexandria, San Antonio 78233
JO'S VIOLETS, Jo Anne Schrimsher, 2205 College Drive, Victoria
77901
PLEASANT HILL AFRICAN VIOLETS, Mrs. Ruth Goeke, 4851
Pieper Rd., Brenham 77833
ROZELL ROSE NURSERY & VIOLET BOUTIQUE, Carolyn
Rozell, 12206 Hwy. 31 West, Tyler 75709
SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS, Shirley L. Sanders, 1034
Rayburn Dr., San Antonio 78221
SWIFTS', June Swift, P.O. Box 28012, Dallas 75228
TEAS NURSERY, Paul Downs, 4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire
77401
THE MINI MANSION, Hector Becerra Jr., 212 Briarcliff Dr., San
Antonio 78213
VOLKMANN BROS GREENHOUSE, Walter Volkmann, 2714
Minert St., Dallas 75219

VIRGINIA

A & M, Annamarie Mays, 6212 Guilford Dr., Alexandria 22310
OLD LONGDALE GREENHOUSE, Joy Nicely, R.R. 1, Box 360,
Clifton Forge 24422

WASHINGTON

ALANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, Alannah Regan, 3159 Hwy.
21 N., P.O. Box 2, Danville 99121
CRESCENT BAY GARDENS, INC., David Erickson, 5193 Hwy.
112, Port Angeles 98363
HENRYS PLANT FARM, 4522 132nd St. SE, Snohomish 98296

WISCONSIN

BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE, Marcia Belisle, 4041 N. Metnik Rd.,
Ojibwa 54862

before staging your beautiful plant in the show, and if you have a large plant, can prove quite nerve racking. Stubs of the previously removed flower stems should be removed so closely and carefully that it is not noticeable. If left on the plant, each stub can attract a penalty of one point when judged at a show, so search diligently. A long pair of tweezers is a good instrument but the job should be approached with great care. It is easy to damage your plant badly if you slip. You will probably find it better to sit down to do the job, placing the plant on an upturned pot (large enough to be a firm base for the plant) on a table in front of you. The number of stubs can be minimized to some extent if in the early days of disbudding you take the stalks off completely, leaving no stubs. You should use the normal disbudding procedure, however, **at least** sixteen weeks before the show.

Be a winner. You may feel this is a very heavy program and a big commitment to make just to produce some plants for the show. Perhaps it is, but if you would just select six young plants some eight or nine months before the show and grow them in this way, disbudding as you go, you will not be disappointed in the results. You may not have the Queen of the Show; you may not have even the best plants in their classes; but you will certainly have some of the most beautiful plants you have ever grown. If you do that you are a winner in the way that matters most.

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Faster Growing

by Byron Borck
Santa Rosa, CA

Many people have asked how I grow a large plant from a leaf in a short period of time. After talking to many admired growers, reading numerous articles on propagation, and growing, I have found the following method works very well for me. It takes about 1 year from a leaf to a large standard.

When a leaf order arrives, I wash each leaf carefully in warm water and then plant it in a 1:1:1 mixture of potting soil, perlite, and vermiculite. Each leaf is then watered well with a diluted fertilizer mixture. The planted leaves are placed in a tray covered with a clear plastic lid. I place this tray on a top shelf of a light stand. (I have found the extra warmth on a top shelf shortens the time waiting for the plantlets.)

Once the plantlets start pushing through the potting mix, I cut the top half of the mother leaf off. When the plantlets have leaves about the size of a dime it is time to separate them into their own pots. Usually I will plant the three biggest and throw the rest away. It doesn't take long to recognize which one becomes my prospective show plant and the other two become sale plants.

The show plant is watched carefully. Immature,

off-size, or damaged leaves are removed. This helps the plant grow symmetrically. When the plant starts to bloom the first time, I check the plant's description to make sure it is blooming true. Now comes the hard part. All the blossoms are removed, and the plant now starts growing for show day.

Each time I water, I try to turn my plants to promote even growth. The plant stays disbudded so all the plant's energy goes into growing. Keeping the plant disbudded helps make the leaves grow larger and overlap each other.

When the plant's diameter becomes three times that of the pot's diameter, it is time to repot to the next pot size. I have found if I wait and not pot on time, the plant gets odd-sized leaves or it slows down its growth.

To all of the very basic elements of violet culture, I add the word **consistency**. The plants we all admire at the shows are a labor of love. Growing the perfect show plant is a matter of applying your knowledge of violet culture perpetually.

Reprinted with permission from the CA Council News, joint publication of Northern & Southern CA AV Councils

The Tale of a Plant Who Thought He Could (Ness' Crinkle Blue)

by Pat Richards • Olathe, KS

'Ness' Crinkle Blue' (NCB) was purchased from Don and Jean Ness at the 1996 Atlanta convention. Plants of that same cultivar had not performed well for me in the past, but I purchased it because it had a great show record.

It was left to grow until late in 1996. At that time, it's foliage had been full, very dark and was....perfectly symmetrical. It became "one to watch" and was placed in one of the most special places in my plant room: one of two shelves that are at eye level with prime lighting. In early January 1997, my single-light ballast fixture over this plant stopped functioning. It was replaced with a two-lamp shop light that was hung barely five inches above the plant tops. Plants placed under this fixture would now be receiving double the light as they had previously. I did not anticipate this being a problem because the lights were on for only 8 hours a day. One brand new Sylvania Gro Lux was put in the fixture, in addition to a year-old Verilux bulb (they are supposed to last three years).

NCB continued to flourish. Every time it was watered with Volkmann's 15-30-15 it was inspected for balance and symmetry. But leaves were never taken off...there was no need. Fourteen weeks before show, it was watered through with a bloom booster (Schultz "Instant Bloom" powder 10-60-10) and put back on its reservoir with regular fertilizer. Bloom boosting continued every other week, pouring through Schultz 10-60-10 and Dyna Gro Bloom on an alternating basis until 6 weeks before show. One change was made in the regular fertilizing: because of all the discussion on the internet of the harmful effects of UREA, I switched completely to using Dyna Gro "Grow" 7-9-5 as the primary fertilizer at the eight week mark. Dyna Gro has a lower formulation of NPK, but no urea. This was a risky move because once a plant is started in the bloom-boosting cycle, I don't like to deviate from established growing procedures. For some reason, this time there was an exception.

The lights were turned up one hour, three months

before show, and continued to be turned up one hour every two weeks until they were on for a total of 14 hours per day. Bloom stalks were removed until 7 weeks before the show, and all buds were removed until 4 weeks before show. Despite this, NCB was in full bloom three weeks before show! Because of this and the fact my plant room is warm, NCB was moved to a special shelf with the lights on only 6 hours a day.

This is also the coolest spot in the growing area. Each day I would look at the other plants and honestly, sometimes I would forget to check on NCB (remember the adage: a watched pot never boils?)

At eight days before the exact judging date, I began boxing the plants to make the 1200 mile trip. NCB was boxed late on this day, even though I had one more day to pack. It was in full bloom and one extra day under the lights would not be to its benefit. Before it was boxed it was groomed and I questioned whether leaves needed to be removed. The decision was made to leave the foliage alone just as I had decided one or two times in the past two weeks. In previous years we had seen "best" awards to plants whose leaves were barely visible for the blooms. But someone had once said, "Why shouldn't the small ones be clothed in foliage as the standards?" In other words, why couldn't we appreciate the perfect layering of their foliage too?

Because NCB's foliage was so perfectly layered, and so attractive and balanced with the head of bloom, it was left on. But boxing it was another matter because of this decision. As it was placed in the shredded paper, the leaf stalks could break. If left "floating" on top of the paper, the foliage tips would be damaged. So a huge trough in the paper was made, then a doughnut shaped roll of paper was placed between the pot and leaves. All this was placed into the trough and the trough was closed in around the foliage.

We spent the first night north of Atlanta. The boxes were left in the van which was parked in a shady spot.

Early the next day we left for St. Pete Beach. Upon our arrival there, the boxes were immediately taken to our room and opened. NCB's box was way back in the corner where it could not be disturbed. Most of the other plants were looked over, dead blooms removed, damage inspected, but not NCB. He was simply content. The night before entries he was given a small dose of water from a gallon of water brought from home.

Entries were done late in the day on Thursday. NCB was looked over once, and amazingly, only two blooms were taken off. It had been in full bloom for four weeks, traveled half way across America, and sat in a hotel room with temperatures that were very cool at night and very warm in the day (especially when the patio door was opened so we could enjoy the sights and sounds of the beach). Almost half of the plants that made the journey with him never made it to show. He was leaning a little – perhaps from the trip, perhaps from the weight of the blooms, perhaps from not being turned enough.

As he went through entries, several people made comments about how outstanding he was: Floyd Lawson, classification committee member, even ventured to say that this plant was going to be Best in Show.

As a member of AVSA's Awards Committee, my duty was to place the award notices by the winning plants as the results came through. As this was being done for preliminary winners, I was very aware of NCB with its enormous head of bloom (and the leaning). Kathy Lahti

had some beautiful plants as usual, and there were some gorgeous standards. I marveled that NCB had held up so well, that I was in Florida (at the beach!), and that there were so many wonderful people involved in AVSA (get the tissues out). Finally, judging was completed. On one of my "deliveries" I passed by NCB and saw something written in blue ink.

There they were, those three magic words, "Best in Show"!

Unbelievable, amazing, can't be true, pinch me! Fortunately Doris Brownlie, a fellow Awards Committee member was nearby, and she could reinforce the fact that it wasn't a dream. The hug I asked for and she gave was one of the most reassuring things I had ever received. And there sat NCB, proud as a peacock, in fact, for a moment I believe he thought himself to be one.

NCB gloried in the limelight for a day, was then carefully boxed and traveled another 1200 miles home. By the time he was placed back on the shelf another week had passed, (blame an infestation of termites that couldn't have been discovered at a worse time) his blooms were gone and still after all the bouncing and bumping, only a few bruises were beginning to show on the tips of his foliage.

'Ness' Crinkle Blue' was amazing though, and I give him full credit for his achievement. From start to finish, he was on auto-pilot. He had a destiny and he fulfilled it. What an amazing plant!

In Memory of Ellie Bogin



Ellie Bogin
AVSA's "Mini-Mam"

Affectionately known as the 'Mini-Mam' for her column on miniature and semiminiature violets which she wrote for eighteen years for the *African Violet Magazine*, Elynore (Ellie) Bogin died on May 31, 1997.

A long-time resident of Long Beach, NY, Ellie was the recipient of an AVSA Honorary Life membership in 1990 for her many contributions to AVSA. In addition, she received an AVSA Honorary One Year Membership in 1973 and the Continuing Service award in 1978 and 1988. She was a Master Judge and a judging school Teacher. She also served a term as an AVSA Director and was Vice Chairman of the 1972

convention held in New York City.

Ellie was also an Honorary Life Member of New York State AVS and had served as its President for the 1972-74 term. She had been active in the Long Island AVS, the Nassau AVS, the New York State Council of AV Judges, and the Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges. At the time of her death she was an active member of The Saintpaulia Society of Long Island.

Ellie Bogin was a tiny lady, but she was a giant in the world of African violets. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and admirers.

Edward Bradford
The Saintpaulia Society of Long Island



Ann

Best in Class

1997 National Show

Exhibited By: Phyllis King

Hybridized By: B. Bryant

Large

Photo Credit: Library Crew



Anticipation of Beautiful African Violets

by Carolynn Mussett
Garvin, OK

The beauty of the African violets is appreciated by all and I cannot imagine it being any other way. I am truly overwhelmed by the beauty of the African violet and can easily stand mesmerized while viewing my African violet plants; on plant stands, window shelves, and window sills.

My violets sit near windows in natural light. My house has large windows in each room and gorgeous African violets hardily grow near them. I have to move the plants near the window for light and then away from the windows as the seasons change, but the beauty of the blooms is well worth the work involved.

As I read my African Violet Magazines (AVM), I envy those who are fortunate enough to attend the AVSA conventions. I especially envy those who belong to local clubs, councils and societies with local shows and plant sales. How I would enjoy having one of these close enough for me to attend and be an active member! I need an opportunity to talk violets. But, alas, as this is not to be, I must be content with the African violet catalogs (which I order from AVM advertisers) and my violet plants.

I enjoy and look forward to getting my AVMs but I especially like the January/February issue because from this issue I order the African violet catalogs through which I browse all year. I wish I could write that I order lots of violets from these catalogs but I can't and when I do order, it is mostly leaves, but very few of them.

Some African violet catalogs have pictures of the violets offered and of course these are the most exciting violet catalogs of all; a catalog with a spectacular arena of

the most vivid, radiant blooms surrounded by lush, tropical foliage for as long as the eye wants to gaze. As I drool over these violet catalogs and see the wide range of colors, the many types of blooms and leaves, I am utterly amazed. If I wasn't already bitten by the violet-bug, I would soon be. I keep all my old violet catalogs for several years, order new ones each year and continue to drool all year long.

The African violet and supply catalogs have a wealth of knowledge (packed in them and a good bit of fun). Fun, you ask? What do you mean by fun? Have you read some of the African violet names? See what I mean. Not to mention looking at all those gorgeous blooms with all that color. Fun! Whew! I love it!

As for as the knowledge goes, these catalogs provide ways to learn and keep up with not only the price of African violets but also the price of supplies. I learn where violets are sold and who is selling what. Knowing what size some plants will be is a must, plus knowing all the colors from which one has to choose is good information. The catalogs tell me the safest time to mail plants and I can even check out the newest hybrids as well as the hybridizer. It is almost mind-boggling.

By studying the supply list I can learn many things about the needs of my plants, from fertilize to pesticide, to what size of leaf supports I need. And there is more, but I think you see what I mean. With the violet catalogs, you, too, can receive a world of information for your violet plants. Order your African violet catalogs today.

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

BAYOU VIOLETS

GENELLE ARMSTRONG

Two years ago, when I first saw the name Bayou Violets, I envisioned an Acadian style home on piers tucked away in the Cajun country of southern Louisiana, reached only by a pirogue paddled carefully among the moss covered cypress trees and guarded by a wary 'gator, my thoughts were that we would be welcomed by the smells of crawfish etouffee, red beans, andouille sausage and rice, and the sounds of zydeco music.

Okay, so my imagination got away from me, but when you arrive in New Orleans on July 3rd you can be assured of one fact - the weather will be hot and humid. So when my wife Beth and I drove into the driveway of Genelle and Al Armstrong's suburban home on that July afternoon, we weren't surprised when the thermometer on their porch read 102 degrees. Quickly Genelle and Al ushered us into the dining room and the blessed relief of air conditioning. Their lovely two story brick home is located in Metairie, just northwest of New Orleans.

Genelle's introduction to African violets came as she went to work after high school. "The building had very wide window sills and they had African violets in the windows. Everybody said, 'Here, take a leaf...take a leaf.' They were all singles; pinks or blues. That's how I got started and I've had violets ever since."

"I really didn't know what I was doing until I joined AVSA and the Jefferson African Violet Association (JAVA)." That was about 1978 and her knowledge and plant collection grew steadily.

Genelle quickly became an AVSA judge and learned all she could about her favorite plant.

Al admitted to "helping out with the violets a little bit, but not as much as she wants me to." Quickly the two broke

into laughter and Genelle added, "We're sort of a team. I may have to use a little force now and then."

"I'm the Ways and Means Chairman of JAVA," Al told us. I mix all the soil and order the pots and all the supplies." Al orders his supplies from John Cook of Cape Cod Violetry, another AVSA commercial member and AVM advertiser.

Bayou Violets was born as a commercial venture after the death of Jeannette Domiano in 1990. Jeannette was a hybridizer in nearby Gretna, just across the Mississippi River from New Orleans who was coming into her own as a hybridizer shortly before her death. My interview with her appeared in the Sept./Oct. 1990 issue of the African Violet Magazine.

After Jeannette's death, several members of the Louisiana Council divided her plants. Genelle was already growing some of Jeannette's earlier releases.

"It was to be a shame that nobody was going to have access to these," remembered Genelle. "And," she added with a smile, "if I sold leaves maybe I could keep my plants pruned."

Looking toward retirement, Genelle thought selling leaves would help give her something to do. "I just didn't realize how much there would be to do."

Genelle regularly advertises in the Classified section of the AVM and is pleased with the response. She started gradually by first advertising in Dixie (Dixie African Violet



With husband Al looking on, Genelle prepares to repot some plants.

Society) and then AVSA. She sells only leaves by mail, although plants are sold locally at African violet shows and an annual area wide plant show and sale.

Al, a retired computer programmer, puts his expertise to good use by compiling Genelle's very extensive list. Currently listing over 735 varieties, cultivars include some of the early Armacost and Royston introductions, as well as most of the species.

Looking over the list brought back many pleasant memories. When I joined AVSA in March, 1969, starter plants sold for as little as .85 cents each. Growers such as Richter, Hugh Eyerdom, Kolb, Max Maas and others have left us a legacy of beauty and quality which is being carried on by Genelle. A liberal collection of Jeannette Domiano's introductions, including several not listed elsewhere, are found here, as well as several by Barbara "Cookie" Sisk, who is no longer hybridizing.

Of course, Genelle carries a stock of southern-produced varieties which include those from Hortense Pittman, Charlyn Reed, Winston Smith, the Munks and several others. New varieties from Marie Burns, Sidney Sorano (Lyndon Lyon's), and Kent Stork fill out the eighteen page catalog.

Soil Mix

Al explained his soil mix as a basic 1-1-1 mix; peat moss, vermiculite and perlite, plus bone meal, charcoal, cow manure, lime and a fungicide that is no longer on the market. This is the same formula Al uses for the JAVA club soil. The peat moss and cow manure are sterilized in the kitchen microwave oven. "That day we eat out," Genelle said with a laugh.

Smaller leaves are started in a mix of equal parts of perlite and vermiculite. Standard size leaves are started in regular soil mix.

Due to the high humidity, the soil mixture is lighter than used in other parts of the country.

Humidity and Watering

The Armstrong home is only about two blocks from Lake Pontchartrain and a couple of miles from the Mississippi River, creating a running battle with humidity problems. An



Genelle displays 'Red Lion' a Marie Burns introduction.

air-conditioner running twenty-four hours a day and a dehumidifier, along with a watchful eye for mildew help keep ahead of any problems.

Genelle waters by the 'Texas' potting method, and some of her miniatures are wicked.

After reading my column on Shirley and Sandy Sanders of San Antonio, Texas in the Sept./Oct. 1992 issue of AVM, Al decided to do likewise and converted a garage to a violet room. The result was a 25' by 25' growing area with seventeen floral carts and two wooden stands. The room is equipped with a small hot water heater.

Al has simplified watering by making a pumping system from a fountain pump, rubber hose, a large tank on wheels and some ingenuity. Still, it takes Genelle about four hours to water all the plants.

Because the African violets are grown in a building detached from the house, the Armstrongs could use stronger insecticides, but prefer the less toxic Safer's Insecticidal Soup. They occasionally use Raid House and Garden Spray and Orthene.

Fertilizers

Normally, Peters 20-20-20 is used to feed Genelle's plants, but to help increase her bloom she switches to Peters 12-36-14 prior to a show. Occasionally a few drops of Superthrive are added to the water.

People like the Armstrongs are fun to be with. They enjoy each other. Beth and I look forward to seeing them again.

On the Road Again

Because of health problems, I had to curtail my travels for several months. Thankfully, I have regained most of my strength and hope to resume regular interviews of our commercial members. I hope your favorite is next.

To those who have called or written to express your wishes, thoughts and prayers, thank you. Every expression of concern was deeply appreciated.

Be sure to watch for my next column on AVSA commercial members when we travel to the Rose Capital of the United States. Do you know where it is? I think you will be surprised. I was.



It takes Genelle about 4 hours to water her hundreds of plants and leaves.

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Limit Your Collection from Growing to Show

by Pauline Bartholomew

One of the biggest mistakes new growers make is in adding more light stands to keep up with the number of plants they accumulate. This only postpones the inevitable because the saturation point is reached through the limits of your budget and your time. Set your limit from the beginning and stick to it no matter how great the temptation is to expand. Make the plants fit the space; don't expand the space to fit the plants. If your lifestyle changes, retirement for example, you can rethink your position.

I recommend that no serious show grower have more than two, three-shelf light stands. My friends with hundreds of African violets find that statement very humorous. If you are growing violets to supplement your income, or to reduce the expense of your hobby, that is another matter. But if you are dedicated to growing for competition, 50 to 60 plants is the most you should attempt to care for. From my collection of that size I have been able to enter up to 36 standard-size plants in one show.

The exception I made to the two-stand limit was in adding a single, double-tube 48" fixture for miscellaneous growing. The unit is suspended over a five-foot dresser top. This is where I grow leaf cuttings, starter plants, miniatures, etc. If you already have multiple units and are reluctant to give up any, group together varieties with the best show plant potential. Give these plants the best location in the house and first call on your time.

It doesn't take a lot of time to attend to 50 or 60 plants, but their needs must be met at the proper times. If time is stretched to cover two or three hundred plants, show plants will very likely be neglected. I know very few growers who can manage to be both quantity growers and award winners. One day of catch-up potting can be fun. Potting for five days in a row is work. Only you can decide. Do you want fun (as in hobby) or do you want work (as in income)?

Green Is Beautiful

By Robyn Harris
Australia

Our aim as growers is to produce an African violet with clean healthy leaves. A symmetrical plant with rows of leaves overlapping each other and with each successive layer of leaves larger than the one before.

A beginner, being very proud of the plant they have grown, may find it hard to remove leaves or be worried about pulling the wrong ones off. But leaves do need to be removed for a variety of reasons, with the leaf and the petiole being snapped off at the base. Leaves may be damaged or discolored for a variety of reasons: nutrient problems, transplant shock, water or nutrient sitting on the leaves, too much light, watering with cold water, dead flowers resting on the leaves. Often leaves that need to be removed are immature leaves: these are the outer most layer of leaves on young plants - usually smaller, weaker, and paler.

Slow or weak growth may be caused by not enough

light, undernourishment, incorrect pH, cool temperatures, or need of repotting. Dead flowers and their stalks also need to be removed regularly as dead flowers resting on a leaf can cause the leaves to rot. By removing flower buds as they appear extra leaf growth can be encouraged.

A soft brush can be used to help remove dust or potting mix after repotting; a damp cloth may be necessary sometimes. Or, under a gentle stream of tepid water at the sink, wash the leaves carefully and dry with a soft cloth or tissue. Grooming your African violet should be a regular job, making sure you work on a clean surface with clean hands to help prevent the spread of pests and diseases.

The aim is not only to have a lot of show flowers but beautiful leaves that compliment those flowers.

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AV Group Newsletter Mt. Waverly, Australia*

Coming Events



September 12 & 13 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS of Dallas, TX
Annual Fall Sale
Garden Ridge Mall
1717 E. Spring Creek Parkway @ Central
Freeway and Ave. K, Plano, TX
Sept 12 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 13 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

September 13 - OREGON

Mt. Hood Gesneriad Society &
Portland AVS, Plant Sale
Mall 205 Shopping Center, 9900 SE
Washington St., Portland, OR
10am - 7pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

September 13 - CANADA

Stampede City AVS
Autumn Plant Sale
Market Mall Shopping Centre
Fountain Ct. Area
3625 Shagnappi Trail N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mall Hours
Info: Winston Goretsky
email: goretsky@cadvision.com

September 20 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council,
15th Annual Show/Sale
Fashion Mall of West Port Plaza,
St. Louis, MO
10am - 4pm

September 20 - MISSOURI

Gateway AVC Show/Sale
West Port Plaza, Indoor Mall
Maryland Heights, MO
10am - 4:30pm
Info: Fred Roth (618) 281 - 5737

September 26 & 27 - IOWA

Cedar Valley AVC Show/Sale
Crossroads Mall, Waterloo, IA
Sept. 26 - 10am - 9pm
Sept. 27 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Pershing (319) 987 - 2235

September 26 - 28 - CANADA

Pacific NW Judge's Council &
Vancouver ACV
AV and Related Gesneriads
Convention, Show/Sale
Floral Hall, Van Dusen
Botanical Gardens
W. 37th Ave. & Oak St.
Vancouver, BC, Canada
Info: Barbara Dawson (604) 325 - 0009

September 26 & 27 - TENNESSEE

Volunteer State AV Council Fall Show
Memphis Botanical Garden,
Goldsmith Garden Ctr.
Both Days: 9am - 5pm

September 27 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Show/Sale
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Ctr.
2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
10am - 4pm
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

September 27 & 28 - MISSOURI

Heart of America Gesneriad Society
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Ctr.,
5200 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO
Both days: 10am - 3pm
Info: Sue Hill (816) 356 - 2978

October 3 & 4 - TEXAS

First AVS Show/Sale
Northstar Mall, San Antonio, TX
Both Days: 10am - 6pm
Info: Janice Blout (210) 824 - 2921

October 3 & 4 - LOUISIANA

Southern Garden Symposium
St. Francisville, LA
Info: Larry Smart (504) 635 - 6303

October 3 & 4 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas Fall Sale
Richardson Square Mall,
@ Beltline and Plano Rd., Richardson, TX
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

October 4 - WASHINGTON

Tacoma Saintpaulia Society AV Sale
Poole's Nursery and Garden Center
6th & Union, Tacoma, WA
10am - 3pm

October 4 & 5 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Fall Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
Oct. 4 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct. 5 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

October 4 & 5 - TEXAS

Cen-Tex Rainbow AVC Fall Display/Sale
Conder Park Special Olympics Bldg.,
902 Conder St., Killeen, TX
Sat - 10am - 4pm
Sun - 11am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Sneed (254) 542 - 1352

October 10 & 11 - OREGON

Portland AVS Display & Sale
Beaverton Mall
3205 SW Cedar Hills Blvd.
Beaverton, OR
Fri - noon - 8pm
Sat - 10am - 6pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

October 10 & 11

NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Fall Show/Sale
Berkley Mall, Goldsboro, NC
Mall Hours
Info: Frances Deans (919) 778 - 3179

October 11 & 12 - ILLINOIS

Glennview/Northshore AVS Exhibit/Sale
Chicago Botanical Gardens, Glencoe, IL
Lake Cook Rd off Edens Expwy.
(parking \$6, non-members)
Both Days: 10am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Goodsell (847) 792 - 1690

October 11 & 12 - ARKANSAS

Green Thumb AVS Show/Sale
Northwest Arkansas Mall - Fayetteville, AR
Sat - 1pm - 9pm
Sun - noon - 4pm
Info: Mary Hill (918) 437 - 3343

October 11 & 12 - CALIFORNIA

Delta Gesneriad & AVS Judged Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA
Sat - 2pm - 6pm
Sun - 10am - 5pm
Info: Barbara Elkin (916) 878 - 0505

October 17 & 18 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall,
2950 Texas E, Bossier City, LA
Both Days:
10am - 5pm or until sold out
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

October 17 - 19 - MINNESOTA

Lake Area Violet Growers Fall Display/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave, near I 694
Maplewood, MN
Oct 17 - 9am - 9pm
Oct 18 - 10am - 6pm
Oct - 19 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Ness (612) 429 - 4109

October 17 - 26

NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Plant Display
NC State Fair
(Small greenhouse behind Flower Bldg.)
Raleigh, NC
Open while Fair is in progress
Info: Lucille Prutzman, 2836 North NC58,
Nashville, NC 27856

October 18 & 19 - CALIFORNIA

California State AV Convention
Solvang Scandinavian Inn
400 Alisal Rd., Solvang
Sat - Sale - 9am - 5pm
Show - noon - 5pm
Sun - 9am - noon
Info: Ed Hoefer (714) 526 - 4773
Marcia Shaver (805) 495 - 0218

October 18 & 19 - ILLINOIS

Northern IL Gesneriad Society Display/Sale
Friendship Park Conservatory,
395 Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL
Both Days - 11am - 3pm
Info: Nancy Maybloom (847) 882 - 4652
email: Hsmay@aol.com

October 24 & 25 - MISSOURI

Heart of MO AVC Fall Sale/Exhibit
Columbia Sr. Center,
1171 Bus. Loop 70E, Columbia, MO
Both Days - 9am - 3pm
Info: Dorothy Anderson 442 - 4798
Peggy Payne 696 - 2652

October 24 & 25 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVS Fall Show/Sale
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
Parish Hall
3747 34th St., S., St. Petersburg, FL
Oct 24 - 9am - 4pm
Oct 25 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Retta Anderson (813) 866 - 3468

October 24 - 26 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Fall Show/Sale
Northtown Mall,
Hwy 10 & University Ave NE, Blaine, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Sandy Officer (612) 835 - 8603

October 25 & 26 - CALIFORNIA

Thousand oaks AVS Judged Show/Sale
Thousand Oaks Library,
1401 Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA
Sat - 11am - 5pm
Sun - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Barbara Burde (805) 581 - 6126

October 31 - November 2 - MINNESOTA

MN AVS Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall,
2100 Snelling Ave. & County B,
Roseville, MN
Oct 31 - 10am - 9pm
Nov 1 - 10am - 6pm
Nov 2 - noon - 5pm
Info: Joan Donoho (612) 642 - 1878

November 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum,
53 East Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ
Info: Karyn Cichocki (201) 579 - 791

November 1 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Fall Sale
Sunrise Mall, 5858 South Padre Island,
Corpus Christi, TX
10am - 5pm
Info: Marcia Pilbin (512) 994 - 8957

November 1 & 2 - KANSAS

Missouri Valley AV Council Show/Sale
Clairon Hotel Airport,
5805 W. Kellogg, Wichita, KS
Sat - noon - 5pm
Sun - 11am - 2pm
Info: Helen Barrett (316) 683 - 287

November 6 - 8 - TEXAS

Lone Star AV Council Convention,
Show/Sale/Auction
Nassau Bay Hilton & Marina
3000 NASA Road One
Clear Lake City, TX 77058
Nov 7 - 1pm - 5:30pm
Nov 8 - 9:30 - 5:30pm
Info: Joyce Stenger (281) 488 - 0267

November 7 & 8 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall, Rocky Mount, NC
Both Days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman, 2836 North NC 58,
Nashville, NC 27856

November 8 & 9 - CONNECTICUT

Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95, Bradford, CT
Nov 8 - 1pm - 5pm
Nov 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

November 8 & 9 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Philadelphia 36th Show/Sale
Waterpower Recreation Ctr.,
Hartwell Ln., Chestnut Hill, PA
Nov 8 - 1pm - 5pm
Nov 9 - noon - 4pm
Info: Marianne Gershon (215) 393 - 0852
Mary Nemec (215) 482 - 5694

November 13 - 15 - VIRGINIA

Mid-Atlantic AVS 7th Annual
Convention/Show
Holiday inn - Downtown Holidaye,
Williamsburg, VA
Info: Laurene Jones (703) 560 - 6134

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 APRIL - 10 JUNE 1997

Central Jersey AVS, Matawan, NJ	\$ 5.00	AVS of Minnesota, Little Canada, MN.	\$15.00
<i>In lieu of travel expenses for Florence Friedman, Bergen County AVS</i>		<i>In memory of Betty Shields.</i>	
Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ.	\$25.00	Tristate AV Council, NJ., NY., & PA.	\$15.00
<i>In fond memory of Ann Richardson, AVSA Past President</i>		Donna Mosher, Grove City, OH.	\$10.00
Lenore Jackson-Devine, Richardson, TX.	\$10.00	The Pied Pipers Club, St. Louis, MO.	\$10.00
Kazue Sakuma, Tokyo, Japan	\$30.00	North Central Arkansas AVS, Jacksonville, AR.	\$10.00
Top Choice AVS, Shreveport, LA.	\$ 5.00	AVS of Minnesota, Little Canada, MN.	\$15.00
Long Island AVS, Long Island, NY.	\$10.00	Mary Boland, Alexandria, VA.	\$25.00
Central Jersey AVS, Matawan, NJ.	\$15.00	<i>In fond memory of Ann Richardson, AVSA Past President</i>	
<i>In lieu of travel expenses of Laura Shannon, AVS Phila. PA.;</i>		AVSA Booster Fund Table, St. Pete Beach, FL.	\$860.26
<i>Kay Lyons and Craig Reed, Lower Bucks County AVS, Levittown, PA.</i>			
Lyn C. Sweeney, Rancho Santa Fe, CA.	\$50.00	"THANKS" to Helen & Homer Blanton, St. Charles, MO.,	
Nancee A. Stevens, Nederland, TX.	\$15.00	Penny Wezel, Ulster, PA.; Kazuo Horikoshi, Tokyo, Japan;	
<i>Memorial contribution in honor of Betty Lovett,</i>		Shirley Berger, Sebring, FL.; Bev Promersberger, Monument, CO.;	
<i>Past President of Mid-County AV Club</i>		Kay & Bill Lyons, Levittown, PA.	
Alice Brown, Little Rock, AR.	\$10.00		
James Welch, San Leandro, CA.	\$25.00		Total \$1,202.26
Frank R. Lane, Albuquerque, NM.	\$32.00		
Tustana AVS, Orange, CA.	\$10.00		

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive

Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from March 20, 1997 - May 20, 1997

Tidewater AVS, Norfolk, VA	25.00	Inner City AVS, St. Louis, MO	10.00
<i>In lieu of a speakers fee to Kitty Hedgepeth of the Richmond AVS</i>		<i>In memory of Earl W. Jackson</i>	
Connie L. Leifeste, Woodway, TX	10.00	Mary Pat Weber, Moorpark, CA	10.00
<i>in memory of Martha Page</i>		<i>in memory of Audrey Moe</i>	
AVS of San Francisco, CA	15.00	Top Choice AVS, Shreveport, LA	5.00
<i>In memory of Larry Rosenfeld</i>		AVS of MN, St. Paul, MN	15.00
Wichita AV Study Club, Wichita, KS	15.00	Baltimore AVS, Baltimore, MD	10.00
Long Island AVS, Hempstead, NY	25.00	John J. Vnuk, Minneapolis, MN	10.00
Ventura AVS, Santa Barbara, CA	10.00	Jana Nunez, Pembroke Pines, FL	10.00
Margaret A. Nasta, Mc Keesport, PA	20.00	AVS of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL	25.00
Moonlight AVS, Fort Worth, TX	19.00	<i>In memory of Mrs. R.M. (Susan Emmergene) Pyle, Jr.</i>	
AVS of South Bay, San Jose, CA	30.00		
<i>In memory of former members Anne Kadack and Lois Lampala</i>			



CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION

by Marcia Shaver, Co-Show Chairman

It all started nearly eight years ago as a "Mini-Convention" chaired by Florence Naylor. Now, African violet growers in California are looking forward to our 8th Annual State Convention, "Have Violets-Will Travel", October 16-19, at the Royal Scandinavian Inn, Solvang, CA.

California is blessed with two Councils, the AV Council of Southern CA, and the Northern CA Council of AV Societies. We take turns sponsoring the annual State Conventions. Our shows have been superb, and the conventions give us the opportunity to meet old and new friends from the opposite end of the state and to exchange new information and ideas.

Each Convention features presentations by experts in their fields; such as design, culture for both African violets

and other gesneriads, and the latest information on lights, fertilizers, etc. We also feature tours of the area. This year we will attend a play in Solvang's unique outdoor theater, take a Honen (horse-drawn carriage) ride touring the Danish town of Solvang, and see the Hans Christian Andersen Museum - all of these tours within a short walking distance of our hotel.

This year our Saturday night banquet will have a Wild West theme, and attendees may dress in their favorite Western garb, from sheriff to outlaw, school marm to dance hall girl.

We welcome out-of-staters. For information please contact me at 1187 Buckingham Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, or phone (805) 495-0218.

LSAVC EXPLORES A GALAXY OF VIOLETS

The annual Lone Star African Violet Council (LSAVC) Convention will be held November 6-8, 1997. You are invited to come and enjoy the star attractions: African violets and other Gesneriads. Four Houston clubs will host this exciting event in a spectacular lake-side resort at Nassau Bay Hilton and Marina nestled on Clear Lake across from Johnson Space Center. Conventioneers receive a room with a lake view, upon request. The hotel address is 3000 NASA Road One, Houston, TX 77058 (1-800-HILTONS).

If you attend the star-studded Friday night buffet, you will have exquisite Italian cuisine with a former astronaut who will share space adventures including data on the African violet seeds that orbited Earth for years.

A tour of Space Center Houston includes unique shopping for Space Shuttle items, touching Moon rocks, watching Mission Specialists training, and a tram tour of the Space Center.

Ann Miller, AVSA Convention Director, will recreate some of her out-of-this-world designs. **Richard Nicholas**, AVSA Researcher, will share tips on avoiding summer heat problems caused by our star, the Sun. **Meredith Hall**, Judges School Teacher, will answer questions about growing plants from the seeds that traveled on the LDM (Long Duration Mission).

The TEXAS TEASE, a 74-foot yacht will sail right up to the hotel dock to pickup all conventioneers who choose to enjoy a leisurely cruise across Clear Lake, up the Ship Channel to the Port of Houston, into Galveston Bay and back.

Conventioneers can buy raffle tickets for space memorabilia and bid silently for a dozen blooming "space baby" violets. For more information about how LSAVC EXPLORES A GALAXY OF VIOLETS please contact Joyce Stenger (281) 488-0267.

Violets in Colonial America? Wait 'til you see them!

Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society will hold its seventh annual convention November 13 - 15, 1997, in Williamsburg, Virginia at the Holiday Inn Downtown Holidome.

The Holidome offers an ideal location. Historic Colonial Williamsburg is within walking distance. The 10,000 square foot Holidome houses a heated swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, exercise room, putting green, shuffleboard, and a three-tiered restaurant overlooking a 30 foot waterfall. The room rate for convention members is \$54 single or double, and will be offered two days prior and two days after the convention.

The theme this year has an historic flavor: *The Blooming of a Nation, Violets in Colonial America...* A special Colonial Sampler dinner is planned for Friday night. It will be held in the upper tier of the restaurant overlooking the waterfall and pool. Special antics are guaranteed!

Edward Bradford, a well-known designer from New York will spark your creativity with "Design a la Carte"; **Nancy Hayes**, master judge, judging school teacher, and AVM's columnist of the *Question Box* for almost 9 years, will entertain us with "African Violets - the Main Course"; and **John Boggan** will be joining us from the Smithsonian Institute with a slide presentation on "New and Unusual Gesneriads".

Triangle African Violet Society (North Carolina) is the sponsor of this year's festivities and they claim to offer unsurpassed hospitality.

Why not consider a special Williamsburg vacation and join the festivities at Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society's convention? To get a 128 page complimentary comprehensive guide to travel in Virginia, call the Virginia Division of Tourism: (800)626-6486.

For more information or to register for the convention, call: Laurene Jones at (703) 560- 6134 or Sue Hoffmann (757) 463-5383.

CHOOSING THE WORLD'S BEST TWENTY-FIVE AFRICAN VIOLETS!

Floyd Lawson • 1100W. Huntington Dr. #21 • Arcadia, CA 91007

email floydll@earthlink.net

"There are so many varieties, so many colors, so many kinds, how am I supposed to know which African violet will grow best for me?" How many of us, as new, or experienced, growers have faced this beautiful and daunting challenge? The July African Violet Magazine registration report shows over 14,000 registered names! Which are the best? Which should I choose?

The dilemma is fine since it means that in our hobby we have so many different colors, shapes and sizes to beautify our homes, but it is painful because the name and the description we see often does not tell us enough to help us make our final choices. What we really need is a way to know what is growing well across the nation (and around the world) and which varieties have kept their popularity for more than just one or two years.

Many years ago, the African Violet Society decided to make those choices simpler. The Society began an annual publishing of the *Best Variety List*. Votes of their 25 favorite varieties were solicited from Society members with the list of those which received fifty or more votes to be published each November. Then, if a variety made that *Best Variety List* five years in a row, it would be placed upon the *Honor Roll of Violets*, and announced in the magazine each July.

The system has worked well for the last two decades, but with the proliferation of new violet varieties, and especially with the new popularity of the miniatures and semiminiatures, the number of varieties which could achieve the magic number of *fifty* became smaller. A few years ago over 100 varieties would be on the *Best Variety List* each year. Now the number often falls below twenty-five. The AVSA agreed at the last convention that we needed a more consistent number to announce for our Best Varieties. Now, we will proudly announce each year **THE WORLD'S BEST TWENTY-FIVE AFRICAN VIOLETS!**

To do this, we will take all the votes from the more than 700 society members, who take the time to vote, and make the 25 top choices the Best Variety List and the next 25, the official "Runners-Up". Now, every November subscribers will be able to see which 50 varieties are growing well around the world. (Yes, around the world, since this year's list will include lists sent in from four different continents).

The Society also agreed to make one change to the

way a variety makes the *Honor Roll of Violets*. Since we have found that in two of the last four years no variety made the Honor Roll, and since we wanted to honor as many great plants as we could, the new standard will be *three consecutive years* on the *Best Variety List*.

The goal is to help each of us answer that question "Which one shall I choose?" with the greatest confidence. If you are a new grower, a grower who has been having problems with your current collection, or even a very experienced grower who wants to round out your collection, look to the *Best Variety List* and the *Honor Roll of Violets* for those very special plants which have pleased so many growers in many varying conditions. If you use this list, along with the *Tally Time* you will know that you are growing the *best!*

The *Best Variety List* is, in reality, a list which is made by all the growers in our hobby. Each January the *African Violet Magazine* publishes the invitation for Society members to send their lists of not more than 25 favorites to Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, #21, Arcadia, CA 91007. The deadline for submissions is May 1. The lists can be individual lists or club lists. (If a club sends a list, the totals of all the votes received for each plant should be listed, not just the top 25 choices.) This past year I have been encouraging lists to be sent to me by e-mail: floydll@earthlink.net. More the 1000 votes have come in through e-mail, and this new method has encouraged many who have not participated before to join the process. Our ability to say "best in the world" is partly because of e-mail, since two continents are now represented through the electronic votes.

Club members, club presidents, please share the message: Each vote counts! We have the ability to select **THE WORLD'S BEST TWENTY-FIVE AFRICAN VIOLETS**. Next January when the invitation comes, be a part of history and submit the varieties which you like best, and which do their best for you. You will have the fun of being a participant and you will help other growers find that perfect plant to add to their collection.

A personal note of thanks to all those who have encouraged me in this process along the way. I cannot respond individually to notes and comments, but I do appreciate the words.

And, may all your choices be the *best* and may each African violet give you much pleasure and joy.

"And the winners are..."



Mary Loewer
3504 Parkhaven Dr.
Plano, TX 75975

ORANGE COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Mindi Brooke, Nortex's Snowkist Haven; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Precious Pink, Joy's Pink Halo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Bertha; Best Semiminiature: Cathy's Fireworks; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Kosowsky**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Blanket, Ode to Beauty, Dumplin', **Kathleen Rapske**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Sonata, Memory Maker, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Darryl Hoover**. Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Gini McCanne**. Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina* light; Best Design, **Cassie Orcholski**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*; Design Sweepstakes, **Honey Geck**.

MILWAUKEE AVS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Michiko, Rhapsodie Stephanie, Rhapsodie Betty; Best In Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Michiko; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anne Berginc**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sheer Peach, **Mickey Eberle**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, **Marie Maas**. Best Trailer/Best species: *Species pendula kizarae*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Mengsol**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Ted Bona', **Joan Wilson**.

CLUB VIOLETES LONGUEUIL, QC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Diamond, Sansoucy' Coco, Omaha; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Snow Princess', **Michel Paradis**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Ness' Viking Maiden, Ode to Beauty; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Firefly, **Renald Raiche**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Tutti Frutti, Ness' Firefly, Mini Papa; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Apatite; Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail; Best Design, **Denise Gagnon**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Coralyne, **Denis Croteau**.

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Jean-Pierre Croteau, Happy Cricket; Best Standard: Wine Country; Best species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Byron Borck**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hidden Beauty, Lyon's Tropical Sunset, Optimara Monet, **Don Thornburg**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Semiminiature: Lemon Cookie; Best Miniature: Everdina, **Heather Borck**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Anne Jantzen**. Best in Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Madeline Taube**.

NAUGATONIC AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Gisela, Chiffon Print, Optimara Picasso, **Don Goodwin**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ultra Violet Luminous, Paumanok, Lela Marie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Sticky Wicket, Ramblin' Stardust; Best in Show/Best Standard: Paumanok; Best Semiminiature/Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Yellow Bird'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Moonstone, Persian Lullaby, Persian Prince; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Julie Prokop**.

THE AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Harbor Blue, Splendiferous; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Persian Lace, Optimara Little Sioux; Best in Show/Best species:

Saintpaulia rupicola; Best Standard: Phantom Flash; Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Miniature: Skagit Lil Gem; Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis latifolia x linearifolia*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao**. Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Sunspot, **Sandy Skalski**.

BALTIMORE AVC, MD - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Creole Royale, Shooting Star, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Trailer: Redwood Trail, **Rodney Barnet**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Hummer, Hondo Honey, Prancing Pony, **Susan Barbi**. Best Semiminiature: Little Katherine; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marie Burns**. Best species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **Ken Barbi**. Best Gesneriad: *Chrysothemis pulchella*, **Shirley Huffman**. Best Design, **Gary Gordon**.

PITTSBURGH VIOLET SOCIETY, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Columbiana, Sweet Mary, Silver Summit; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lois Giles**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Harbor Blue, Utako; Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Nan Boyd**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Vintage Wine; Best Semiminiature: Tomboy Blue, **Joe and Katherine Suzow**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Carla Ryan**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Marna', **Robert Lubinski**. Best Design, **Georgene Albrecht**.

OTTAWA AVS, ONT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anastasia, Apache Feathers, Apache Celebration; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Silver Spook, Von's Simple Simon, Wee Hummer; Best Trailer: Rob's Stickey Wicket; Best species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob McCabe**. Best in Show: Harbor Blue; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch', **Bruce Young**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Silver Spook, **Ray Foreman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bill Westbrook**.

SHO-ME AVC, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Winter Ice, Optimara Van Gogh, Optimara Sequoia; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pay Dirt, Rob's Pink Puff, Rob's Dust Storm; Best Semiminiature: Pay Dirt, **Tricia Taylor**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Fenja, Northern Star, Ultra Violet Venus; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cheerleader; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Beth Medlock**. Best Miniature: Rob's Angelie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Ann Bjorgaard**.

HOOSIER AVS, IN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Blue Velvet, Optimara Rembrandt, Granger's Fantasy Lace; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bo Peep, Von's Baby Jay, Frosty Fun; Best Standard: Ness' Blue Velvet; Best Semiminiature: Von's Baby Jay; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Black Panther', **Andrea Worell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Kiwi Dazzler, Call Me Friend; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Steve Covolo**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Sioux, Ethel Twiford, Frosty Fun; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Lois Matusak**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Willey**.

AVS OF GREATER MONTREAL, REG., QC - Winners: Best

AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Irish Flirt, Dean's Cupid; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Match Point; Best Standard: Kiwi Dazzler; Best Miniature: Party Doll; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust, **Irene Henry**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Rob's Boondoggle, Von's Cherub; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Greta Durand**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Thunder Blue', **Dick Harriman**. Best Design, **Mario Santopietro**. Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Santopietro**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Victorian Velvet, Favorite Child; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Golden Touch, **Bob Russell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Tensie's Trail Ramblin' Moonbeam, Rob's Boolaroo, **Donnie Barnes**. Best Standard: Ultra Violet Twilight; Best Design, **Renee Wilson**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Peach; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Schafer**. Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Helen Sepe**. Design Sweepstakes, **Laverne Cottet**.

GARDEN STATE AVC, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Optimara Gauguin, Chris Leppard; Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Hippy Hop, Little Britches; Best in Show/Best Standard: Phantom Flash; Best Semiminiature: Boo Man; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Thurman**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo Sport; Best Design, **Claudia Schaeffer**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Chocolate Velour'; Design Sweepstakes, **Rhona Thurman**.

SYRACUSE AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Enchanted April, Blue Beacon, East Wind; Best Standard:

Enchanted April, **Karen Dupree**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Crystal, Rob's Twinkle Pink, Rob's Starberry; Best in Show: Optimara Little Crystal; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna Coleman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Seduction; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat, **Rob's Mini-o-lets**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Trailer: Fancy Trail, **Colin Dimon**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Marianne W', **Linda Head**. Best Design, **Ethel Champion**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Ellison**.

SPRINGFIELD AVC, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Tomahawk, Heavenly Notes; Best Standard: Party Print; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Firefly, **Ken Jones**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Powwow, Candy Swirls; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Ramblin' Silver; Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Joker'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jan Carr**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Bartley**.

CLASSIC CITY AVS, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiwi Dazzler, Ghost Dance, Favorite Child; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Flim Flam, Frosty Fun; Best in Show/ Best Standard: Favorite Child; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Wright**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Jubilee, Ode to Beauty, Cherries 'n' Cream, **Jeannette Wallace**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Spring Peach, Petite Fantasy, Petite Jewel; Best Miniature: Spring Peach, **Jim Wright**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Lois Duvall**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Pine', **Sarah McGaha**. Best Design, **Laura Walker**.

(1997 Commercial Display continued from page 21)

only. It was comprised of violet 'cousins', and was quite educational because it included many varieties that are not commonly seen at African violet shows. Among these were *Streptocarpus polyanthus*, which had a single large leaf that measured approximately 12 inches by 6 inches. Another unusual variety was *Columnnea 'Tenera'*, which is a very large leafed variety, with leaves measuring up to 4 inches by 1 inches. Richard displayed several varieties that I had never seen before. In addition to these unusual gesneriads, several blooming sinningias were displayed, as well as *Kohleria 'Villosa'*, *Nautilocalyx ecuadoranus*, and a very pretty specimen of *Achimenes grandiflora* 'Robert Dressler'. This plant was my favorite of all the plants he featured in his display.

This year the specimen plant section was quite large and included a nice variety of exhibits, including an impressive range of 'cousins'. The best overall plant was 'Precious Pink' exhibited by Bob Green of B Leaves, Rockledge, Florida. Bob also entered the Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection with 'Precious Pink', 'Dean's Bunny Blue', and 'Little Pro'. These plants were exquisite. I thought Bob just excelled in design!

We missed Sidney Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Dolgeville, New York, having a display table, but she entered a large number of plants in the specimen classes and won quite a few awards. She received the Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection with 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl', 'Rob's Flim Flam', and 'Lyon's June Bug'. 'Rob's Flim Flam' was chosen as the Second Best Plant. 'Powder Keg',

a new variety hybridized by Sidney, is a striking red, and was chosen as the Best New Standard Cultivar in specimen classes. Sidney also had the Best Optimara Collection, 'Optimara Monet', 'Optimara Van Gogh', and 'Optimara Leonardo Davinci'; Best Miniature Green Foliage, 'Frosted Denim'; Best New Semiminiature, 'Lexis Party Dress'; Best Trailer, 'Rob's Lilli Pilli'; Best Semiminiature Variegated Foliage, 'Pink Pussycat'; and Best Semiminiature Green Foliage, 'Rob's Perfect Peach'. Not only can Sidney grow impressive violets, she had a magnificent *Aeschynanthus speciosus*, which won the award as the Best Other Gesneriad.

The best new miniature cultivar, 'Aca's Pink Pet', was exhibited by Doris Brownlie and hybridized by the Brownlie's of Aca's Violet Tree, Ontario, Canada. We appreciate their effort of the long trip, including dealing with customs, to give us the opportunity to see their beautiful hybrids. Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets of San Antonio, Texas, won Second Best Optimara Collection with 'Optimara Little Ruby', 'Optimara Little Diamond', and 'Optimara Rose Quartz'. Shirley also does a wonderful job with show plants.

Fay Wagman of Violet Venture, Pittsford, New York, exhibited a lovely specimen of *Saintpaulia brevopilosa* and received the award for best species. Although species are not a favorite of mine, I wouldn't mind growing a few if I could grow them like Fay does.

Our commercials put on a great display and I'm sure you will find some interesting and pretty varieties to grow.

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING

June 7, 1997

The annual business meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was called to order by Third Vice President, Lynn Lombard, at 2:35 PM on June 7, 1997, in the Bird Key Room of the TradeWinds Resort, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

The invocation was given by Bev Promersberger. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President L. T. Ozio, Jr. took the Chair. The Secretary declared the presence of a quorum. The Standing Rules of the meeting were adopted. Phyllis Wood, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, was presented.

Charles Wells, Chairman, Jackie Jones and Jane Rexilius were appointed to approve the minutes of this meeting. Bill Foster, Chairman of the 1996 Committee to Approve The Minutes reported that the minutes were approved.

Resolutions Chairman, Elinor Skelton, read the Courtesy Resolution and moved that it be adopted. A copy is attached to these minutes. The resolution was adopted.

Mary Boland, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, presented the report of the committee. This Bylaw amendment was approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and was distributed to the membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to this Annual Meeting.

Article VII, Section 1 d, amend by striking it in its entirety and substituting the following: Meet before the Annual Business Meeting of the Society and after the Annual Meeting, if needed. Two-thirds vote in the affirmative was received and the amendment was adopted.

Article X, Section 1 b, amend by striking the words affiliate

show awards. If adopted would read: b. AFFILIATE: shall be responsible for affiliate promotion and mailing informative material to affiliated chapters. The second proposed bylaw amendment was submitted without notice and will take a 9/10 vote to adopt. Nine-tenths vote in the affirmative was received and the amendment was adopted.

Bev Promersberger, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the report of the Nominating Committee: President, Esther Edwards Wells; First Vice President, Bill Foster; Second Vice President, Lynn Lombard; Third Vice President, John Wilson; Secretary, Sue Ramser; Treasurer, Meredith Hall; Directors, Ron Davidson, Red Oak, TX; Gary Gordon, Brookeville, MD; Kay Lyons, Levittown, PA; Jo Anne Martinez, Tampa, FL; Norah Otto, Nederland, CO. As there were no further nominations from the floor, these nominees were elected. President Ozio announced the installation would take place at the banquet later in the evening.

Barbara Elkin, 1998 Convention Chairman, invited all to attend the Society's 52nd Convention in Sacramento, California, April 19-26, 1998.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

*Sue Ramser, Secretary
Committee to Approve:
Charles Wells, Chairman
Jackie Jones
Jane Rexilius*

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS

DECEMBER 31, 1996

ASSETS	1996	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (continued)	1996
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash	\$ 90 969	Deferred membership fees	70 944
Investments	175 488	Deferred life memberships	107 250
Credit card receivable	33	Deferred income, future conventions	1 505
Inventory	20 081	Deferred revenue - other	777
Prepaid expenses	10 929	Total current liabilities	187 874
Total current assets	297 500	NEW ASSETS:	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT , net of		Unrestricted:	
accumulated depreciation of \$61,448	95 441	Operating	21 466
OTHER ASSETS:		Board designated - convention	33 434
Reorganization costs net of accumulated		Board designated - life membership	8 539
amortization of \$4,880	-	Board designated - Boyce Eden	50 449
PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:		Board designated - Hudson awards	1 045
Investments	32 500	Board designated - building	(5 307)
Total assets	\$425 441	Property and equipment	95 441
		Total unrestricted net assets	205 067
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		Temporarily restricted	-
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		Permanent restricted	32 500
Payroll and sales tax liabilities	\$ 1 385	Total net assets	237 567
Deferred advertising income	6 013	Total liabilities and net assets	\$425 441

A REAL WINNER:

Phyllis King

1997 National Show Sweepstakes Winner

Phyllis King of Largo, FL, won the Amateur Horticulture Sweepstakes at the 1997 AVSA National Show in St. Pete Beach, FL, with 51 blue ribbons.

Surprisingly, this was only the second time Phyllis had entered plants in a national show; the first time was last year in Atlanta.

"I remember as a child, helping my grandmother water her African violets," Phyllis laughed, "and of course, they were all purple!"

Phyllis began growing in 1989 and became a member of the Top Choice AV Club in Shreveport, LA. After moving to Florida, she joined the Upper Pinellas AVS and the

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, where she currently serves as President. Over the years, Phyllis has won Best In Show nine times, as well as eight Best In Design honors.

Although miniature African violets are her favorites, with two light stands full of them in her Florida home, she also grows trailers, standard and large plants. "It really bothers me that so few of the large plants are shown anymore," she admitted.

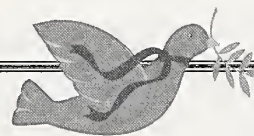
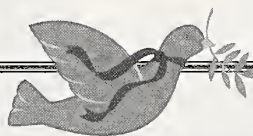
When asked if she did anything different from other growers, Phyllis explained that although all of her plants are grown on wicks, over pans, almost every one of them is grown from a leaf.

"And before a show, I do use leaf support rings. It's the only way to keep them completely symmetrical. When I fertilize, I use 1/8 teaspoon of fertilizer and a drop of Superthrive per gallon of water. And, I still use Baccto in my soil recipe. It works for me and I won't change it!"

"I use 3 quarts of Volkmann's African violet potting soil, 3 quarts of perlite, 1 quart of vermiculite, and 1 quart of Baccto."

See three of Phyllis' outstanding plants in the color pages of this issue; 'Wee Dear' - page 28, 'Grandmother's Halo' - page 29, and 'Ann' - page 36.

In Memory



MELVIA FOTTENBURY

The Cincinnati AVS was saddened by the recent death of club member, Melvia Fottenbury. Melvia was from Bethel, OH, and wintered in Florida every year, along with her family and her collection of African violets. Always eager to help out at club shows, Melvia will be missed by all who knew her.

MILDRED SEHORN

The AVS of Charlotte lost one of their beloved members in May of this year. Mildred Sehorn became a member of the club in 1980 and served on several committees. As well as growing prize-winning African violets, Mildred won many awards for her dish gardens and terrarium show entries.

JERI WHITLOCK

The Early Bird AVC lost long-time member, Jeri Whitlock in June, 1997. Jeri served in all club offices and committee chair positions, often a Show Chairman. Busy keeping about a thousand African violets in top condition, Jeri was always available to share growing advice and encouragement.

GERALDINE TORDY

Geraldine Tordy of Arvada, CO, passed away in March, 1997. A member of African violet clubs in New York and Arizona, after her move to Colorado, Geraldine joined 3G's and the Violeteers, serving as president for two years. She was also active in the Rocky mountain AV Council, and was a grower of beautiful African violets and other gesneriads.

1-800-770-AVSA



In Memory of Harvey L. Stone

by Marion Doherty

Mr. Harvey Stone passed away on August 13, 1997 at Marblehead, MA following a lengthy illness. He will be remembered as President of AVSA, assuming office in Sept. 1980 when Adeline Krogman resigned due to ill health. He had been a Bay State AVS Board Member from 1973-1976

and Treasurer for 3 years in the early '80's. He became a Board Member of AVSA in 1973 and devoted many years to AVSA as Library Chairman prior to becoming President. Professionally, he'd been an air traffic controller, quiet and meticulous in his ways. Survivors include his wife, Peg, and one son and his family. Harvey will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him.

AVSA 50th Anniversary Book



- Over 100 beautiful color photographs of African violets
- Detailed history of AVSA's first 50 years with original photos and articles from each decade

Limited supply - will not be reprinted - \$19.50 ppd

AVSA 50th Anniversary Pin



Exquisite Limited Edition gold & white hard enamel

A valuable keepsake for every AVSA member

\$10.00 ppd

Kwa-Zulu Natal AVS Show

by Joan Halford, South Africa

It was an honor for me to be invited to judge the Kwa-Zulu Natal AVS show in February, 1997.

As a recently re-organized, comparatively young club, it seemed to me that all shoulders pushed the wheel in one direction, and that was fast forward! A supportive combined effort made it a great show to see. What impressed me most was the excellent grooming of the exhibits.

I don't think I have ever seen such perfect grooming, of ALL plants. They weren't huge monster plants, but the quality was outstanding. Judging was not easy.

To me it was a most enjoyable challenge, a show I



Liz Reed, Joan Halford, Jenny Belstead & Lyn Botha at the Kwa-Zulu AVS Show

would not liked to have missed, and I am happy to report that African violets are alive and well in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Republic of South Africa.

African Violets In Any Language

by Don Geiss • Frederic, MI

¿Mi Casa es Su Casa? For those of you who do not understand the Spanish language, this means my home is your home.

We spent the last winter in the area of the Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas where there is a heavy population of American citizens of Mexican extraction, or Hispanics.

While in the area, we volunteered to do a workshop on African violets, thinking that maybe a half dozen folks would be interested. Much to our surprise, 25 people appeared for the program.

We began as we normally do, discussing the discovery of the plant and its subsequent hybridizing. Noticing that there was a good deal of background discussion, it suddenly dawned on us that some of our audience did not understand English.

We stopped at that point and suggested that those who understood English and could translate to Spanish should feel free to do so. The communication problem turned out

to be much greater than we thought. Only 3 or 4 people could understand us!

Fortunately, one of the staff members from the senior center stepped into the room and realized the problem. She stayed to interpret the entire program.

That solved the problem for the audience, but inadvertently created another for us. Whenever we paused to let her take over, our train of thought was interrupted and we puzzled to pick it up. The secret turned out to be training the mind to ignore her words and concentrate on our next comments.

Thanks to an understanding audience and a helpful staff member, the workshop was a success. We measured that from the questions afterward, the staff interpreter's approval, and the fact that the center invited us back to do a program about our second love, working with leather and decorative tooling of wallets, handbags, book marks and other pieces.

Stacking plants

By stacking plants on various height risers, an amazing number of them can be grown on one shelf and still maintain the quality of prime show specimens. As many as eight intermediate-size (12" to 6" diameter) or six of the giants (18" to 24" diameter) can be grown on one shelf. Place the elevated plants around the perimeter of the shelves so that the light emanating from the tubes will be blocked as little as

possible. If approximately two-thirds of the foliage of the lower-elevation plants receive good light, the symmetry and flatness of the growth is not affected. There is still ample circulation around the plants when they are elevated in this manner. The basic rule is that leaves much not touch. Leaves tend to curl or reposition themselves when the foliage of one plant touches another.

from Growing To Show
by Pauline Bartholomew

Happy Trails To You

by John Beaulieu • Ontario, Canada

The African violet (*Saintpaulia*) is the undisputed Queen of the House Plants and has probably been grown at one time by everyone who has ever kept plants. African violets started to become popular back in the 1940's, but even now when I speak or show slide programs at horticultural society meetings, I am amazed by the number of those attending who are not aware of the large selection of varieties available in growth habits, foliage types and size. They know about the extreme range of flower colors, but many are just discovering variegated foliage, miniatures and trailers.

African Violet Trailers

This is not a term describing the equipment needed to transport your plants to a show but rather a name given to those cultivars that tend to have a trailing growth pattern. This is further enhanced by the fact that most also tend to develop more than one crown or stem, unlike the regular varieties that grow single crowned, and each crown or stem produces many flower blossoms giving the grower a very floriferous and attractive plant.

Trailing varieties can be grown very nicely, cascading down from a hanging basket. They do not require the same amount of care that you give to a single crowned plant which you try to keep very symmetrical or round. If only growing for fun and not for show, a very attractive basket can be made by putting two or three different colored or leaf patterns together.

Trailers are not a new development, although there are many new hybrid trailers introduced every year. Of the 21 wild species of *Saintpaulia*, several have branching or trailing habits. *Saintpaulia pendula*, *S. grotei* and *S. magungensis* are the best known. Frank Tinari, of the well known Tinari Greenhouses of Philadelphia, is an African violet hybridizing pioneer and he began hybridizing with trailing types over 40 years ago. He experimented with crosses using *S. grotei*, and in 1955 he introduced five popular hybrid trailers; 'Sky Trailer', 'Snow Trailer',

'Geneva Trailer', 'Royal Blue Trailer' and 'Star Trailer'. Perhaps some of you are still growing these early hybrids today?

Other major hybridizers of the time soon saw the potential for this type of plant and it was not long before most popular flower colors and leaf forms were available in this multi-crowned growth pattern. After the initial burst of interest, there was a revival of trailing types in 1966 when Lyndon Lyon introduced 'Violet Trail' with a mauve and amethyst star-shaped bloom. This plant is still popular today. Soon after this *Saintpaulia magungensis minima* helped to produce miniature and semi miniature trailers.

Care Can be Simple

Basic care and culture of the trailing African violet does not differ greatly from regular single-crowned African violets or from gesneriads in general; most growing hints from this regular gesneriad series would apply. You want to grow them in a light potting mix with good drainage. The 'soil-less' mixes are preferred and most of the commercial brands available are composed of approximately 75% peat moss with the rest being varying amounts of perlite and vermiculite. A good fertilizer should be used and most growers like to calculate the dosage out to be used with almost every watering, except a monthly leaching of pure water to help remove any excess salts build up in the soil.

As with most flowering house plants, good light is essential for the trailing African violet. A bright window protected from the hot direct summer sun or a more controlled fluorescent fixture, (ideally using a two tube fixture on for 12 to 14 hours a day with the top of the plant not more than 12 inches from the light tubes) is suggested for the trailers that you grow.

Even though trailers are less symmetrical in growth pattern, it is still important to rotate the plants on a regular schedule so that they will receive even lighting and not appear to be growing in one direction. Very lush plants will tend to loose leaves from the inner areas not receiving

enough light. Trailers also have a tendency to develop yellow leaves if they are not receiving enough nutrients. The extra branches and leaves make a trailer a much heavier feeder. Wick watering your trailer tends to promote faster growth and suckering, because your plant is able to get the nutrients and water in a 'constant feed' method.

Trailing African violets can be propagated from leaves just as you would with any African violet, but new plants are also easily started from cutting off one of the suckers or branches. Remove enough leaves to produce a stem which can be inserted right into moist potting mix. At this time a small plastic bag could be placed over the pot and plant to provide extra humidity until the new cutting is well rooted. Like most gesneriad cuttings, roots should be well underway within a week. When rooting new cuttings, warmth is just as important as light, so do not stick them away in a cool corner. Actually all new cuttings or seedlings should always be given a prime spot in your light garden.

The LOW Down On Pots

With their shallow root systems, all African violets are best grown in the squatty pots known as 'Azalea Pots' or 'Tubs', and these are particularly good for trailers. Actually many growers are finding even lower style pots are working great with trailers. They use oversized, low, wide pots resembling large pot saucers and then place the longer branches in contact with the soil surface so that they will root into the potting mix. These extra roots help to provide the added nutrition that a large branching trailer requires. This is a system almost like rooting the stolons of *Episcia*, another gesneriad, and can create a very large dramatically wide plant. Even if you are showing your plants, these large saucer-like containers would be acceptable as long as the plant is in proportion to the container. Also, if you want to enter your trailers in shows, they must have at least three crowns or branches.

If you are not going to try the large saucers, known as 'The Japanese Method', and are going to start your plants in a more conventional method, you will find that when starting young plants it is best to keep them a little pot bound to enable the plant to establish a compact root system and promote leaf growth rather than putting its energy into filling the pot with roots.

Pinch Carefully

Not all varieties branch into new crowns easily, and less freely branching varieties are best helped along by removing flower stems when the plant is small, usually in a 2" pot. This pinching will usually cause new suckers to form at the base of the stem. As these new shoots start

forming, the plant can be repotted and if you desire 'training' can begin.

Many growers of African violets practice 'disbudding,' which is the removal of all flower buds from the plant to allow all energy to produce lush foliage. Then at the appropriate time before a show, let the buds develop so there is a large uniform amount of bloom, timed just right (hopefully) for the show date. (This timing varies with varieties and you should experiment before actually counting on it for the real show date). Trailers do not take as kindly to this as regular single-crowned violets, so practice this with caution. Standard trailers can take disbudding up to a year but a shorter term or preferably just once about six weeks before the show is better for the miniatures.

The miniature varieties also do not like having the center leaves pinched out to encourage the plant to produce additional crowns, as is often done with standard-sized trailers.

Lots of Trails to Choose From

Because of the great amount of hybridizing that has been done with trailer types and with crosses including non-trailers, not all so-called trailers 'trail' to the same degree. Many tend to keep their stems fairly upright and are more bush-like, while others have spreading stems that creep horizontally and will cascade readily if the pot is hanging or elevated. How you choose to grow your particular plant depends on which growth type you have. Articles in African violet publications and show reports will help you to decide on which of the latest varieties perform well. Dealers lists usually describe the plant's growth habits, although the only sure way is to grow a variety for a while and observe its characteristics under your growing conditions.

The African Violet Society of America which is the world registry for African violets also produces an Honor Roll for each year listing the best and most popular varieties. To be on the Honor Roll a variety must have appeared on Best Varieties Lists for five consecutive years. (Changed to three consecutive years at AVSA Board Meeting June, 1997) Some time-proven trailers to be on the Honor Roll are 'Pixie Blue', 'Pixie Pink', 'Snowy Trail' and 'Trail Along', all being Lyndon Lyon Hybrids.

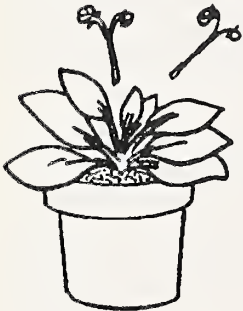
If you have no intention of showing, don't let these grooming points discourage you from seeking out and trying trailers, because even plants that receive the minimum basic requirements can be attractive and enjoyable to grow. Once you've tried growing a trailing African violet, you'll always want to have at least one in your collection of house plants. Smaller (miniature and micro-mini) trailing violets can be used very nicely in dish

gardens or terrarium gardens. Also with their trailing habits, these plants look very attractive potted in a wine goblet, decorative mug or any suitable container. They are fun to grow for show but they are also great simply grown for fun!

A trailing African violet branch can be rooted as you would any gesneriad tip cutting. Remove enough leaves to provide a stem. If enough warmth and humidity is provided a rooting powder is not usually needed. Do not allow the soil to dry out completely.



When a new plant starts to bloom, remove the flower stems to encourage the production of suckers (branches). Remember that a trailer must have at least three branches for showing.



Once you have at least three growing tips, you can either let the plant develop naturally or begin training the branches by the 'Japanese Method'.

The 'Japanese Method' involves attaching the branches to the surface of the soil using wire or paper clips as shown by the arrow. This allows roots to form along the stem where it makes contact with the soil. If some leaves and/or flower stems are removed, other suckers are encouraged to form making a very full plant. This is only recommended for the serious shower.



Reprinted with permission from "Chatter," Journal of the AVS of Canada

ALGAE & WICKS

by Keith Lind

Many times people have asked me if algae will hurt African violets. I have usually replied that I didn't think it hurt the violets, but it does make pots and reservoirs unsightly. I believed also that it tended to "clog" up the wicks, but I had never actually tested this theory, as I usually empty and refill a reservoir that contains a lot of algae.

I have now seen positive proof that algae does clog up the wicks. A grower came to me for help and brought about ten very sorry plants to be "fixed" if possible. Basically, I saw no sign of disease or pests, but the reservoirs were so green with algae that it was impossible to see any water in them. The plants were limp and the mix in the pots was

almost bone dry. It was truly amazing that the plants were still alive, but we all know that African violets are not the delicate plants most non-growers think they are.

The wicks were slimy with algae and it was quite evident that this was why they were not taking the water up to the plants. After giving the plants the usual rejuvenation treatment, a good scrubbing of the reservoirs and a quick brushing, new wicks and potting mix were added. I'm sure those ten plants will live to bloom again.

Reprinted from The African Violet, publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.



LET YOUR VIOLET BE YOUR GUIDE

by Karen H. Palmer

I have often read that your growing conditions will dictate, to some degree, the way you need to take care of your African violets. This I have found to be very true as my violet collection has expanded and it became necessary to find new places and different sources of light for them. Discovery through trial and error told me how much water and fertilizer they needed, as many dead violets could attest to.

I started out growing in natural light and, as beginners often do, I drowned most of my first plants. Instead of being "kind" and just killing them at once, with one large deluge of water, I consistently gave the poor things a bit too much until most of them finally lost patience with me and made their escape to violet heaven. Before giving up, they tried their best to explain things by developing brown edges and water-soaked spots on their foliage, but I thought they were telling me they wanted a larger pot! Finally, I corrected my error and the hardy souls that were left breathed a sigh of relief. As most of you already know, violets grown with natural light grow more slowly and need less water and fertilizer than the ones under fluorescent light. 'Ghost Dance' does especially well for me in natural light. I have a young plant and it is in full bloom.

At one window I grow with a combination of artificial light and natural light. This window is on the side of the house and the light is somewhat shaded by the home beside us. Monday through Friday, while I am work, I keep the blinds up. Then, when I get home I turn on my artificial light which stays on until about 10 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, I keep the artificial light on for about 12 hours and the blinds open. These plants bloom frequently and need more water than the ones grown in natural light alone. On several occasions, they had to explain to me that they needed more water by going limp. This time I understood what they were telling me and gave them what they wanted immediately. They all did fine, once their grower was trained. 'Top Shelf', 'Apache Heart', and 'Vince's Choice' are all grown in this manner and do quite well.

In the living room I grow African violets on my light stand and these are the thirstiest

of all. By now, I was "violet smart" (or smarter) and none of these plants had to go to heroic measures to get my attention. They need more fertilizer than the other plants and grow much faster. These violets are in almost constant bloom. They also need to be repotted more frequently, which is no surprise.

The violets I have at the office can be a bit trickier. They are grown under fluorescent lighting. They do not receive quite as many hours of light as the other plants that I grow with artificial light. These plants' blooming patterns are similar to the ones I grow in natural light; they tend to rest between periods of bloom. During the spring, summer and autumn they all do quite well, growing and blooming with ease. However, in the winter the humidity in my office drops. I put the violets on pebbles with water in the bottom which raises the humidity, but even so it is hard going for a few of them. Some violets won't tolerate the lower humidity. When I have a plant that consistently sulks in the winter, I take it home. However, most can thrive, even under these somewhat difficult circumstances. Some of the plants that do well for me in the office all year round are 'Arapahoe', 'Coral Glo' and 'Betcha'. I have found that in the winter I need to keep these plants wetter than I normally do.

If I didn't want to chance winter growing in the office, the violets could be taken home for a few months. Actually, if you just watch the plants, you can tell which ones aren't good candidates for a more challenging growing environment. I prefer to experiment and find out which varieties can "tough out" the less than ideal conditions so I can have the pleasure of flowers in my office all year round.

It has been great fun experimenting with all these different growing environments. African violets are quite adaptable. They are also quick to "tell you" when they're unhappy. So, let your violet be your guide to successful growing in your own special growing environment.

*Reprinted with permission
from Violets Agrowing,
publication of the Cape AVS,
South Africa*

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue	May 15
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 15
May/June issue	Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 15

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE - 3 5/16 IN WIDE	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any advertiser who purchases six consecutive ads may have his business listed on the AVSA Web Page and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

Membership - \$30.00 per year - USA. Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$207.00 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Lane
Houston, Texas 77094-3412
Phone: 281-492-2034

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.



To ensure that all of your information is correctly printed for Coming Events, please copy the form below and use it to send in your club announcement. Type if possible, if not, PLEASE PRINT. Also, please copy on regular size (8½ x 11) piece of paper. Thank you for your cooperation.

month and date(s)

state

club name and event

location (including place and address, city, state)

dates and times

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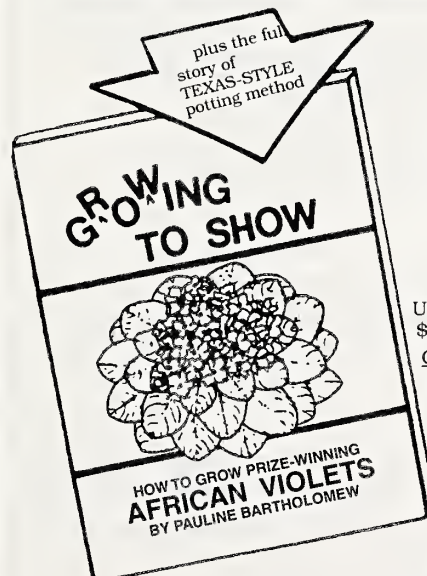
AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
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To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). Mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label below. Orders will be submitted every time 30 orders are acquired.

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Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award! I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne (Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturing the Miniatures")



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Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
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A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

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*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
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AD EXPIRES 09/30/97



Kent's Flowers

2501 E. 23rd Fremont, NE 68025
(402)721-1478

Kent's Mother, Joan Stork, died suddenly just before Christmas last year. Because she was also our bookkeeper, we have been busy establishing a new "normal" routine in running our floral shop. Therefore, we are unable to offer a list for fall shipping this year. Violets and supplies continue to be available in the shop, which is open from 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Saturday.

African Violet Beauties From The Beautiful Ozarks!

Will be having **OPEN HOUSE** Oct. 23-25, 1997
8:00 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Omaha, Arkansas is 4 miles south of the Mo. state line;
60 mi. So. of Springfield, Mo., 200 Mi. So. of Kansas City,
100 Mi. E. of Rogers, Ar., 166 Mi. N. of Little Rock, Ar.
When you get to Omaha, follow the signs - Hope to see lots of
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Minimum purchase is one case of 12,
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Offer good thru 10/31/97



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African Violets and Gesneriads

**BEST DISPLAY AT 1997 AVSA SHOW
INCLUDING BEST NEW INTRODUCTION**

ROB'S SARSPARILLA. VERY DIFFERENT! - real conversation piece; wild, heavily fringed sdbl. rust-pink w/edging of dark red-brown, touches of green; nearly-brown blooms will last forever!; wavy, heavily serrated foliage; extremely prolific bloomer; semimini

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ROB'S ANTIQUE ROSE. 2nd best new intro at '96 AVSA national show; heavily frilled, sdbl. silver-rose, shaded dark rose, often w/green edging; dark, serrated foliage; lovely semimini

ROB'S BUNNY WABBIT. Adorable!; sdbl. white pansies w/thin pink edging over very tiny, nearly white, heavily var. foliage; lovely tiny mini

ROB'S HOT FOOT. Very fluffy dbl. Carnation blooms of very deep-deep burgundy-red; nearly-black, glossy, pebbled, serrated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S HUMPTY DOO. Everyone wants this one - a must have!; sdbl. blue w/wide white pinwheel stripes; distinctive and very striking; very profuse semimini chimera trailer (\$5)

ROB'S MIRIWinni. Adorable single pink pansies w/blue pinwheel stripes and speckling; semimini chimera trailer (\$5)

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ROB'S RUFF STUFF. Very unusual dbl. Deep pink w/blue fantasy speckles and very frilly green edges; dark, serrated foliage; odd and beautiful; semimini

SOME OF THE NEW STREPTOCARPUS

BRISTOL'S NIGHT SHADOWS. Deep velvety-purple w/bright white petal backs, thin white edge; striking and very popular

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PLUS ... 8 other new violets, 6 more new streps, as well as dozens of other varieties including standard violets.

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THE NUTRITION SOLUTION®

Our Customers say it best...

In a recent letter from Mrs. Ramona Donnell, Awards Chairman for the Missouri Valley AVC she said,

"... I used your fertilizer exclusively on the 7 plants that I took to show and I received 7 Blue Ribbons, 6 Best in Class and 1 Judges Special Award. I also won best other gesneriad, Best Mini and 2nd Best Mini in show. After the awards were announced, everyone was most interested in how I had used Dyna-Gro.

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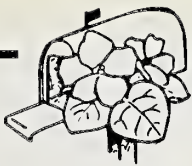
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OUR CHOICE, ESTABLISHED STARTER Plants, \$3.00 each plus shipping

To avoid duplicating plants you may already have, please send a list of plants you do not want.

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Please list plenty of substitutes if ordering "customer's choice", the selection changes daily and we want you to be happy with your order. We will only substitute if absolutely necessary.

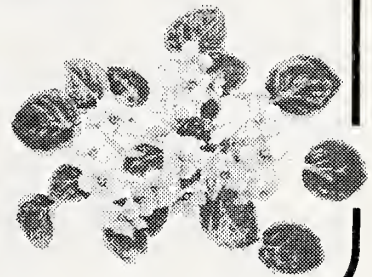
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Minimum order \$ 15.00 Plus Shipping



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25 OR MORE STARTER PLANTS SHIRLEY'S CHOICE \$2.75 EACH PLUS SHIPPING.

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Standards: ACA's Wewanchu, Croteau's Boreale, Pittman's Alamo Joy, Alamo Lady, Apache Memories, Rodeo Payday, Foster's Sharon Q, Ness' Blue Confetti, Red Velvet, Stork's Pen N Ink, Bounty Hunter, Williams' Suncoast Seabreeze, Boca Grande.

Trailers? You betcha! Always Pink, Tinywood Tr., Rob's Humpty Doo and Gundaroo. Trailing William, Cirelda, Milkyway Tr., Cherokee Tr., Brazos Belle, Sundown Tr.

Miniature/semiminiatures: Dean's Brandywine, Dean's Ladybug, Dean's Cupid, Moonsilk, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Hotfoot, Ness' Tiny Flame, Ness' Little Dipper, Petite Blarney, Boo Man, Baby Darryl, Joy's Pink Halo, Von's Christmas Toy, Von's Small Gift, Tamsen, Snuggle's Tiny Baby, Pink Playmate, Pay Dirt, Petite Teen.

Space does not allow us to give descriptions of the lovely plants that we have available from top hybridizers featured in our 1997 catalog. You may order our catalog for \$1.00.

LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases - 24 for \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases - 24 for \$24. Shipping on leaves—\$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf. Shipping on plants is \$7.00 for the first 6 plants and 40 cents for each plant over that.

We will ship in Northern and Eastern states until November 1 where weather permits. Southern states until mid November. Only in the United States and her territories.

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	1.50	8.50	16.20		
	4.75	27.00	51.00		

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

ELISA'S African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each
White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black
\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;
West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Use liquid GROW and liquid BLOOM for quality show plants. Contains No urea nitrogen.

LIQUID GROW 7-9-5 1/2 pt. 11 oz. net wt \$4.29

1 pt. 22 oz. net wt \$6.29

LIQUID BLOOM 3-12-6 1/2 pt. \$4.29

1 pt. \$7.49

K-L-N Concentrate - promotes root growth in plants and cuttings 1/2 pt. \$10.00

Dolomite Limestone

Charcoal No. 4 Coarse 2 lbs./\$1.75
No. 6 Medium 40 oz. 1.75 3.25

Vermiculite No. 2 Coarse 4 qts. 1.75 5.00

Perlite Coarse 1.75 5.00

Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss 432 cu. inches/\$3.75

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide \$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$3.97

2 oz. - \$4.55

4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

OPTIMARA VIOLET FOOD

14-12-14

Pre-measured fertilizer for all violet varieties and house plants.

Makes 15 gallons

\$1.89 per box of 15

pre-measured packets.

Makes 1 gallon each.

4 or more boxes \$1.75 each.

NEW LOWER PRICES!

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
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FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10
						9"	6.40

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 13.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

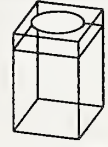
Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75
	4 oz./\$7.00	

PETERS FERTILIZER

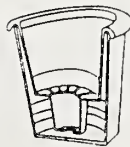
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	1 lb.	\$6.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	12 oz.	\$4.50
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	8 oz.	\$5.50
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	8 oz.	\$3.50
Concentrate	8 oz.	\$5.00
KNOX-OUT PT1500A - Aerosol spray	16 oz.	\$7.75

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

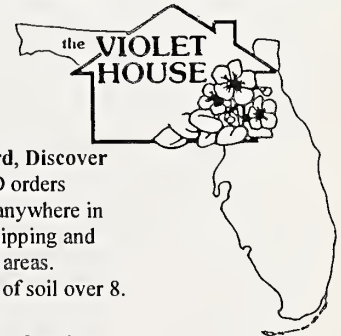
Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.00	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$60.00

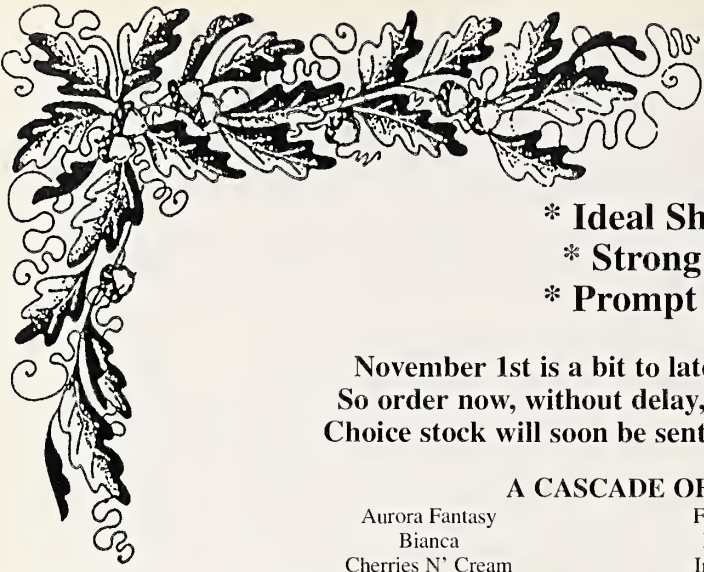
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P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466

- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.50 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order





- * Ideal Shipping Weather
- * Strong Healthy Stock
- * Prompt Plant Shipment

November 1st is a bit to late, to mail plant orders to any state.
So order now, without delay, plants promptly will be on the way,
Choice stock will soon be sent, to grow and groom for show events.

A CASCADE OF COLORS ... \$3.95 each

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| Aurora Fantasy | Fantasy Cameo | Red Robe |
| Bianca | Fantasy Lace | Sunrise Coral |
| Cherries N' Cream | Irish Flirt (Sm) | |

CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITES AT... \$2.95 each

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| Alamo Red | Fire Mountain | Pink Heaven |
| Angel's Reflection | His Promise | Pink Phantom |
| Anniversary Tribute | Honore | Ruffled Skies |
| Arapahoe | Hot Pants | Snowkist Haven |
| Blue Parade | Lavender Sunrise | Tomahawk |
| Candy Cane | Nancy Leigh | Viking Maiden |
| Fantasy Forty | Pink Cameo | White Cameo |

SPECTRUM OF COLORS AT ... \$2.49 each

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| Azure Blue | Dazzler | Toreador |
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| Champagne Halo | Nancy Reagan | Tradition |
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Time To Repot! Use Tinari's Special Blend Growing Medium

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|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 12 Quart Poly Bag | Zone 0-1-2 | \$12.95 PPD |
| 12 Quart Poly Bag | Zone 3-4-5 | \$13.95 PPD |
| 12 Quart Poly Bag | Zone 6-7-8-9 | \$14.95 PPD |

Send for 1997 Catalog ... \$1.00

Packing and Postal Costs: First number in your zip code indicates zone you should use.

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| Zone | 0-1-2 |\$5.95 per shipment |
| Zone | 3-4-5 |\$6.95 per shipment |
| Zone | 6-7-8-9 |\$7.95 per shipment |

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African Violet

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

November • December 1997

Volume 50

Number 6



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

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Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, 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. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail offmg@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

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

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

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SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

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

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - \$10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook **prior** to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is \$4.25.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

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

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

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PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Email 06JLSmith@BSU.edu

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.

Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

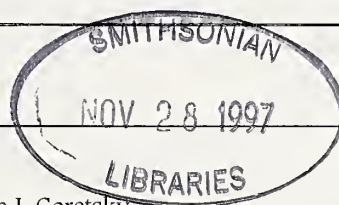
The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December

Volume 50

Number 6

CONTENTS



FEATURES

How to Tell if You're a <i>Saintpaulia</i> Addict - Judy Barnett . . . 5	Color Photo - Winston J. Goretsky 36
Renew Your Membership! - Anne Tinari 8	What's in Your Pots? - Sue Gardner 40
AVSA Certificates of Appreciation - Jane Rexilius 11	Searching For Freebies - Jackie Jones 41
What's Happened to My Plants? - Dr. Charles Cole 12	Moon Signs & Planting Guide - Porter Temple 42
African Violets Are Always Welcome - Anne Herbatuk . . . 14	Why Join AVSA? - Alice Easter. 43
I Miss My Naughty Pimp - Judy Barnett 17	Learning the Hard Way - Mary Bannan 43
Dear Editor, - Deb Buettner 20	Violets on the Web - Pat Richards 44
Impromptu Germination:	AVS of Northern Illinois Leaf Project - Adelle Johnson 45
Sowing Seeds Without a Mix - Frank Martin 21	Take Advantage of Us - Jackie Jones. 46
Reading the Signs on the Internet - Ellen Beckerman 24	True Blue African Violets - Peggy Payne 47
Ammonium Toxicity in	My African Violet Buddy 49
African Violets - Kent & Joyce Stork 26	AV Holiday Centerpiece - Joyce Stenger 50
A Gracious Couple - Don Geiss. 28	Looking Back...1951...AVSA Famous Firsts 51
Mold Potting - Elizabeth Whitesides 28	CORRECTION to 9/97 Show & Judges Column 52
Spreading the Joy of African Violets - Florence Friedman . . 29	My Amazing African Violet Adventure - Linda Colborn. . . 53
How My Computer Helps	Chemical Safety and the Bugs that Bug Us - Betty Tapping. . 54
Me Grow African Violets - Carla Ryan 31	Vive la Variegated African Violets - A.M. Brooks. 56
African Violets in the Winter - Ruth Coulson. 34	

DEPARTMENTS

Staff & Officers 2	Showcase 32
Index of Advertisers. 2	Best Varieties for 1997 - Floyd Lawson 37
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells. 3	AVSA Commercials: A Closer Look, Rozell Rose
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey 4	Nursery and Violet Boutique - David Buttram 38
Office Memo - Cindy Chatelain 5	Statement of Ownership. 46
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork 6	Members. 48
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens. 9	AVSA and Today's Technologies - John Carter. 52
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith 10	Upgrading the Computer System 52
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck 15	Membership Application 58
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons. 15	
Question Box - Dorothy Kosowsky 16	
Thinking Small - Pat Richards 18	
In Memory 20	
Registration Report - Iris Keating 22	
AVSA Building & Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton. . . . 23	
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin. 27	
Coming Events 29	

CONVENTION

Convention Awards - Linda Golubski 14
Members, Hybridizers, and Affiliates - Pat Richards. . . . 15
Discover CA - Convention '98. 30

COVER

'Ceremonial Dance'
From the Commercial
Display Table of
The Violet Showroom
1997 AVSA National Show
Hybridizer: K. Stork
Standard

Photo Credit: Gus Francisco



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A	I
Acree Creations 60	Indoor Gardening Supplies 63
American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society 62	L
American Orchid Society 62	Linda's Heavenly Accents 58
AV Enterprises Press. 62	Linda's Lovely Stamps 57
AVS of Canada 62	M
AVSA Address Labels 60	Mudhole Productions 59
B	O
Bayou Violets. 61	Optimara 25
Belisle's Violet House 61	R
Bluebird Greenhouses. 63	Rob's Mini-o-lets 58
C	Rozell Nursery 60
Cape Cod	S
Violetry Inside Back Cover	Schultz. 58
Cryptanthus Society 62	Sonja's African Violets 63
D	Source Technology-Phyton 27 . . 60
Dyna Gro. 61	T
F	Tanzania Wildlife Fund. 63
Florals of Fredericks 60	Teas Nursery 61
G	Tinani Greenhouses Back Cover
Gardener's Greenhouse. 59	Toni's Home Nursery 63
H	Travis' Violets. 59
Hattie Baggett's African Violets. . 63	V
Herbal Garden Ceramics 61	Violets by Appointment 8
Hobby Greenhouse 61	Violets Etc., Inc. 61
	Violet House. 64
	Violet Showcase 59



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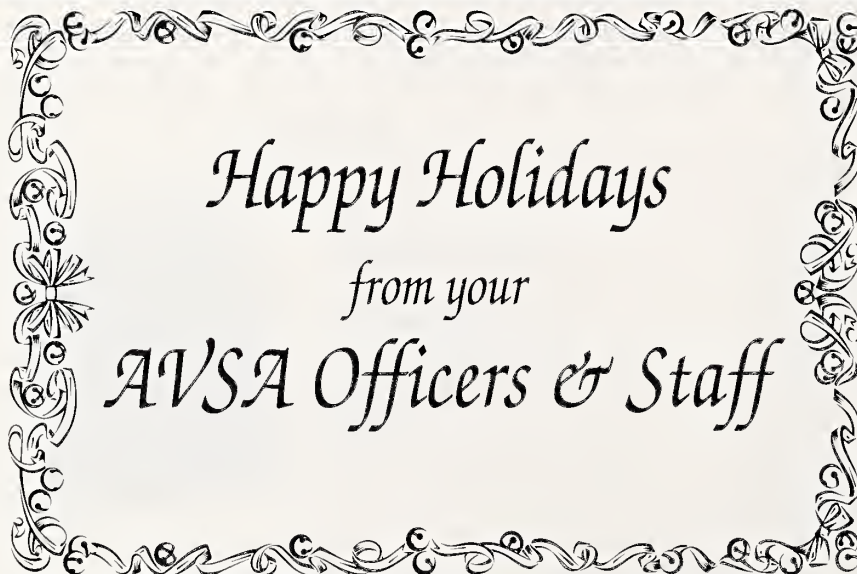
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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



Happy Holidays
from your
AVSA Officers & Staff



President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

By the time you receive this issue of the AVM, most of the fall shows will be completed. I hope that you were able to participate in one or more of the AVSA shows, either as an exhibitor, a judge, or as a visitor. As I write this letter, Charles and I are looking forward to attending the California State Convention and the Lone Star Convention, in addition to our own Missouri Valley Council Convention. A highlight of each will undoubtedly be the beautiful shows at each of these events.

The Executive Committee will be meeting during the Lone Star Convention in Houston. In addition, we are planning a visit to the AVSA Office in Beaumont and to Becker Printing, publishers of the AVM.

I would like to thank the African Violet Council of Southern California and the Northern California African Violet Council for inviting me to be their guest at the California State Convention in Solvang. After visiting this small Danish community in the foothills of Southern California during the Los Angeles Convention twelve years ago, Charles, my mother, and I have always wanted to visit this area again. The invitation to attend the California State Convention was the perfect "excuse" for a long weekend to enjoy the beautiful scenery, do some shopping, attend a violet show, and visit with violet friends who are preparing for the 1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento.

In September, Charles and I were privileged to attend the Pre-Convention planning meeting in Houston. Plans for the 1999 Convention are progressing well. We visited many of the places that are being considered for tours. There are some beautiful gardens, some fun shopping areas, and a restaurant with homemade rolls that melt in your mouth.

I am pleased to report that the new computer equipment for the AVSA Office in Beaumont, TX, has been installed. The Technology Committee is continuing to evaluate software packages for use in maintaining our membership records. A new fax machine has also been installed in the AVSA Office. Donations are still needed to help defray the cost of the new computer system, and may be sent to Bill Lyons, Booster Fund Chairman.

Our Research Committee Chairman, Dr. Charles Cole, has informed me that he has received various proposals for research grants from the Boyce Edens Research Fund. The Research Committee is in the process of evaluating the proposals in order to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

We are pleased to welcome a new columnist to the African Violet Magazine with this issue. Dorothy Kosowsky will be sharing the Question Box column with Ralph Robinson. Dorothy has won many awards for her plants at both the state and national conventions. Welcome, Dorothy. We look forward to reading your answers to all of our questions about growing beautiful African violets. We also want to thank James Smith for his contributions to the AVM as a columnist during the last several years.

As we all prepare for the upcoming holidays, I want to wish each member of AVSA a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and happiness. May each of us take time to express our gratitude for our friends, our family, and our beautiful African violets that bring us all together.

Happy Holidays!

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA President

Editor's Notes

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

Our friends to the north, the **African Violet Society of Canada**, sent us a slide program from their 1997 National Show. All of these absolutely gorgeous slides are the work of **Winston J. Goretsky**, who is a very talented photographer. Treat yourself to some of the Canadian winners on pages 33 and 36 of this issue. Be sure to give the AVSA office a call (800 - 770 - AVSA) to reserve this slide program for your club - it's a "must see"!

Those of you who report the show winners to our "...And the Winners Are..." column, please make note of Mary's new last name and address. Also, please remember to PRINT or TYPE your show information.

Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

I want to thank **Jim Smith** for the many years that he contributed to the AVM with the "Question Box" column. Our new columnist joining **Ralph Robinson** to answer your AV questions is **Dorothy Kosowsky**. Send questions to:

Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

A member of our local club, the AVS of Beaumont, **Lou Williford**, suggested several months ago that I print the moon signs guide for planting in the AVM, so I contacted **Porter Temple** who produces this column for the Dixie News. See the planting guide on page 42. Lou is one of the local club members who tended the office plants for several years.

Thanks to those of you contributing to the AVM. I'm so glad that **David Buttram** is writing about our commercial members in his "A Closer Look" column again. In this issue David and his wife, **Beth**, come down to Texas to visit with **Carolyn Rozell** of Rozell Rose Nursery and Violet Boutique in Tyler, TX, Rose Capitol of the United States. (page 38)

Frank Martin of Seattle, WA, shares his experiences as a first time hybridizer of AV "babies" on page 21 and

Kent and Joyce Stork, our "For Beginners" columnists, explain what ammonium toxicity is, what it can do to our plants, and how to prevent it. (page 26)

At the suggestion of our AVSA office secretaries, **Jenny and Tammi**, I have reprinted **Betty Tapping's** fine article, "Chemical Safety and the Bugs That Bug Us", which appeared previously in the AVS of Canada's fine publication, "Chatter". (page 54)

It's time to start thinking about the 1998 convention in Sacramento, CA, April 1998. On page 30, read a bit about the city of Sacramento and her interesting history which is a direct result of the discovery of gold in California. The Radisson Hotel, our 1998 convention site, is located on the edge of private lake, and is just a short distance from the state capitol.

When sending in your Coming Event notices, please copy the Coming Events form that has appeared in the last couple of issues (or let me know and I'll send you a copy of this form). If you **mail in your event by regular mail** and do **not** get a confirmation from me, **I did not get it**. If you Fax your event to me I'll send you a confirmation **if you include your mailing address** on the Fax. If you email your event to me, I'll respond through email, and will **not** send you a confirmation by regular mail. (Is that confusing?)

On page 53, new Commercial Member, **Linda Colborn**, of Linda's Lovely Stamps, Sebring, FL, shares her experiences as a new Commercial Member at her first convention. Linda makes those fascinating 3-D African violet stamps we saw in St. Pete.

Please consider submitting to the AVM, and if you have any ideas to make it a better publication, let me know. I really am open to suggestions!



African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Memor

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager

2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702 • offmgr@avsa.org

The new computers are here! The Technology committee, headed by the very knowledgeable John Carter, purchased four new computers for the AVSA Office. We have three workstations and a server. John and his wife, Judy Carter, our AVSA Advertising Manager, have made several trips to Beaumont from their Houston home to get the computers set up. John is now evaluating software for the new computers that will handle our membership, orders and reports. The new computers will give us the ability to track membership records in different ways and better serve our membership. John has spent many hours working on this project and we do appreciate it. He has just one word or wisdom for all of you "AVSA HUSBANDS" and that is, "Don't let your wife attend a meeting without you, because you might get volunteered".

Most of the Affiliates have sent their forms in to sign up for the 1998 liability insurance. If you have not, please do so as soon as possible.

Please add the following to your judges list in the September insert:

How to Tell if You're a *Saintpaulia* Addict

by Judy Barnett • Jacksonville, FL

You know you're addicted when you:

1. Experience no guilt whatsoever when you talk on the phone too often and too long sharing growing tips with AV buddies, while your normal household chores pile up.
2. Sit entranced, oblivious to your surroundings, gazing at your wondrous, verdant, Saintpaulias, while enjoying the Peters/Superthrive/Physan scent they emit as they utilize the concoction you've given them.
3. Get more breathless and alert during a visit to a violet greenhouse than any sane person should be.
4. Enter your violet sanctuary promising yourself to take just a few minutes' to report just a few plants . . . or sucker-pluck . . . or remove dead blooms . . . or put

Canada: Michel Paradis, Student Judge, 2688 Oxford, Longueuil PQ J4L 2M6

Please add or change the following to your Affiliate listings in the September insert:

Canada: Club Violettes Longueuil, Rene Martin, President, CP 21126 SUCC Jacques Cartier, 1401 Chemin Chambly, Longueuil PQ J4J 5J4

AVS of Calgary, Walter Salamanowicz, President, 324 Cantrell Dr. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2W 2C6

Kansas: Wichita AV Study Club, William Baker, President, 9830 W 10th Ct., Wichita, 67212

Missouri: Katy Trail African Violet Club, Helen Blanton, President, 622 Riverside Dr., St. Charles, 63304

The Office Staff wants to take this opportunity to send HOLIDAY GREETINGS to all of our members. If you have a special person on your Christmas list who loves African violets, give the office a call and we can send a gift certificate for membership in AVSA to them. If they have a computer and don't currently have the latest version of MVL on diskette or First Class, we can also ship that in time for Christmas.

down some leaves . . . then get totally engrossed, and emerge 3 hours later, damp, dirty and rejuvenated, with the realization that you've just experienced violet "plant therapy."

5. Let out a "Hooray, yippee!" and attempt a cartwheel when you see a "Best in Class" ribbon awarded to one of your carefully tended entries.
6. Awaken at 3:00 A.M. from a nightmare about armies of thrips, meales and other creepy-crawlies marching toward your violets.
7. Become totally unaware of the world around you as you become completely absorbed in devouring a violet-related publication you've just received.
8. Think, while washing soft, furry, violet leaves that they feel like a puppy's ears.
9. Hand a friend who's just told you she was pregnant your AVSA Master Variety List from which to choose her baby's name.

If you can identify with more than 5 of the above scenarios, you're hooked - give up, give in, and ENJOY!



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

THE ART OF FERTILIZING ... JUST ENOUGH

Want to start an active discussion or maybe even a fight? Find a group of African violet growers and ask what is the best way to fertilize. Everyone has a different opinion! Some growers use one brand all the time. Others love to rotate different brands and formulations. Some like to boost their plants with extra fertilizer just before shows. There are lots of opinions!

What should beginning violet growers believe about fertilizing? First, know that African violets do best when given fertilizer regularly. Often, beginning hobbyists have not been feeding their plants at all or only sporadically. Secondly, realize that fertilizer can be overused. Once they learn that African violets bloom and grow more vigorously when they receive nutrients, any grower may be tempted to go overboard. Even the most experienced of growers have been known to overdo it with fertilizer.

FIRST ... THE BASICS

Plants actually produce about 95% of the nutrients needed for growth in the process of photosynthesis. Fertilizers aid and supplement this production. That is why it generally takes such a tiny amount of fertilizer to satisfy plant needs.

There are many reasonably good African violet fertilizers out there. This discussion will be limited to the inorganic fertilizers, since that is the type that is most predictable and most commonly used by most indoor growers (organic fertilizers often smell bad!). Most of them work well under the right circumstances (we'll talk about that later). The fertilizers that recommend a "constant use" are favored by most violet growers. Package labels will suggest a measurement that is appropriate for use once a week when watering. Growers who use a constant-water system (like wicking, matting, or with special pots) either

keep that proportion of fertilizer or use a reduced amount (often half-strength) in their water every time they replenish the supply.

Fertilizers recommended for African violets vary. They may be very balanced blends of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (like a 20-20-20 mix), or they may be heavy to the phosphorus (like a 15-30-15 formulation). One company has had success marketing a fertilizer that is lower in phosphorus (14-12-14). Yet another company offers a special formulation for variegated violets that has very little nitrogen but huge amounts of phosphorus (5-50-17). The numbers used on American fertilizers represent the percentage of the mix containing each of the three primary nutrients (eg. 20% nitrogen, 20% phosphorus, 20% potassium in a 20-20-20 formulation.) The remaining percentage is made up of other nutrients and carriers that have no nutrient value.

African violets need more than just the three basic nutrients, and most of the fertilizers have additional trace elements. Some will list them, but many do not. If plants are doing well with your current fertilizer, it is probably safe to assume that they are not seriously deficient of any of the necessary nutrients.

It does get more complicated than that, however. Fertilizers are produced from several different sources. Many of the less expensive fertilizers use urea, ammonium phosphate, and/or ammoniacal nitrogen as the origin. More expensive are fertilizers that use a nitrate base. These sources are generally listed on the label.

One fertilizer recently has been advertising that it also contains silicon. This has not been a traditional element in fertilizers offered over the counter. If you choose to use this product, do read the label carefully and always begin using the lowest recommended rate. Silicon can be useful

when used correctly but extremely damaging when misused.

Finally, there are also the slow-release fertilizers. These are coated with a resin so that they dissolve slowly in the soil. The formulation, wetness of the soil, and the soil temperature affect the rate of the release. These can be very convenient to novice-growers because it is a one-time-then-forget-it system. Be aware that wetter or warmer than average conditions will cause this fertilizer to break down more quickly, while dryer or cooler than average temperatures will result in a slower breakdown. It can be difficult to guess when it is time to repeat the application.

NEXT... THE FINE POINTS

Fertilizer must be in a solution with water. Water plays a key role chemically in the conversion of fertilizer into a nitrate form. Roots can only take in nitrates dissolved in water. Nitrate-based fertilizers are already in a usable form and are taken up readily by violets. Urea-based nitrogen depends on soil bacteria to convert it to a nitrate so that roots can absorb it.

Soil bacteria are a group of beneficial microorganisms living in the soil. Some of the bacteria are able to break down ammonium forms of nitrogen into nitrates, which the roots can absorb. Bacteria is generally present in all soil-less mixes (and just about everywhere else). It can be destroyed by excessive heating. When potting mixes are pasteurized, it is important that they not be heated beyond the recommended level of 180 degrees Fahrenheit (sustained for thirty minutes).

This soil bacteria is relatively active in the soil when the soil pH is between 6 and 7.5. Its activity is also affected by soil temperature. At cooler temperatures it can be quite inactive, but at 70 degrees or above the soil bacteria can break down ammonium-based materials quite efficiently.

The activity of the soil bacteria in warm or cool conditions partially accounts for the changes in growth patterns at different temperatures. Variegation patterns are particularly sensitive to the availability of nitrogen at warmer temperatures. Nitrogen is a key element in the production of chlorophyll...the chemical that makes leaves green. Variegated hybrids grown in changing conditions will have more green in the foliage produced during the warmer time and less green in the foliage produced during the cooler time.

IF IT ISN'T BROKEN... DON'T FIX IT

All of this information can seem pretty intimidating. It is actually quite simple to fertilize African violets correctly. Use a good quality African violet fertilizer and follow the directions. As long as the violets are growing and

blooming well, there is probably no cause to worry. Determining the best brand to use continues to be a great source of discussion among growers. If a violet friend in your area is having good success with a particular brand, it will probably work for you too.

SYMPTOMS OF FERTILIZING PROBLEMS

Inadequately fertilized violets may show varied symptoms according to the nutrient that is not available. For example, plants that have a faded green color (chlorosis) across the entire plant may have an inadequate supply of nitrogen available to the roots. It may be because there is an inadequate amount of nitrogen being offered, or it may be because soil pH or temperatures have made it unavailable. Magnesium shortages may also be reflected by a chlorosis, but this time it would only appear on the lower leaves and primarily between the veins. Diagnosing deficiencies is a very tedious confusing process! Furthermore, if you are using a good fertilizer at the recommended rate under normal conditions, it is extremely unlikely that the plants are lacking nutrients.

What is more likely? Over-fertilizing!

Excessive amounts of fertilizer may result in changed growth in the foliage (varying from very tight centers to leggy open-leaf patterns). Sometimes excessive phosphorus can trigger extraordinary amounts of flowers, but there is a penalty to pay in burned foliage.

One of the biggest problems with over-fertilizing is a build-up of a variety of fertilizer salts. This salt deposit can sometimes be seen on the hairs in the very center of a violet crown. It can also form a gritty deposit on the top of the soil. It can be leached out by pouring clear water (an amount equal to at least the volume of the pot) through the soil ball, allowing the waste water to run off. If any color is noted in the run-off water, continue leaching until the water is clear.

In some cases, over-fertilizing results in a toxic condition in which there is more ammonia in the soil than the soil bacteria can process. Urea-based fertilizers form ammonia (think about the smell of a wet diaper). When these fertilizers are over-applied, or when the soil bacteria is under-active, the result will be ammonium toxicity. (See companion article on this topic, "Ammonium Toxicity in African Violets", pg. 26.)

HUNGRY AND NOT SO HUNGRY

Some violets need lots of fertilizer to prosper, while other varieties seem to manage with none at all. It probably ties into the plant metabolism and how efficiently some violet varieties produce enough nutrients for their own needs. Plants that are being grown for show seem to benefit from the boost of a little extra fertilizer. Many dark foliage hybrids also seem to need a steady diet. Nitrogen

seems to be the key nutrient that sometimes can be supplemented in greater quantities. Leaves that bleach in bright light, that is to say the foliage becomes a lighter green than normal, are indicating a need for more nitrogen.

Extra nitrogen can be supplied to your hungry plants by additional root feeding, but then you run into the danger of salt and toxic build-ups. Besides, roots are only able to absorb a small percentage of the nutrients offered.

Many advanced growers prefer to supply an extra helping of nitrogen to hungry plants using foliar feeding. This is a process of misting the leaf surface with a fertilizer mix. A very high percentage of this nitrogen is drawn into the plant in about thirty minutes, making it very effective. If you wish to do this, we recommend using about 1/16 of a teaspoon of fish emulsion plus a drop of pure dish washing solution (or a good wetting agent) in a pint spray bottle that is filled with warmish water. Spray mist the foliage thoroughly. Wet plants should be kept out of direct light. After a hour, any excess beads of water can be blotted off of the leaves, and plants may be returned to their original position.

A few African violet varieties consistently develop a halo of lighter color around the outside of nearly all leaves.

This may be because that variety needs very little support from fertilizer or because they are extremely sensitive to toxic build-ups. Often these are very free-blooming hybrids with lighter green foliage. "Melodie Kimi" is a well-known plant that we have found prefers no fertilizer and a slightly shorter day under the lights.

Wise growers know that each plant has a little different "personality". When you can match the conditions to your plant's special needs, you will see improvement.

FAT AND NOT HAPPY

Being overfed is never comfortable. It seems like a harmless thing to do, but plants can't tell you to stop! It really is better to err a bit on the short side than to risk the serious damage that over-fertilizing can cause.

Fertilizer isn't the magic solution to growing perfect plants. It's just one of the elements of growing that good growers have to master.

When you get plants that are growing well, you may be sure that your fertilizing program is working. It may not be the same as what works for someone else. Feel free to discuss your differences, but don't start any fights!

.....

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SHARE WITH OTHERS THE JOY OF THE AVSA!

by Anne Tinari, Membership & Promotion Chairman

We rejoice each time we acquire a new member in our society. However, with great and sincere anticipation we await each and every renewal.

In today's busy world mail can be neglected or put aside temporarily to be scrutinized at a later date. If your recent renewal membership falls into this slot, please recover it. We need every member to renew. You are the fiber and fabric of this organization. We need your support and renewal for its continued success.

As the fall holidays approach please consider gift membership subscriptions to violet friends who share your violet-growing enthusiasm.

Receiving six colorful magazines a year filled with excellent and informative articles, colored photos and vivid experiences contributed by our columnists can bring great

joy and knowledge. A delight to anyone who grows and loves African violets!

Let an AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE subscription be a treasured Christmas gift. A unique gift that keeps on giving a whole year and beyond. Colorful photos of the newest cultivars appear in every issue and are treasured by many members.

Solve your holiday gift list early and often without fuss by simply sending in a one year gift subscription to your dearest plant-loving friends.

We are often reminded that growing plants is one of the most therapeutic activities in which an individual can engage. Share this blessing with your friends, the joy of giving will be two fold and will help to boost our membership into the twenty-first century.



Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
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email martens@wt.net

The first Gesneri-Advice comes from me this month:

When going on vacation for 2 weeks or more, disbud your plants. I'd forgotten that a plant with blossoms will "drink" two to three times more water than the neighboring plant without blossoms. I went on vacation for 16 days and set up all my plants on wicking reservoirs which hold 16 ounces of water. I did not disbud since I planned on entering plants a month later at the AGGS convention. When I returned, I found the reservoirs were bone dry ONLY under plants with blossoms. I immediately ran non-fertilized, distilled water through those limp and distressed plants. Then I placed them on a counter away from lights until the leaves fattened up. If the leaves didn't return to their normal state in 24 hours, I cut them off. If they were *Streptocarpus* and the leaf tips remained wilted, then I cut off the tips. Upon returning to their normal state, I put them back on fertilized water.

Advice on growing Episcias: A letter to the computer Gesneriphile list advises the following:

"A couple months ago someone suggested growing an Episcia as a single crown specimen. I decided to try this with Episcia 'Pink Panther.'

I finally had to put it on leaf supports, and my 10" ones are insufficient by about 4". The leaves are as big as my hand, and it's just about to explode with a ring of flowers around the center of the crown. While I don't think it's as lovely as a free-flowing Episcia, it is amazing to see how huge they get. Try it - it's fun!"

Elizabeth Hays Whitesides from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Training Episcias

Another way to grow episcias is to "train" them. I won best artistic at the AGGS convention in 1995 when I grew *Episcia* 'Silver Skies' on a grapevine trellis. It took one full year to accomplish this. Start with a very established base. I planted 3 plants on each side of the 6 inch wide trellis.

Plant on BOTH sides of the trellis or it will begin to collapse forward from the extra weight. I allowed no blossoms or stolons for 3 months. My goal was a good root system.

After 3 months of rooting, allow 2 stolons to develop (6 stolons in all), from each base plant, and no more. Then, forever keep those base plants free from new stolons. Those 6 stolons need to establish themselves up the trellis for 2 months without further stolons or blossoms. Then allow each of those six to have 2 stolons apiece. Continue doing this. I preferred allowing only 2 stolons per plant for balance and to reduce stress on the "parent" plants. I tied the stolons to the trellis with thin strips of panty hose because the color is inconspicuous. Don't allow flower buds to develop until 6 to 8 weeks before the show. Blossoms deplete energy that could be going into the leaves and the base plants' root systems. I've never used bloom-boosting fertilizer on episcias as growers use with violets before a show. Let me know if any of you have successfully used bloom-boosting fertilizers on episcias.

Episcias like a bit more humidity than a violet. I fertilize them with a variety of fertilizers at 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. Some growers highly recommend foliar feeding. I like to wick water my plants. That way they "drink" as much or little as they want. I suggest misting the whole plant with distilled water at least three times a week. Because you will never be able to transplant a trained *Episcia*, you must leach the soil every other month with distilled water to prevent salt build up.

Your trellis can be plastic or another material, but keep it as inconspicuous as possible or the judges may find the trellis too distracting. I thought about getting one of those already formed animals made of chicken wire and sphagnum moss at the local plant nursery, but the problem with special shapes would be that you'd have to be turning it all the time so that the underside would also be exposed to light.

You can grow and show *Episcias* in AVSA and AGGS shows as single crowns, or with stolons, or trained. I agree with Elizabeth: try it - it's fun!

In Search of New Violets



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When hybridizing with Tommie Lou or Crown variegation, the seed parent must be variegated in order to produce variegated offspring. However, the amount of variegation in the offspring will often vary considerably. Some seedlings will appear to be solid green while others will be albino. The reason for this diversity is that the variegated trait is caused by the ratio of normal to mutant chloroplasts found in the egg cell. If the number of normal chloroplasts is high, the offspring will be solid green or nearly solid green. If the number of mutant chloroplasts is high, then the offspring will have mostly non-green areas and perhaps be totally albino. The ratio of normal to mutant chloroplasts is controlled by the ratio inherited from the seed parent, but chance will determine the final outcome.

When breeding for leaf variegation, choose a parent that has moderate variegation. Using a mostly white parent will result in high numbers of albino (and dead) offspring. Using a mostly green parent will produce mostly green offspring. A seed parent that has moderate variegation will produce a large number of variegated offspring and most will have enough chlorophyll to survive.

Sometimes the solid green offspring produced by a variegated seed parent still have a few mutant chloroplasts. When these plants are used in hybridizing, the results can be surprising as is illustrated by the first question.

- Q:** *A cross of two solid green parents produced a few offspring that have Tommie Lou variegation. How is this possible?*
- A:** The seed parent in this cross must have contained a few of the mutant chloroplasts that give variegated foliage. The number was so few in each cell of the seed parent that the leaves appeared to be solid green. When the egg cells were produced, the ratio of normal to mutant chloroplasts can shift. In a few egg cells, the ratio must have become high in the mutant chloroplasts, resulting in a small number of variegated offspring. This is a

valuable thing to know about the genetics of the seed parent and should be noted in the records of the cross.

- Q:** *Can you please explain how bustled foliage appeared in several seedlings out of a cross of two non-bustled parents? Is bustled foliage a genetic dominant trait?*

A: To the best of my knowledge, bustled foliage is a genetic dominant trait. Since several seedlings have bustled foliage, it appears unlikely that a genetic mutation has taken place. What I suspect has happened is that one of the parents actually has the gene for bustled foliage, but is not expressing the trait even though the trait is a genetic dominant. Geneticists call this event "penetrance"; the dominant trait is present, but for some reason is not expressed in the parent. The trait is still inherited by the offspring who can express the trait as expected. Failure of a dominant genetic trait to penetrate is more common when only one copy of the gene is present.

- Q:** *I wish to cross 'Ode to Beauty' X 'Jean-Pierre Croteau' to produce offspring that have flowers that are coral blue with coral puff fantasy spots, have a raspberry edge, and a geneva edge. Will I get this combination in the first generation or will I have to backcross to the parents?*

A: You should be able to get this combination in the first generation. Both parents have flowers in coral shades, so all of their offspring should have flowers in the coral colors. Puff fantasy is a genetic dominant, so 50%, or about 1/2 of the offspring should be coral blue with coral fantasy puffs. Raspberry edges are a genetic dominant, so about 1/2 of the offspring should have this trait. Geneva edges is inherited the same way as raspberry edges. I would predict that about 1/8 of the offspring should have the combination you want (1/2 for puff fantasy x 1/2 for raspberry edges x 1/2 for

geneva edges = 1/8). If you raise a large enough number of offspring, you should get the combination desired without having to backcross to the parents. Good Luck!

Q: *I raised some seedlings from what I thought was a self-pollinated flower of Saintpaulia ionantha. I was expecting the seedlings to look like the parent plant, but there are a number of differences in the flowers and leaves in the offspring. Why didn't my cross come true from seed?*

A: You have observed what very few have realized about the species plants. They are not genetically pure or homozygous and carry a number of hidden recessive traits. Offspring produced from seed will generally resemble the parent plants, but some offspring will have new combinations of traits and can vary considerably from the original. This phenomenon was observed early in the cultivation of *S. ionantha* and reports of plants with white, light blue, and red-violet flowers were recorded in the early 1900's. This variation in genetic

material is what gave rise to many of the flower colors and leaf traits found in today's hybrids.

If you want to produce plants that are identical to the original, then you must reproduce the plant asexually with leaf cuttings. Even then, mutations or sports will happen and a small number of offspring can be produced that are different from the parent.

Q: *How are edged blooms inherited?*

A: Most of the mutations that give rise to changes in the edges of African violet flowers are genetic dominants. At least one parent must show the trait to produce offspring with the trait.

In some cases, the different types of edges can be combined in the same flower such as plants like 'Ode to Beauty' that have raspberry edges and geneva edges together. Some edged traits, however, are variable and temperature sensitive and may not be expressed consistently in every flower. Don't be too surprised if the edged flower trait seems to appear and disappear in these cases.

AVSA Certificates of Appreciation

Jane Rexilius - Chairman - Publications Committee

Members of the Publications Committee and the Board of Directors voted for the most outstanding articles published in the African Violet Magazine during the past year. The winners were presented Certificates of Appreciation at the St. Pete Beach, Florida, Convention. They were also given a one year AVSA membership to be given to a non-AVSA member of their choice.

The winners were:

Bob Green, Florida - "Eye on Design - Small Arrangements"

Dr. Jeff Smith, Indiana - "The History of Two Possibly New Species"

Pat Hancock, Ohio - "Create Your Own Beautiful African Violets from Seed"

Richard Nicholas, Texas - "Growing Show Winners"

Bev Promersberger, Colorado - "Moving is Murder in More Ways Than One"

Congratulations to each of you!

Winners presented Certificates of Appreciation at the Convention in Atlanta, Ga., in 1996 were:

Alma Hummer - Texas - "Landscaping a Terrarium"

Linda Golubski - Missouri - "So Many Sinns"

Antoinette Breden - California - "Flower Arrangement and Design"

Mary Beall - Texas - "What Are We Giving Our Plants For Building Blocks and How Are They Used"

Neil Lipson - Pennsylvania - "Secrets of Chimeras"

Congratulations to each of you!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY PLANTS?

by Dr. Charles Cole
College Station, TX

DIAGNOSING VIOLET PROBLEMS

When people become ill they show symptoms that can be very specific to the particular illness which they have. This is evident in the red spots that occur with measles, in the itching rash one may experience when exposed to poison ivy or in the anemia that shows up with iron deficiency.

Plants also show specific symptoms of illnesses. Plants can't tell us where they hurt, so we must be able to recognize the symptoms they exhibit and to detect them before the problem causes serious damage.

Factors effecting plant health, other than pests and pathogens include water, temperature, light, soil pH, and the availability of sixteen essential nutrients. Too little or too much of any one of these factors can cause serious plant health problems. In order to understand what is happening in an unhealthy plant we need a basic knowledge of all factors effecting plant health and how they interact with one another.

WATER

From the deepest root to the tip of the top leaf, a plant is one continuous system of water pipes. In a healthy plant there is a constant stream of water passing from the soil, into the roots of the plant, through the conductive tissues, to the leaves and out of the stomata into the atmosphere. Many plants lose to the atmosphere, or transpire, an amount of water equal to their weight every 24 hours. To produce one pound of dry matter a corn plant must take up about 375 pounds of water, a wheat plant must take up about 500 pounds of water and a mesquite tree must take up about 1,500 pounds of water.

The growth of an African violet plant is proportional to the amount of available water and is adversely effected by very low or very high moisture levels in the soil.

Water in a plant is the medium through which all nutrients pass upward from the roots and by which all food manufactured by the plant passes from the leaves to other parts of the plant where it is needed. Normal plant cell function is dependent upon the presence of adequate water. Water is a raw material in photosynthesis. When plant cells

are adequately filled with water they are "turgid", holding the plant's leaves in the proper position. When plant cells are deficient of water they are said to be "flaccid" and allow the leaves to droop.

Cell sap contains various salts which exercise a "pull" on water so that it will pass from a zone of low salt concentration to a zone of high salt concentration. This process is called osmosis and the pressure is called osmotic pressure. Osmosis is facilitated by the cell membranes which are selectively permeable, allowing certain molecules to diffuse through while stopping others. In this way, nutrients and molecules are routed around and throughout the plant. When the selectively permeable membrane of cells will not allow molecules from a high concentration to move into cells of a low concentration, the cells with a low concentration may lose water to the cells of a high concentration, causing the cells to become moisture deficient. This is often the cause of leaf tip browning.

Plants wilt when cells become flaccid as the result of inadequate water. This occurs when water loss through the stomata, a process called transpiration, exceeds moisture uptake by the roots. If we understand why plants wilt and what can bring about this condition we are able to understand and treat a number of cultural problems. Wilting may occur under several conditions. These include: inadequate moisture in the soil or potting mix, soil that is saturated with water, excessive salt in the soil and an inadequate root system on the plant.

Inadequate moisture in the soil (pot) is the most common cause of wilting. This is easy to remedy; simply add adequate water. Allowing plants to wilt excessively or too frequently can shock the plants, resulting in the death of plant roots or other serious problems.

Saturated soils are responsible for a large percentage of our problems in violets. A saturated soil has an excess of water and excludes air, therefore, greatly reducing the amount of oxygen available to the plant roots. This in turn shuts down the pumping system which allows water to be taken into the plant. Thus, plants can be sitting in water and wilt.

Excessive salts in the soil can burn tiny root hairs,

greatly reducing the amount of functional roots. Excessive salts can actually pull water out of plant cells, causing wilting. Very high salt levels or too much salt for an extended length of time may result in the tips of leaves or leaf margins drying and turning brown. Prolonged conditions can result in leaf death or even the death of the plant.

The most common cause of excessive salts in the soil is over fertilization. Another cause is the use of water with a high salt content. Salts accumulate in the soil as the water is transpired or used by the plant. Additional salt is added each time the plant is watered. The saltier the water the quicker the plants start to show symptoms. In many locations the city water supply may be too salty to use on violets, some tap water is so salty that symptoms may be apparent within 60 days of continual use.

The problems of excessive salts may be remedied by reducing the amount or frequency of fertilizer use, by using water low in salt, by leaching salts from the soil periodically or by repotting with new soil.

An inadequate root system on a plant may not allow enough water to be taken up to prevent wilting, especially during the hotter time of the day when a plant is transpiring at a higher rate. With rooting cuttings or leaves this problem is addressed by increasing the humidity around the plant and by lowering the temperature slightly. Both greatly reduce transportation and wilting.

On well established plants the root system may be reduced when roots die as a result of too much water or too little water. Certain diseases will destroy roots and soil mealy bugs may also destroy roots. One of the most common causes of root death, other than too much water, is the accumulation of salts.

TEMPERATURE

The principle effects of temperature are related to slowing down or speeding up the many physiological processes which are continuous within a plant. Growth in plants is confined to the range of about 60° to 105° F. African violets are most comfortable at a temperature of about 65° - 75°F. There are three critical temperatures for each plant species or even for certain cultivars within a species. The **optimum temperature** is that temperature at which a specific plant will grow and thrive at its best. The **critical maximum temperature** is the maximum temperature at which a plant can endure and remain a healthy, growing plant. The **critical minimum temperature** is the lowest temperature a plant can endure without damage to its tissues, including its sensitive root system.

African violets, like many other plants are very sensitive to temperature changes. A rapid increase or decrease in temperature of only 10° F can be devastating to

violets. Any necessary change in the temperature under which African violets are grown, should be made gradually over a period of time to allow the violets to become accustomed to the new temperature.

It is important to realize that damage from a temperature change may not be visible in a plant for a significant period of time after its exposure. This often causes us to disassociate the actual cause of symptoms, such as dead roots, and attribute the damage to some other factor. Temperature changes in excess of what the plant can tolerate may result from many things, some of which we never associate with a temperature change.

Changes in season, from summer to winter or from winter to summer are obvious times when temperature changes may damage plants. Ironically, in the change from summer to winter, it is often not the cooling of the temperature which causes damage but the sudden rise in the temperature when a heating system is turned on. When this happens we can rapidly increase the temperature of plants which had become acclimatized to the gradually cooling weather. This same phenomenon can occur in the spring when we turn on the air conditioner and chill our plants which have become acclimatized to our gradually warming weather.

The difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures is probably the most common temperature change we encounter. An effort should be made to keep day and night temperatures more stable if our violets are to be maintained in a vigorous healthy state of growth. A difference of about 10°F between daytime and nighttime temperatures is desirable and enhances blooming. Greater or lesser differences not only discourage blooming, but affect plant vigor.

Working with our plants whether grooming, potting up babies or repotting, may expose our plants to rapid and extreme temperature changes. We need to make an effort to regulate the temperature as we move plants to work with them.

Watering plants can result in a rapid temperature change, damaging foliage or especially tender roots. Be sure water is close to the temperature of your plants before watering.

Spraying plants with a mist, an insecticide, fungicide or even a foliar feed, often causes spotting of the foliage which may be temperature related.

Moving plants from shelf to shelf; higher to lower, lower to higher or toward or away from lights can cause temperature changes which may result in plant damage. Moving violets from one room to another, one house to another or one town to another can expose plants to undesirable temperature changes. Care should be taken to assure that plants are accustomed to their new environment prior to moving them.

LIGHT

African violets are very sensitive to light. However, they do not show an immediate response from either too little or too much light. Thus, plants may be exposed to an improper amount or intensity of light for an extended period of time before symptoms are detected. An improper light regimen may have even been corrected before symptoms show up.

Light quantity (amount) is extremely important for both growth and flowering. The response to the number of hours of light and the number of hours of dark (called photoperiodism) sets up circadian rhythms which effect vegetative growth, flowering and many other processes within plants.

Light quality (wavelength or color) effects photosynthesis and other metabolic processes.

Light intensity (brightness) effects photosynthesis, growth and secondarily, it effects temperature.

Too much light or light that is too intense may cause "puckering" of violet leaves. Prolonged exposure may also

cause leaves to appear mottled or bronzed in color. Too little light may cause plants to be yellowish or "bleached out". Plants may become leggy as they try to grow to-the-light. Plants with too little light may have leaf petioles which are elongated and twisted as the plants try to "face" the leaf surface toward the directions of greatest light intensity. A sudden increase in light intensity may cause leaf-spotting. This is a temperature related damage and often occurs when plants are moved to a sunny window.

NUTRIENT AVAILABILITY

Detecting and correcting nutrient problems in African violets can become quite involved. Both deficiency and toxicity problems occur and the symptoms may be very similar and hard to diagnose. Information concerning plant nutrients should be very specific and detailed. For this reason it is given in a future article titled, Hunger Signs in Violets. Soil pH is so closely related to nutrient availability that this topic will also be discussed in the article. (See the January/February 1998 AVM.)

African Violets Are Always Welcome

by Anne Herbatuk • Duvernay, Quebec, Canada

Never underestimate the power of our beloved African violets. They have done it again! Making an appearance and being noticed and appreciated by everyone!

I'm a member of the Montreal Bonsai-Penjing Club. Once a month we hold meetings and present an annual exhibition, usually in September.

Last year, I exhibited my white pine bonsai and as a "companion plant", a miniature African violet. The pine and violet were placed near each other on a flat wooden mat. Picture the contrast - old weathered pine and a smiling, young African violet.

This combination drew a lot of attention! Before this twosome, "companion plants" were usually small grasses or other small outside plants. I'm pleased to say that my twosome earned a ribbon.

There was also a category entry for bonsai "scenery". My creation contained chinese rocks, small twisted trees, a small river, and beside this river, micro-mini African violets. Again, I found admiration from the public and a few new members for one of the African violet clubs in Montreal.

Our African violets are truly ambassadors of goodwill and friendship!

Convention Awards

As you prepare for your vacation to the 1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento, CA, don't forget to send in an award. We gladly accept your gift. Any award received by February 15, 1998 will be published in the convention Souvenir Book, but don't forget that all awards received after March 1, 1998 will be held over for the 1999 Houston, TX Convention. Please make your check payable to: **AVSA Convention Fund**.

Mail to: **Mrs. Linda L. Golubski**
AVSA Awards Chairman
1416 N.W. A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
818-229-2051 CST

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive
Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from May 20, 1997 - July 20, 1997

AVC of Burlington County, NJ <i>In lieu of judges expenses for Frank Senna, Jan Murasko, Kurt Eckard, and Laura Shannon</i>	20.00	Michael R. Israel, Louisville, KY	25.00
Gulf AVC, Cape Coral, FL	10.00	Fort Walton Beach AVS, FL	15.00
North Central Arkansas, Jacksonville, AR	10.00	Orange County AVS, Fullerton, CA	25.00
The Pied Pipers AVC, Saint Louis, MO	10.00	<i>In memory of Debi Whitaker, daughter of Ed Hoefler</i>	
Metropolitan Saint Louis AV Council <i>In memory of Hazel Reitz</i>	20.00	First AVS of Spartanburg, SC	10.00
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Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

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Metropolitan St. Louis AVC, MO	\$ 20.00	Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY	\$ 20.00
Fay Shirley, Hesperia, CA	\$ 25.00	Gloria Conover, Hauppauge, NY	\$ 2.00
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Mr. Yutaka Nagasawa, Tokyo, Japan	\$ 30.00		
		Total	\$534.00

MEMBERS, HYBRIDIZERS, AND AFFILIATES!

Pat Richards • 15105 S. Seminole Dr. • Olathe, KS 66062-3004

Fax: (913) 829-4858, email Patter257@aol.com

We're going to try something different this year at our Saturday luncheon by holding an auction of some very special items. We're hoping to introduce this aspect into the convention attendee's experience because you know how exciting, competitive and downright fun auctions can be! Proceeds will be returned directly to the convention fund, to help hold down convention expenses.

Many of our affiliate clubs have tremendous craftsmen among their members, and we hope you'll contribute a violet-related item to our auction. As you know, the Saturday banquet typically features a slide program of new introductions from the hybridizers. Hybridizers, would you

consider donating one or two plants of those special varieties that are featured in the slide program?

Each contributor will receive special notice in the convention souvenir book, as well as the satisfaction of knowing that they helped contribute to our convention. Notice of your intention to contribute must be received no later than March 15th in order to assure printing in the booklet.

If you plant to make a donation, please let me know as soon as possible. We'll try to have a list of the donated items in the March/April AVM to entice more of you to join us at the auction. Thanks so much for your help!

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

I'm a 'native Californian' with 22 years of wandering courtesy the whims of the Air Force. I've had a chance to explore (or endure) various parts of this country and enjoyed three years in England. I cannot speak on behalf of northern climates, SAC bases being primarily in the southern sector at the time my husband flew in bombers, and that section is being well covered by Ralph Robinson. African violets became a passion in 1978 due to a mix-up when I ordered Rex Begonias. A happy mistake, but 85 leaves for a first order? For a whopper of a goof this became a total error in judgement as most of the leaves came up! Being an experienced grower of tropicals I was able to keep a great many of the babies alive and of course I had put all of them down. I'm relating this as an example of things that are done when you are new to a hobby - usually something excessive which is not desirable, but very human. One tried and true rule for everyone is: Start with a manageable group of plants (in this case) and take on only what you can easily manage **comfortably** once you know what you want in your collection. Second; only experiment with one new product at a time - soil mix, pesticide or procedure, by using no more than three *expendable* plants. Better still, do a control where you take two of the same plant, in the same location to actually see the results, good or bad.

Question: A friend claims that she "bathes" her plants. Isn't water damaging to the leaves?

Answer: African violets grow in rain forests and washing the foliage is only harmful if the plant is set where the sun can shine on the leaves, or you do not allow the water to run off from the crown of the plant. I make it a practice to wash my plants about every two months, setting them on an angle (I use a dish drainer upside down) over the sink, spray (use the jet setting) each layer of leaves starting in the center and turning the plant till all leaves are washed. This, with daily misting keeps the plant

free of dust and animal hair and promotes growth. The week before the show all show plants are again washed after grooming or an addition of soil.

Question: One of my blossoms has a thick green cyst-looking thing growing in the middle of it. Could it infect my other plants?

Answer: The seed pod you are observing is the handy work of a moth or possible self-pollination. Since you do not know the actual parentage it probably would not produce something you would be interested in growing. Seed pods contain hundreds of seeds and growing them up to a point where you could make intelligent selections takes a great deal of room. It's better to have expectations of a particular type plant by judicious selection of parents.

Question: Although my plants are under lights, I prefer to top-water. Is there a particular time of day or evening that would be most beneficial?

Answer: Top watering is often helpful when water quality is not optimum and helps wash down fertilizer and other build up on soil surface. This is the reason I prefer this method even though I grow "Texas Style". When making a judgment of which time is best for your collection, I try to copy nature as best I can. Misting is done early (dew appears in the early morning) and watering follows immediately. This is before the lights come on and the plants have a chance to dry while still in the lower light phase of the day. (Rain showers usually lighten slowly.)

Question: I planted a standard in a smaller pot than usual, and see no ill effects. In fact, it's growing and blooming nicely, and doesn't take up as much space as the other standards in my collection. Will this cause a problem in the long run? I need the space and am considering doing this with some other standard babies

that are almost ready to repot.

Answer: This is a hobby which should suit the needs and desires of the individual grower. Often, when you are showing, judges feel the larger plant has the advantage as a specimen for show because of the beautiful foliage and outstanding display of flower which the large trunk and root structure sustain. For personal needs many people would rather have more varieties and deliberately keep their plants in the smallest pot possible - not over 4 inches for a standard. This system has everything you need for a beautiful plant (nice foliage, lovely flowers) and if it better fits into your lifestyle it is most desirable.

Question: *I know that many insecticides instruct the consumer to use only outside of the home. I know some people who ignore the directions, and claim to have no ill effects. Should we take these warnings seriously?*

Answer: No one can make someone else care about his well being or that of family and pets, but you are in charge of your life and risks of that type are not worth considering. I had a small accident with a bottle I thought was closed. I was able to flush with warm water for fifteen minutes and wash with soap immediately, but I still had numbness of the mouth. You could never persuade me to take any risk with an insecticide no matter what the circumstances. Insecticide exposure may be cumulative and the results may manifest themselves in time. It's your life.

Question: *Is there a regular schedule for disbudding before a show? I tried it on my own and ended up with so few blossoms on my plant that I was too embarrassed to*

enter it in the show.

Answer: There are a couple of rules of thumb I use for disbudding. In general, I stop disbudding all doubles eight weeks before show, semidoubles seven weeks before show and singles six weeks before show. This is after the plant has been disbudded for a period of five or six months. There are some plants I find take longer to come into full bloom and these are listed in a notebook and tagged as to when optimum bloom occurs. Occasionally you find a semidouble that comes into bloom at just six weeks and this is also noted in the book and that plant tagged. There are people who feel this is a lot of extra work and find seven weeks for everything produces a show plant which satisfies them. Many plants have some idiosyncrasy and when planning for show you need to take this into consideration. A personal notebook will save the day.

Question: *I grow under lights and in natural light. It seems to me that the violets under lights need water more often, although they are on the same white plastic reservoirs as the plants in windows. Do you find this to be true?*

Answer: Because of the ballast and the confined area under the lights as well as the lights themselves it's very possible that the temperature there is a few degrees higher and could cause more evaporation. This is an outstanding opportunity to experiment with "grow lights" versus natural light, with two plants of the same variety as controls.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

I Miss My Naughty Pimp

by Judy Barnett · Jacksonville, FL

*My darling Nautilocalyx Pemphidious looked good,
until it turned perfectly hideous.*

*When mealy bugs took over and cottonized it,
then my alcohol daubing rottenized it.*

*So my sweet naughty pimp recently died,
this lovely plant I think I fried.*

*The alcohol rub didn't work wonders,
it was but one of my many blunders.*

*Such graceful, quilted fronds she had
losing her made me feel truly sad.*

*As I experiment and try new tricks,
I learned alcohol and "pimps" don't mix.*

*But I still have Gesneriads, lovingly collected,
with sublime foliage and blooms I selected.*

*What marvelous hues and transcendence,
truly a family of wondrous resplendence!*

Thinking Small



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

GOTTA GRO

Today we discuss three small ones by Dr. Ralph "Rob" Robinson. 'Rob's Hallucination' is a very fine growing crown variegated semiminiature. What is unique about this cultivar is the variegation. The lovely shades of tan and brown with light green on predominantly dark green foliage which by the way, holds its variegation through the summer heat! It grows very symmetrically and overlaps beautifully. The blooms are almost secondary to this wonderful foliage, being dark blue semidoubles with pink puffs. The second is 'Rob's Ragamuffin' which has very nice forming dark green, pink and white wavy variegated leaves. The blooms are very unique, being single stars of good substance, with pink and yellow swirls and stripes and occasional blue flecks. The official description describes some lavender in the blooms, but it certainly isn't predominate. This is one you truly have to see to believe and is definitely not for everyone! Finally, 'Rob's Hand Puppet' is a very soft, attractive chimera with pastel blooms of light pink and delicate blue center stripes. The blooms have a slight bell shape which add to its unique beauty.

TO PERLITE OR NOT TO PERLITE

Many of you remember my concerns about using perlite in the bottom of pots. With pots as small as we use with the small ones, we want to make good use of our soil mix. Because perlite is relatively inert, offering little or no ion exchange capacity, exclusive use of it deprives our small ones of the benefits of more active soil elements. Regardless of my beliefs, I have experimented with perlite at the bottom, and found no change in the growth of the plants. They didn't grow any better. They didn't grow any worse. But remember: my growing mix contains close to 50% perlite. Your results may differ if you use a heavier soil mix in which case the perlite layer may be to your plant's benefit, providing additional aeration for the roots.

But consider this: **Carol Allegrucci**, who lives near Chicago, Illinois, informed me of an article written by

gesneriad expert Max Dekking in a *GSN Magazine* dated December 1978. In the article Dekking writes that a mineral in perlite causes an alkaline reaction which is negated when combined with other materials in planting mixes. When using perlite by itself or in combination with vermiculite (as in a leaf mix), faster and stronger rooting occurs if watered with ammonium sulphate before cuttings are planted. Based on this, Carol questioned the use of perlite as a "stand alone" ingredient in potting mixes unless timely repotting was done. Chemists, horticulturists, and members: your comments are welcome.

Another reader, **Elizabeth Barsky** of Uniondale, New York, wrote, "I joined a local club. . . and was told my soil mix was too heavy for the culture I was using. They recommended the 50/50 perlite/vermiculite mix for this, and it has worked splendidly. They do suggest 1:3 peat or African violet soil for other cultures, but most members prefer 50/50." In my May column, use of a 50-50 mix for putting down leaves was discussed, but I had never heard of using this mix for regular planting purposes. Based on the information from the previous paragraph, frequent repotting is advised, and again, I invite reader comment on this issue.

Given all of the above, today begins a new era of experimentation for me, with some plants in the 50/50 perlite-vermiculite mix and also, some using pumice (which is similar to perlite except it is heavier and more rock like) in a bottom layer and also, as a soil component. Next year I'll report the results of these experiments!

FLYING MALE MEALY BUGS

Another hotly debated issue the past year was whether flying male mealy bugs really fly. A kind and gentle reader, **Bill Pauwe** of Long Island, NY, questioned my statement that the male *soil* mealy bug flies. Because I'm not a bug expert, I sought information from several experts. One, **Keith Dabney** of the Entomology Department of the California Academy of Sciences, responded. He said that some males go into a winged

stage but cannot “fly” per se. They more or less fly like beetles: “like motorized dust mites.” Another, **Carol T. Bradford** of Syracuse, New York, gave me all sorts of information on mealy bugs. First she pointed out that female mealies never mature completely. They are merely sexually mature nymphs. As for the males, they do mature into short-lived winged forms that don’t eat, simply mate. After doing more research, she discovered there is no such thing as a male soil mealy bug, only females who reproduce asexually. Carol informed me of a 500+ page tome written solely on mealy bugs which I have yet to obtain through an interlibrary loan. After I’ve spent all winter reading it, I will provide an update next year!

BLACK OR WHITE = GRAY

Remember the debate on using white or reflective material versus black or dark material underneath plants? Some people feel the lighter colored material is detrimental to plant growth because it causes the light sensitive leaf’s undersides to turn or curl away from the light. To test this theory out, very unscientifically, I put black plastic under some of my plants and kept white plastic under others. I also purchased some dark green shallow window-box planters and put several plants on these. Over the course of a year these have been monitored and watched and. . . no difference between those on the dark versus light could be observed. When a plant was going to grow well and hold its leaves out from the pot as opposed to draping itself with curved petioles, it seemed the cultivar itself was the deciding factor, not the color of the shelf. A cautionary note: *my findings apply only to the small ones*. With standards, the petioles are so much longer and the leaves weigh so much more that perhaps there is a more observable difference with them than with small ones.

PRECIOUS PINK, AGAIN!

You’ll remember I have a difficult time getting that most precious semiminiature, ‘Precious Pink’, to bloom. There were various theories as to why it wouldn’t bloom, but most of them centered on ‘Precious Pink’s’ heritage, coming from very hot San Antonio. You might also remember the suggestion to put it in an aquarium to increase the humidity and the temperature. All winter I ran an experiment with two ‘Precious Pink’ plantlets. One was placed in an aquarium, the other in the regular growing environment. Other than that, all things were the same: soil, fertilizer, light, etc. During the winter, both grew well, but the aquarium grown plant was a little more vigorous and “happy.” Both were taken through the bloom boosting cycle for the St. Pete convention show. Typical of previous experiences, the regular plant put up only two bloom stalks and then quit. The aquarium grown plant came into full bloom and because of the additional warmth bloomed

too soon, something I had not anticipated. Nevertheless, ‘Precious Pink’ had bloomed well! Since then, aquarium grown ‘Precious Jewel’, ‘Pat Champagne’ and ‘Definitely Darryl’ have also bloomed, something heretofore unwitnessed in my growing room. Many thanks to everyone for their wonderful ideas to solve this dilemma, but most of all to **Mr. Ron Ennis** of Neptune, New Jersey, who first gave me the idea. If you’re interested in trying “aquarium growing,” I refer you to Ron’s article listed at the end of my column. *

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

An issue you should be aware of is the increased use of urea in fertilizer mixes. Urea is a very inexpensive source of nitrogen being used more and more by some fertilizer manufacturers. It is very caustic to plants grown in soilless mixes because soil is necessary to break urea down into a useable form. Bottom line: be very aware of the amount of urea in your fertilizer: none is best; if you approach 10% watch out. Excess urea will evidence itself by the buildup of an orange crust on your center leaves, at which point repot, removing as much old mix as possible, leach your plants, or simply switch fertilizers.

Also on fertilizers, a very informative conversation was had with **Louise Merritt** of Pensacola, Florida at the St. Pete’s convention. Louise reiterated her personal fertilizer rotation philosophy, and the good results she has with it. I mention this because **Elizabeth Barsky** also discusses it. Both ladies rotate, if not mix, various types of fertilizers to ensure their plants are getting “complete” nutrition. Elizabeth rotates 12-36-14 with 20-20-20, with variegates getting occasional feedings of 5-50-17. Louise’s practice is much more complicated, alternating (1) 1/4 teaspoon Root and Bloom fertilizer, 9-59-8 and 1/8th teaspoon Ra-Pid-Gro, 23-19-17 with 2 drops of Superthrive and 2 drops each of Bounty and Sturdy per gallon of water with (2) Peter’s 12-36-14 and 5-50-17 mixed together and added at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water along with 2 drops of Superthrive and 2 drops each of Bounty and Sturdy. This sounds very complicated, but Louise’s plants and her exhibition record speak for themselves.

NEXT TIME

We’ll be coming into show season as we look to spring so the next column will focus on growing the ultimate show plant. Sincere best wishes for a festive holiday season and the upcoming year!

*Ennis, Ronald, “Growing Prize Winning Mini and Semi-Mini African Violets in a High Humidity Controlled Environment,” 48 *African Violet Magazine* 46-47 (November/December 1995).



Dear Editor,

I am a loyal reader of African Violet Magazine and have been for the last three years. That was when I was lucky enough to make the acquaintance of one of the nicest, most knowledgeable couples in the business - Joyce and Kent Stork. They were delightful and eternally patient in explaining what those "little crawly" things were and how to get them off my one and only African violet. After that interaction I made a trip to Fremont, NE (from Omaha) to visit their shop. Needless to say, the plants I saw knocked my socks off. Their knowledge, total lack of pretense, and their willingness, no, eagerness to share whatever they know with whomever asks has never ceased to amaze me. (And I know that, at least in my case, they have answered some truly dumb questions). Eighteen months later my husband's job brought us to Manassas Park, VA, but before I left the midwest I had to find good homes for over 30 violets.

Flowers really do have their own language because when we moved into our new home a little over a year ago I discovered that one of my new neighbors shared my love of African violets. For me, at least this time, it meant a quick bonding with a new person, in a new place with the common thread being violets. So my violet jungle has started anew.

In the Nov/Dec 96 issue of the AVM on page 31 is a nice article by Mr. Jack Wilson. His comments provoked this letter. The teachers and staff at Conner Elementary School and Manassas Park Intermediate Schools had gone to great lengths to make the transition to a new area a pleasant one for our family.

When Teacher Appreciation Day rolled around it seemed like a wonderful opportunity to share my love of violets, show them how much they all mean to us and maybe get some more African violet buddies. My neighbor and I sat on his garage floor for 4 hours dividing up some sorely neglected (yet disease free) plants, as well as planting dozens of duplicate leaf cuttings that had already been rooted. The next day I had the profound pleasure of delivering 63 happy, healthy plants with some copies of basic "Care and Feeding" instructions to these wonderful people.

They were surprised and I was delighted that our offerings were so generously accepted. The latest news on the fledglings is that most of them are doing well and blooming to beat the band. I have to add though, when I received a call a few weeks ago from one of the teachers asking what these "little crawly" things were on her "Black Ace" I thought of Joyce and Kent and their patience a few years ago and smiled - pleased that I had gotten the opportunity to pass it on.

Thank you,
Deb Buettner
Manassas Park, VA

In Memory



HELEN M. CARPENTIER

Helen M. Carpentier of California passed away in August, 1997. A longtime member of the Montrose AVS, which was founded by she and her husband, George, in 1972, Helen also organized the Glendale AVS and the Pasadena AVS. Helen served as treasurer of the Montrose AVS for many years, and President of the Glendale and Pasadena clubs. A Life Member of AVSA, she was a great help in setting up programs for the various AV societies.

NORMA LOUISE WEIR

Mid-America AVS is saddened by the passing of long time member, Norma Weir. Norma was an AVSA Life Member and AVSA Senior Judge. A gifted artist, Norma frequently designed the cover page for Mid-America's annual judged show.

Impromptu Germination: Sowing Seeds Without a Mix

by Frank Martin, Seattle, WA

I had to try it. In this day of hydroponics, not to mention *Saintpaulia* cloning, it seemed a cinch that violets would germinate without a seed-starting mix. Indeed, they did. The fourteen seedlings now gracing my plant table proved not to be picky about where they put down their first roots. I had made a cross of Shock Wave x Rob's Blue Light, sowing the resulting seeds on a wet paper towel placed over a layer of charcoal in a dome terrarium. The idea came to me from an article sent in by another reader, describing how leaves could be rooted by a similar method.

The seeds were left exposed to the light in accordance with the needs of their species. After keeping the towel damp with a mixture of Allegro and Sea Spray seaweed, about a dozen seeds germinated within two weeks. It is likely that more would have, but having a limited growing area, I decided to discard the many remaining seeds rather than let them "hatch". A capillary mat may have worked better than the paper towel as it would tend not to decay, whereas the paper began to emit a musty odor after a while. A mat would also provide more opportunity for the roots to penetrate and establish themselves. The roots did penetrate the paper but then grew horizontally along the inside of the towel.

When the cotyledon leaves were the size of a pinhead the seedlings stopped growing. Evidently, the nourishment I was supplying was only enough to maintain them but couldn't be applied often enough to sustain growth, due to the augmented moisture inside the dome. At this point, I prepared a clear plastic "clam shell" container by putting a layer of charcoal on the bottom, then regular, good-quality African violet soil about 3/4" deep, moistened from the bottom with plain water which was poured gently down the side.

Transplanting the very tiny plants was easily done by cutting 1/4" squares of paper towel from around the base of each seedling, then applying the squares to the soil surface. Holes in the soil were not necessary, since the towel squares acted as peat pots and the moisture in the soil made them adhere to the flat surface, allowing the roots to find their way into the new medium at their leisure without being disturbed. As soon as they had anchored themselves, the seedlings began to grow quickly. At the time of this writing, they look very healthy and are all showing variegation.

Seizing upon another hint I read in this magazine, I've been adding a pinch of epsom salt (magnesium sulfate) to the mild fertilizer solution in order to encourage chlorophyll production. The chlorophyll should help green the leaves up a little so that they can grow stronger and faster. They have been growing in natural light, assisted on dark days by a single incandescent plant-grow bulb two feet above them. On warm days I allow them to get a breath of fresh air by opening their plastic cover. This will help them get used to the less humid air they will inhabit when they leave their "incubator".

When they are big enough, I will put each in a small clay pot (I find the clay allows the roots more oxygen) and wick water as I do the rest of my gesneriads, using clear glass jars as reservoirs.

This being the only cross I've ever made, maybe you can tell I'm a little excited about being a first-time violet father. By now I've thought of names for them, imagined how their blooms will look, reserved room for them on the plant table, mixed their "formula" and changed their pots. The only thing I have left to do is pass out cigars.



Baby seedlings in the plastic "clamshell" container. The 'mother' plant is behind them, on the open lid of the counter.

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

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.

T. Hulleman - Burlington, Ontario, Canada

- ***Tony's Jennifer** (8618) 6/16/97 (T. Hulleman)
Semidouble purple frilled pansy/darker tips. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**

David Ferguson - Ruthuen, Ontario, Canada

- ***Gillian** (8619) 6/16/97 (D. Ferguson) Double white large star. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
***Kris** (8620) 6/16/97 (D. Ferguson) Semidouble-double pink star/purple fantasy edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

- ***Aca's Coral Beauty** (8621) 6/16/97 (J. Brownlie)
Semidouble coral sticktite star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
***Aca's Georgene** (8622) 6/16/97 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/red streaks, red sparkle edge. **Variiegated** dark green and pink, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
***Aca's Libbie** (8623) 6/16/97 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/red sparkle edge. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
***Joan Hambley** (8624) 6/16/97 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone sticktite pansy. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, plain. **Standard**

Pat Hancock - West Chester, OH

- ***Buckeye Added Touch** (8625) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock)
Semidouble-double light purple ruffled star/darker fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and pink, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

- ***Buckeye Beguiling** (8626) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock)
Semidouble-double purple large frilled star/darker fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted/red back. **Standard**

- ***Buckeye Bellringer** (8627) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock)
Semidouble-double lavender-pink ruffled pansy/purple fantasy, variable purple edge. **Variiegated** dark green and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

- ***Buckeye Beloved** (8628) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pale peach-raspberry ruffled/raspberry and purple fantasy; variable purple raspberry edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

- ***Buckeye Blithe Spirit** (8629) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock)
Semidouble-double pale lavender ruffled star/darker fantasy, variable darker edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

- ***Buckeye Bridesmaid** (8630) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock)
Semidouble-double bright pink ruffled large. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain, glossy. **Standard**

- ***Buckeye Broidery** (8631) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock)
Semidouble pink large frilled star/purple fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

- ***Buckeye Bubblegum** (8632) 7/14/97 (P. Hancock)
Double hot pink ruffled large. **Variiegated** medium green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**

Jeannie Stokes - Sacramento, CA

- ***Blitzen** (8633) 7/18/97 (J. Stokes) Single white and blue bell. Medium green, plain. **Miniature**

- ***Jeannie's Girlfren Laura** (8634) 7/18/97 (J. Stokes)
Double pink/purple shading, streaks. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Miniature**

- ***Sociable Sonny** (8635) 7/18/97 (J. Stokes) Double purple/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Miniature**

Kent Stork - Fremont, NE

- ***Annabelle** (8636) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Double pink two-tone star. Black-green/red back. **Large**
- ***Barbara Ann** (8637) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender-purple two-tone star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Baritone** (8638) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble dark purple-red pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- ***Ceremonial Dance** (8639) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double dark purple-red pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**
- ***Cheerleader** (8640) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble bright pink and white pansy. Medium green, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Geronimo** (8641) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble red pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- ***Graffiti** (8642) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink large star/blue-purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- ***I Feel Pretty** (8643) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/pink eye, variable pink edge. Light-medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Luxury Liner** (8644) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble wine star/ darker tips, white edge. **Variiegated** dark green, lavender-pink and cream, wavy. **Large**
- ***Marching Band** (8645) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble hot pink pansy/raspberry-red sparkle edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- ***Mindi's Tears** (8646) 7/18/97 (Stork/Boone) Semidouble light-medium blue two-tone pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain. **Large**
- ***Officer Krupke** (8647) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double dark violet-blue pansy. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Pen 'n' Ink** (8648) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/dark violet-blue edge. Light-medium green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Pueblo** (8649) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble coral star. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**

- ***Still Waters** (8650) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double light-medium blue pansy. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- ***Tapestry** (8651) 7/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble wine star/white frilled edge. **Variiegated** medium-dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy. **Standard**

Bruno Curcuruto - North York, Ontario, Canada

- ***B-Man's Alessio** (8652) 7/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Double medium pink ruffled pansy/green-edged top petals. Medium green, spooned, glossy, serrated. **Large**
- ***B-Man's Caltanissetta** (8653) 7/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium pink frilled pansy. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- ***B-Man's Catania** (8654) 7/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Single light pink star. Light green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- ***B-Man's Corleone** (8655) 7/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Single cream to pale pink pansy. Medium green, spooned, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***B-Man's Delia** (8656) 7/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***B-Man's Irish Red** (8657) 7/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Semidouble lavender ruffled pansy/darker top petals. **Mosaic variegated** dark green and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled/red back. **Large**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Douglas Burdick - Rochester, NY

- * Opera's Cecilia * Opera's Il Straniero * Opera's Nedda
- * Opera's Leonora



AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from June 1, 1997 to July 31, 1997

Michael Friess, Los Gatos, CA	\$100.00	Hilda Johnson, Cambridge, MA	10.00
AVC of Morris County, Stanhope, NJ	15.00	First AVS of Spartanburg, S.C.	10.00
Cranbury AVS, Norwalk, CT	25.00	Jefferson African Violet Association, Metairie, LA.	25.00
Ft. Walton Beach AVS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL.	15.00	Enid Wood, Menlo Park, Ca	7.00
Valley AVS, Harlingen, TX	20.00		
Metropolitan St. Louis AVC, St. Louis, MO	15.00		
Lau Hin Cheung, Hong Kong	10.00		
		Total	\$252.00

Reading the Signs on the Internet

by Ellen Wass Beckerman

When traveling around the block or across the country, most of us start out with a location in mind. Knowing the address is typically the most helpful way of arriving there. (Some of us travel by knowing the landmarks along the way and we'll talk about Internet landmarks a little later.) The fact that drive is often abbreviated "dr." and street to "st." are pieces of information that we've learned or picked up by using the addresses.

Internet Addresses

The primary abbreviation, or assumption, that frequent users of the world wide web on the Internet make when giving their address is that you will remember to add "http://www." to the beginning of it. For example, our society's address is commonly spoken of as "avsa.org", but in order to visit our website you must actually type into your browser: "http://www.avsa.org". Fortunately, the browser software that we use to navigate the web is getting smarter and in some cases will enter the "http://www." for you. (*Please note: in almost all instances, you need to type in the address exactly in the upper or lowercase letters that are given to you or you will get an error message stating the site isn't there.*)

<p>.com = commercial</p> <p>.org = organization</p> <p>.edu = educational</p> <p>.net = network</p> <p>.gov = government</p> <p>.mil = military</p>

Extensions

Notice the extension ".org" at the end of the AVSA address. Every web address and e-mail address will have an extension. It is usually found at the end of most addresses, but in some instances there will be additional information after the extension that directs you to a specific location within a website. Extensions give you additional information about a website such as whether it is a commercial or not for profit site. ".com" is the most commonly used extension on the web because many businesses are selling services and/or marketing information about their companies. ".org" is always reserved for not for profit organizations. Universities and schools use ".edu" and many internet service providers use the ".net" extension because they provide services on many computers connected together on a network which they own.

Internet addresses are always followed by an extension.

"The Address is TOO LONG!"

Virtually all Internet browsers have a very useful feature called a "Bookmark." Bookmarks remember an internet address for you. When visiting a website that you would like to return to, Click and Drag on the Bookmarks menu at the top of your screen and then select "Add Bookmark." The website will be added to the list on your Bookmark menu. To visit that website again, select it from the Bookmarks menu. (Your browser will automatically fill in the address and take you there.)

Landmarks or "Links"

For those of us who prefer to travel by whimsy, it is possible to navigate the web using the visual landmarks commonly called "Links." Links are connections from one website to another one. They are typically indicated by blue underlined text. Click on the text and it will take you that website. (Once you have gone to that website, the text changes to purple to indicate that you've already been there.) Links from the AVSA website include: Teas Nursery, Mudhole, Steve R's Violet Pages, Univ. of Neb. African Violet Guide, and many more!

Change

Lastly, it is important to remember, especially for our members who participate in the creation of their own and others websites, that change is a constant on the Internet. It is vital that you update your sites regularly with new information at a minimum once a month, usually once a week because like billboards on the highway, old information fades away and is eventually passed by for other, newer, more interesting places.

Ellen and Bill Beckerman are Apple Macintosh computer consultants who have recently moved to Charlotte, North Carolina from New York State. Their new internet address is: e_mail@bellsouth.net



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724



AMMONIUM TOXICITY IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Kent and Joyce Stork
Fremont, NE

For some time we have received questions from individuals who have grown African violets successfully for years who now find that their plants will no longer grow as large as they once did. The plants described exhibited a number of symptoms related to foliage, but those symptoms were not consistent with the usual problems associated with violets. We consulted several sources who suggested the possibility of ammonium toxicity...a condition linked to the use of urea or ammonium based fertilizers.

At this time, we can find no studies of ammonium toxicity specifically targeting African violets. The condition has been studied in florists' gloxinias, and we thank Dr. Paul Nelson of North Carolina State University for sharing the results of his studies. He believes that ammonium toxicity does affect African violets. The symptoms he described closely resemble the problems violet growers brought to us.

In florists' gloxinias, the ammonium toxicity causes lower leaves to curl downward stiffly (not limply). The lower leaves will exhibit irregular and highly unpredictable patterns of chlorosis (lighter green patches). The leaf margins of the most mature leaves will be burned, and as the toxicity becomes more pronounced the leaf burning shows up on younger and younger leaves until it affects the crown itself. The plant may die completely. The root structure will be reduced in size and will have an orange-brown tone that is distinctly different from normal root color.

Dr. Nelson stated that other plants which have been studied show similar patterns, although some plant types react by leaf curl that goes upward rather than down. The lighter patches of color on the leaves are consistently unpredictable on all plants studied.

Ammonium toxicity can have a phantom-like quality. The grower may not note any changes in growing methods or conditions when plants develop symptoms. Similarly, symptoms can disappear temporarily before returning. This can lead a grower to believe that a fungus, an unseen insect, or a virus has invaded. It can also cause a grower to believe that something caused an improvement, when in fact it had no effect at all.

The extent of the reaction can vary in different hybrid strains of one plant type. Since many African violet growers have several hybrids in their collection, it would be

expected that the pattern of symptoms would vary from plant to plant.

Several growers who attended the 1997 AVSA convention in Florida reported very similar symptoms. They were completely puzzled until they discovered that their standard fertilizer had changed. The company producing it was bought out by a larger corporation who changed the source of the nitrogen to a much cheaper ammonia form. This change was not advertised or promoted but it had serious consequences for growers.

WHAT CAUSES AMMONIUM TOXICITY?

Ammonium toxicity is generally linked to the use of urea-based or ammonium fertilizers along with the absence or ineffectiveness of soil bacteria. The active soil bacteria can break ammonia down into a usable nitrate form as long as the soil temperature stays above 70 degrees Fahrenheit and as long as the soil pH is 6.0 or above. When the soil temperatures cool to below 70 degrees or the pH drops into a more acid range, the soil bacteria becomes progressively less active and less able to process ammonia. This results in a build-up of ammonia to toxic levels.

Growers in areas that experience wide seasonal temperature swings might note the problem during the winter season, but not as much in the summer. Farmers in areas with very acid water conditions (often areas that receive lots of rain yearly) report very serious problems with ammonium toxicity in field crops. Violet growers can almost certainly predict similar problems where water supplies are acid. Similarly, if the soil or potting mix is very acid (peat moss can vary in pH in somewhat unpredictable ways), the ammonium toxicity can become a problem even if the water is neutral.

HOW TO CONTROL AND ELIMINATE AMMONIUM TOXICITY

If you grow violets in an area with well-regulated room temperatures and do not have an acid water supply, you will probably not have to deal with this problem. There is no reason to panic if you see no symptoms.

If you must deal with seasonally cool temperatures, be aware of how it may affect your violets. Do not use the lowest shelves in your growing area during the cool months since the coolest air is always closest to the floor.

continued on page 27

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

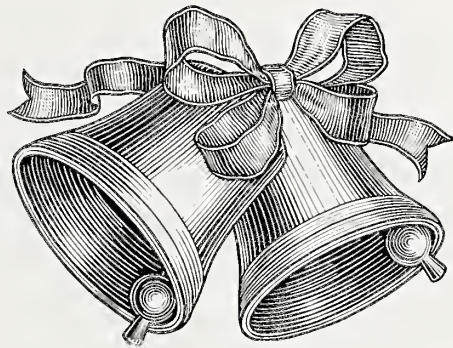
Somewhere in between the Florida humidity and the California dry summer heat there is a happy medium and I think I have found it. Three weeks on the Northern California Coast with 65 degree days and 50 degree nights. This is where everyone should spend their summers. I sure will miss the fog horns, somehow the sound is comforting. During the quiet times in fishing we had time to observe the sea birds. My favorites were the Brown Pelican and the Albatross. We noticed that the Brown Pelicans really can fill their bill with a lot fish at one time; enough to feed a gull that somehow learned to steal fish right out of the pouch. For a while we thought the pelican was eating the gull. Now, tell me that God doesn't have a sense of humor.

Our main objective was Salmon fishing. Not as many

caught this year but what we did catch were huge. My better half got his name in the local paper for catching a 42 pounder. Made my two thirty pounders look like sardines.

Oh well, it was back to the Sacramento Valley and the heat and tomato vines running amuck, peaches all coming ripe at the same time, weeds to be pulled and of course plants that need transplanting...then there is the correspondence.

Vintage Violets and the AVSA Most Wanted List grows more each month. My heartfelt thanks to all of you who have responded to my column. Please remember to always return the postage if someone is good enough to share something with you and send a SASE for my reply.



*(Ammonium Toxicity In African Violets
continued from page 26)*

You may wish to use less fertilizer since the soil bacteria will be less efficient at processing the ammonia. If possible, warm the room so that soil temperature does not sink below 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Avoid using cold water to water plants or refill reservoirs. (Hot water is also not acceptable...do not use water warmer or cooler than ten degrees from the air temperature.)

If you must deal with persistent acid pH in your soil or water, you would be wise to consider using one of the nitrate-based fertilizer products. Read the ingredients on the label. You will need a brand that lists at least one of its sources of nitrogen using the word "nitrate". These will not add the excess ammonia to your soil, and are not so

dependent upon soil bacteria.

If you suspect a problem, try leaching the soil. Pour an amount of water at least equal to the size of the pot into the top of the soil and allow it to run through the plant. It is best to do this when the plant is somewhat moist so that all salts will be dissolved and flushable. Do not allow plants to stand in the runaway water. If you note an orange tone to the water that is running out, you may assume that there is some sort of fertilizer build-up in the soil. Leaching should reduce the toxic build-up and may cause symptoms to go away. It is wise to leach until the runoff water is no longer colored.

Once recognized, ammonium toxicity should be easy to control and avoid. Best of all, the treatment is inexpensive and safe. There's no reason to panic!

A GRACIOUS COUPLE

by Don Geiss • Fredric, MI

An opportunity to visit the J.R. Pittmans in their San Antonio, Texas home became a gold mine of information for two African violets neophytes from northern Michigan.

Hortense is doing some exciting work in hybridizing. In addition, she and husband Ray have combined to refine the art of raising plants. But now we are ahead of our story.

We noticed in the African Violet Magazine that the Magic Knight AVS was holding their show and sale February 28 and March 1, 1997. Since we were wintering south and east of that city in Combes, TX, it seemed like a great opportunity to head up there for that event.

In the course of correspondence with our magazine editor, Ruth Rumsey, she suggested a possible meeting with the Pittmans during the show. Subsequently she arranged for us to meet them.

Realizing that they would be very busy at the show, it was hardly expected that they would have sufficient time to take us on a tour of their compact but efficient plant center. To our surprise, they invited us to meet with them early on Saturday morning.

The work that Hortense does in hybridizing is of high value to the entire field. Of course her efforts in creating deeper and deeper yellows was intriguing to say the least.

The physical layout of their system of growing plants was amazing.

We were spending hours watering plants that were situated on individual reservoirs. They spend minutes

watering plants sitting on top of galvanized steel trays covered with a heavy steel mesh. (A major forthcoming change for the Geiss system.)

She starts leaves in a tray of soil-less mix. That tray has a number of plant wicks. It in turn is placed on top of a similar tray filled with fertilized water, and is also covered with a large mesh heavy screen. (Another change we'll institute.)

Perhaps the most startling innovation was the method of artificial lighting. As Ray explained it, most of the heat coming from the fixtures was caused by the ballasts. Since that is true, he has placed the ballasts away from the main frame of the fixtures. They are located in the attic where the heat is of no consequence. (Another change).

All of these ideas were incorporated into a space only slightly larger than a single car garage.

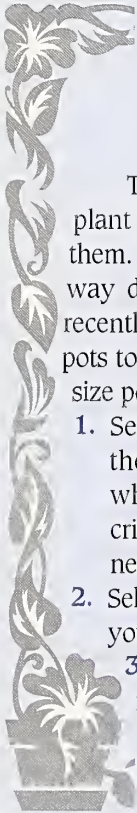
After the tour, over coffee, we discussed many other ideas related to the growth of plants. Needless to say, some of Hortense's Honeys traveled back to Michigan with us.

We probably were at fault in causing them to be late to return to the show and sale, but selfishly we took every minute of the time that they were willing to give. We may never again have the opportunity to visit with such charming and knowledgeable people.

Our remote location provides little chance for that type of experience. One thing is certain; their impact on our collection will be very far reaching.

Mold Potting

by Elizabeth Whitesides • Raleigh, NC



The next time you are potting up some babies or a plant that just will not stop growing, try mold potting them. This is a neat technique that will save time and cut way down on the cleanup. I used it for the first time recently when I potted up a batch of babies from 2.5" pots to 4" pots. The instructions will work going from any size pot to a larger one.

1. Select a clean, empty container (container A) with the exact same dimensions as the container from which you will be removing the plant. This step is critical, so make sure the container is a perfect or near-perfect match.
2. Select a larger container into which you will pot up your plant (container B).
3. Prepare container B. If you pot Texas Style, put in the layer of perlite. If not, put in an inch or so of potting mix and firm down. Place container A in the middle of container B, on top of the perlite or soil mix.

4. Make sure the top of container A is flush with the top of container B. When you have achieved this, fill in the space around container A with potting mix and press down. The potting mix should be pressed just firmly enough to hold its shape when you remove container A.
5. When you have filled the space with potting mix to within 1/2" to 1/4" of the top of the containers, carefully remove container A.
6. Remove your plant from its old container, making sure you get all the roots and potting mix. If any falls off the bottom of the root ball, just put an equal volume of potting mix into the hole in container B. Your plant should pop perfectly into the opening in container B with very little fuss at all. You are done.

This method is fast, easy and best of all you will not get dirt all over your plants or risk breaking leaves trying to push soil under them into the pot. I hope it works as well for you as it has for me.

Spreading the Joy of African Violets

by Florence Friedman • Tenafly, NJ

Every year the Bergen County African Violet Society puts on programs for local garden clubs, senior centers, and women's clubs. We have a format that works very well for us and thought other clubs might benefit from what we do.

The club Publicity Committee sends out letters to the Program Chair of local groups in March. Along with our show dates, the letter explains our program and our offer to present it to their club. This is a good time to write as groups plan their schedules for the new year, and it gives us an additional opportunity to advertise our show. In describing our program, we also suggest that people bring in any African violets about which they may have a question. We ask for a small donation, (which we may or may not get).

Our program is tailored for people with no knowledge about growing African violets, as well as those with experience. We bring about five or six plants, two or three of the best looking ones we have at the time and the remainder are neglected types with long necks or are growing to one side.

To impress our audience with the beauty of African violets and the many different varieties there are, we start with a slide program. We show close-ups of plants that have won awards in our recent shows; standards, minis, semis and trailers, as well as prize winners from our design division.

There are also a few long shots of the display tables and the Court of Honor so that they can see how lovely an African violet show is and how many beautiful plants are

exhibited. In all, about twenty slides are shown; we want to pique their interest in our plants as well as our annual show.

After we have impressed them with what can be done, we get down to the mechanics of plant growing, with a discussion of soil mixes, fertilizers, watering schedules and methods, washing plants (which always brings gasps of disbelief), the need for light and rotating the plants. All along we try to answer questions as they come up.

The program is ended with a demonstration. The minimum is to show how to put down a leaf. If the audience is knowledgeable, we will probably take a plant with a long neck and show how it can be revitalized. All extra leaves are given away.

We try to have a team of at least three different members take part in the program. Perhaps one to do the introduction and conduct the question-answer section, another to discuss the slides and the third to do the demonstration.

Cards are distributed with information about our meetings and the name and telephone number of a member to contact. These help not only to further interest in African violets but in gaining new members.

We have had good results with this program and have been asked to give it a second time by some clubs. We find that we often have additional attendance at our shows. It is an enjoyable afternoon or evening for us enhanced by the knowledge that we have spread a little more information about African violets and the joy of raising them.

Coming Events



November 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 55 East Hanover Ave.,
Morristown, NJ
Info: Karyn Cichocki (201) 579 - 7914

November 1 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Fall Sale
Sunrise Mall, 5858 South Padre Island,
Corpus Christi, TX
10am - 5pm
Info: Marcia Pilbin (512) 994 - 8957

November 1 & 2 - KANSAS

Missouri Valley AV Council Show/Sale
Clairon Hotel Airport, 5805 W. Kellogg, Wichita, KS
Sat - noon - 5pm
Sun - 11am - 2pm
Info: Helen Barrett (316) 685 - 2877

November 6 - 8 - TEXAS

Lone Star AV Council Convention, Show/Sale/Auction
Nassau Bay Hilton & Marina
3000 NASA Road One
Clear Lake City, TX 77058
Nov 7 - 1pm - 5:30pm
Nov 8 - 9:30 - 5:30pm
Info: Joyce Stenger (281) 488 - 0267

November 7 & 8 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall, Rocky Mount, NC
Both Days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman, 2836 North NC 58,
Nashville, NC 27856

November 8 & 9 - CONNECTICUT

Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95, Branford, CT
Nov 8 - 1pm - 5pm
Nov 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

November 8 & 9 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Philadelphia 36th Show/Sale
Watertower Recreation Ctr., Hartwell Ln.,
Chestnut Hill
Nov 8 - 1pm - 5pm
Nov 9 - noon - 4pm
Info: Marianne Gershon (215) 393 - 0852
Mary Nemeck (215) 482 - 5694

November 8 & 9 - MISSOURI

Mid-America AVS 18th Annual AVSA Judged Show
Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania,
Kansas City, MO
Nov 8 - 10am - 4pm
Nov 9 - 10am - 3pm
Info: (913) 642 - 4357

November 13 - 15 - VIRGINIA

Mid-Atlantic AVS 7th Annual Convention/Show
Holiday Inn - Downtown Holidome, Williamsburg, VA
Info: Laurene Jones (703) 560 - 6134

November 21 & 22 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Display/Sale
Ft. Myers - Lee Co. Garden Council Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
Nov 21 - 9am - 6:30pm
Nov 22 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542 - 9193

February 13 - 15 - FLORIDA

Upper Pinellas AVS Show/Sale
Clearwater Mall
Gulf to Bay Blvd. & US 19, Clearwater, FL
Mall Hours
Info: Phyllis King (813) 398 - 7450

Discover California - Convention '98

Sacramento is a big time city with small town flavor. Two great rivers, the Sacramento and the American, converge near downtown, making California's capital accessible by not only air, highway, and rail, but by water, which was instrumental in the city's founding.

In 1839, Swiss immigrant John Sutter built a fort, intending it to be a trading post and haven for European immigrants. In 1848 he built a sawmill in the nearby foothills. It was mill foreman, James Marshall, who saw something glittering in the water of the American River as he was inspecting the newly-built structure. It was this nugget of pure gold that started the California Gold Rush. Sacramento flourished with the arrival of thousands of gold miners in 1849, as miners bought their supplies and mining tools before heading east to the discovery site.

The discovery of gold in 1848 was the driving force behind the building of the Golden State. In 1850, California became a state, and in 1854 Sacramento became the state's capitol. 1998 is the sesquicentennial of the discovery of gold in California, and that lively history is still prospering along the bustling waterfront in Sacramento's Old Town district. Old Sacramento is a Registered National Landmark and one of California's Historic State Parks, covering 28 acres.

More than 100 buildings have been renovated or reconstructed to recreate the era of the California Gold Rush, the 1850s to 1870s. Walking along the cobblestone streets and wooden sidewalks in Old Sacramento, you can almost hear the hoof beats of the Pony Express riders and the whistles of the steam trains and paddle wheelers. Treat yourself to a ride in a horse drawn carriage along cobblestone streets lit by gaslight, or dine in style aboard a vintage paddle wheeler.

Today, Old Sacramento stands as one of America's finest examples of historic restoration, and is home to many interesting and unique museums. The largest interpretive railroad museum in North America, the California State Railroad Museum, is home to 21 restored locomotives and cars dating from the 1860s to the 1960s. There are also 46 exhibits including a ride on a steam-powered train.

The California Citizen Soldier Museum contains a collection of more than 30 thousand military papers, documents and other memorabilia. The Old Sacramento Schoolhouse is available for touring and is built in the

style of the one-room schools found in the 1880s. History buffs will enjoy the Sacramento History Museum which features the \$1 million Motherlode gold exhibit, interactive computer archives and special changing exhibits. The BF Hastings Building which opened in April 1853 as a bank, is a museum housing communications and transportation including the Pony Express and the Wells Fargo Museum. The Old Eagle Theater is a reconstruction of the first California theater built in 1849, with theater productions and free slide shows.

Modern Sacramento offers a multitude of recreational and cultural opportunities, from rafting on the American River to an evening of NBA basketball or a performance of the Sacramento Symphony. For those who like to shop, Sacramento has it all - from antiques to high fashion to avant garde artwork. Fine dining in this city often features fresh produce locally grown and imaginatively prepared in a full spectrum of ethnic restaurants and cafes. Night life abounds, and promises to keep you up late with jazz clubs, dixieland, live theater, Broadway shows, dinner theater and comedy clubs.

The site for our 1998 AVSA convention is the Radisson Hotel Sacramento. Just five minutes from the state capitol, the hotel offers a resort setting complete with a private lake and acres of lush landscaping.

The hotel's unique surroundings provide choices of many relaxing diversions from the lakeside pool and spa to paddle boats on the lake. A year-round variety of top flight performers entertain in the outdoor amphitheater and the Edgewater Ballroom.

Sample the flavors of California without leaving the convention site. The Palm Court, home of Sacramento's premier Sunday brunch, offers casual dining in a comfortable garden setting. For a gourmet meal, try the Cabana Room, a richly appointed dining salon with a sweeping lakefront view.

For those on the go, the Petite Palm espresso cafe features coffee, pastries and light dining. Crocodiles is Sacramento's newest high energy night spot with your favorite cocktails and dancing nightly.

The Radisson has an outdoor pool and a fitness center. Bicycles are available for rental - perfect for touring Sacramento via the nearby American River bike trail. Tennis courts and a golf course are located nearby.

Rediscover the new West in Sacramento.

How My Computer Helps Me To Grow African Violets

by Carla Ryan
Allison Park, PA



Up until two of years ago I labeled all my plants with a plastic stake stuck in the pot. I used a ultra-fine point permanent marker or a special pencil to write on them. Unfortunately, the pencils only write well on a textured surface and the ink from the markers fades more quickly than it used to. I was also unhappy with the damaged petioles and problems with foliage symmetry caused by the labels themselves. I considered using paper self-adhesive labels on my pots, but they are damaged by water. In addition, a solvent or a lot of work is needed to remove the label and adhesive from the pot after they have been there for a while. I like to clean and reuse my pots, so writing on the pots themselves was not acceptable because the permanent marker ink leaves a stain. Life certainly is frustrating when you are both a perfectionist and bone lazy, as I am!

I didn't find a solution to my problems until I got a laser printer for my computer and a label making program. When shopping for laser labels I found that there are clear plastic labels as well as paper ones. I thought the clear plastic ones might be the answer to my problems with African violet labels, so I bought a package.

The labels I chose were 1 1/3 inches by 4 1/4 inches, with 6 labels per sheet and 120 labels per package. At the time, I didn't know how this experiment would turn out, and I have only a medium-sized collection, so I decided to buy only a small quantity of labels. Clear return address labels, which would have been ideal, weren't available in small quantities.

I created a database for my African violets using the label making program's database utility. I wanted to keep track of my collection and print descriptive tags for leaf exchanges, as well as print plant labels. The name,

description, registration number, registration date, hybridizer, and my personal comments for each variety in my collection were incorporated as separate fields so that I can choose exactly what information to print and where to print it. I also included a field in the database which would tell my computer how many of each label to print. I then made a new custom label format with nine small labels in place of each large one that is actually there, so that I could get more labels per sheet. I have to peel off the large labels and cut the small labels out by hand, but there is little waste. (My label making program is Labels Unlimited®, from Softkey International, but there are probably others which have similar features.)

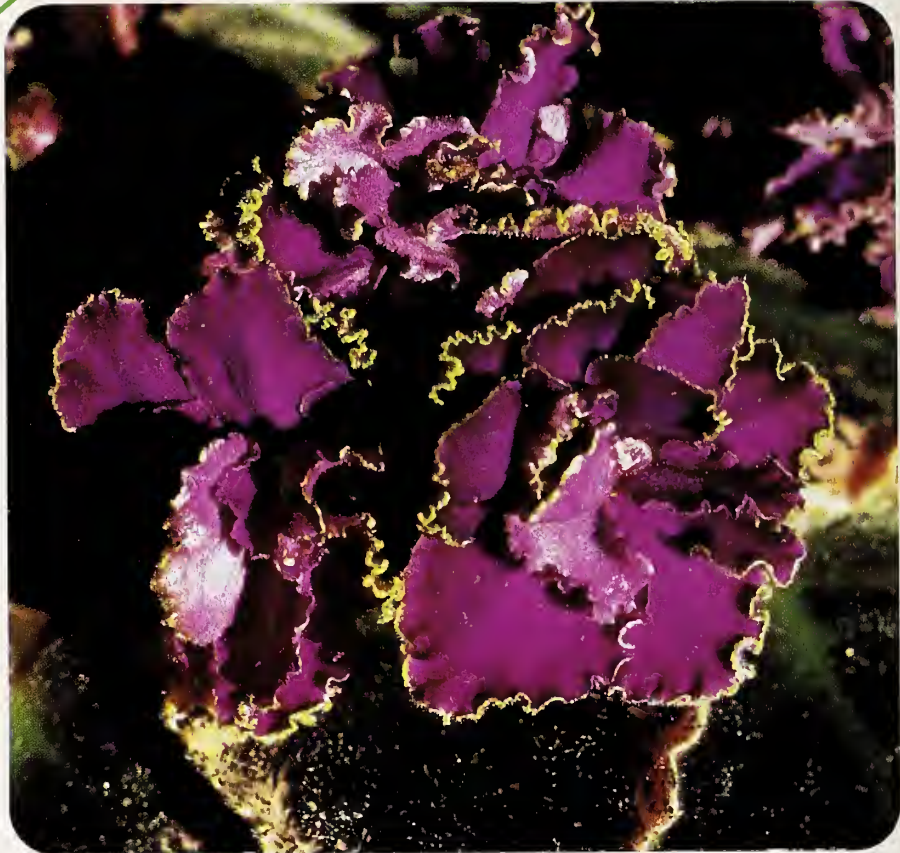
My new labels work very well. They look attractive and even chlorine bleach doesn't fade the lettering. If a little soil-less mix gets on the adhesive back of the label, it washes off in cold water. (Once it is warm and dry, the adhesive becomes sticky again.) I can easily remove the label from a pot, up to a year later, without leaving much residue. If I am careful and the adhesive is still good, I can even re-use it. The only difficulty is that they are hard to read on dark green, black, or clear pots.

Tips: Make sure to use laser labels with laser printers. The adhesive on other types of labels can melt at the high operating temperatures of laser printers and create an awful mess. Always make a back-up copy of your database and label printing jobs on diskettes, in case your hard drive crashes or the files become corrupted. It will save you a lot of work if disaster strikes. If you have an ink-jet printer, the print on plant labels may wash off or fade quickly because of the ink they use. However, you can still print descriptive tags for leaf exchanges and create a computerized record of your collection.

Showcase

Black Russian

Hybridized by:
E. Wasche
Standard



Rose Dust

Hybridized by:
E. Wasche
Large



The 1997 Master List of African Violets

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman

Supplement to African Violet Magazine Volume 50 No. 6 November/December 1997

*designates registered varieties

†designates change

- *Aca's Coral Beauty (8621) 06/16/97 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble coral sticktite star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- *Aca's Georgene (8622) 06/16/97 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/red streaks, red sparkle edge. **Variiegated** dark green and pink, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- *Aca's Libbie (8623) 06/16/97 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/red sparkle edge. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- †*Adirondack Moon (8493) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/yellow blush, mottling. **Variiegated** green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- †*Age of Innocence (8494) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double white star. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- Alamo Charmer (H. Pittman) Double dark red large. Dark green. **Standard**
- Alamo Cotton (H. Pittman) Semidouble white large. **Variiegated** green and white, pointed, wavy. **Standard**
- Alamo Fun (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/fuchsia markings. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**
- Alamo Gold Fever (H. Pittman) Semidouble creamy white and gold. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Standard**
- Alamo Hero (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark fuchsia. **Variiegated** dark green and white, plain. **Standard**
- Alamo Jester (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink/raspberry fantasy. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Standard**
- Alamo Luster (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink large/wide white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- Alamo Rogue (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose large/darker streaks. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Standard**
- Alamo Spirit (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink fluted. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Standard**
- Alamo Summer (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/blue and lavender shading. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- All Is Well (K. Stork) Semidouble-double light pink star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- †*Aloha Orchid (8495) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark lavender star/dark orchid sparkle edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**
- Aly's Afternoon Delight (A. Droege) Single-semidouble chimera white star/dark blue stripe. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Aly's Blizzard Bunny (A. Droege) Semidouble-double white star. Medium green, heart-shaped. **Miniature**
- Aly's Boy Toy (A. Droege) Single-semidouble chimera blue pansy/white stripe. Medium green, pointed. **Miniature**
- Aly's Breathless (A. Droege) Semidouble-double dark blue large ruffled star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Aly's Clueless (A. Droege) Single-semidouble chimera hot pink pansy/light purple stripe. Dark green, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- Aly's Crinolines (A. Droege) Double white star/lavender-pink fantasy band, green and lavender frilled edge. Medium green, quilted, heart-shaped. **Standard**
- Aly's Fantasy (A. Droege) Single-semidouble mauve-pink ruffled pansy/blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted, pointed. **Standard**
- Aly's July Fourth (A. Droege) Double white/fuchsia eye, rays. Medium-dark green, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**
- Aly's Passionella (A. Droege) Single-semidouble chimera mauve frilled pansy/lavender stripe. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Aly's Peppermint Baby (A. Droege) Single-semidouble chimera fuchsia pansy/white stripe,

- variable white to light pink blush. Dark green, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**
- Aly's Phantom** (A. Droege) Single-semidouble chimera mauve-pink pansy/lavender-blue stripe, blue fantasy edge. Dark green. **Standard**
- Aly's Surprise** (A. Droege) Single-semidouble chimera medium purple pansy/white stripe. Dark green, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- Aly's Victorian Tease** (A. Droege) Semidouble chimera white fluted star/white stripe, blue edge. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- Amethyst Sunshine** (K. Stork) Single-semidouble blue-lavender frilled star. Medium green. **Standard**
- ***Anita Rae** (8481) 09/10/96 (A. Worrell) Single white sparkle pansy/purple-blue fantasy, pink frilled edge. Medium green, round, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- †***Annabelle** (8636) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Double pink two-tone star. Black-green/red back. **Large**
- April In Paris** (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark pink ruffled pansy/dark green on top petals, light green-veined lower petals. Dark green, wavy/red back. **Large**
- †***Artist's Palette** (8496) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink large star/blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, ovate. **Large**
- †***At Last** (8587) 02/22/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble light pink star/darker streaks. Light green, plain. **Standard**
- B-Man's Agrigento** (B. Curcuruto) Single lavender pansy/darker top petals. Medium green, spooned, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***B-Man's Alessio** (8652) 07/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Double medium pink ruffled pansy/green-edged top petals. Medium green, spooned, glossy, serrated. **Large**
- B-Man's Barcellona** (B. Curcuruto) Single light pink frilled pansy/red markings. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***B-Man's Caltanisetta** (8653) 07/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium pink frilled pansy. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- ***B-Man's Catania** (8654) 07/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Single light pink star. Light green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- ***B-Man's Corleone** (8655) 07/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Single cream pansy/variable pale pink. Medium green, spooned, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***B-Man's Delia** (8656) 07/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**
- B-Man's Etna** (B. Curcuruto) Single medium pink ruffled pansy/purple fantasy. Medium green, spooned, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***B-Man's Irish Red** (8657) 07/21/97 (B. Curcuruto) Semidouble lavender ruffled pansy/darker top petals. **Mosaic variegated** dark green and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled/red back. **Large**
- B-Man's Messina** (B. Curcuruto) Single burgundy pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- B-Man's Milazzo** (B. Curcuruto) Semidouble light pink ruffled pansy/darker top petals. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- B-Man's Palermo** (B. Curcuruto) Single purple star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- Baby Moonbeam** (H. Pittman) Semidouble blue and white. **Variegated** green and white. **Miniature**
- †***Barbara Ann** (8637) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender-purple two-tone star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Baritone** (8638) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble dark purple-red pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- †***Bashful** (8497) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/fuchsia mottling. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- Beachcomber** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white large star/variable pink and blue mottled edge. Medium green. **Large**
- †***Best Friends** (8498) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink star/rose overlay, variable thin white edge. Dark green, plain, ovate, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Bianca** (8482) 09/23/96 (F. Tinari) Double white ruffled large/pink-tinged center. Medium green, spooned, serrated. **Standard**
- Billie Blue** (Volkman) Single dark blue sticktite star/white edge. Dark green. **Standard**
- ***Black Plum** (8574) 01/16/97 (D. Harrington) Semidouble dark plum ruffled pansy. **Variegated** medium-dark green, cream and yellow, spooned, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Black Russian** (8597) 05/05/97 (E. Wasche) Double red-purple ruffled pansy/green edge. **Variegated** green, tan and pink, plain, pointed, glossy/red back. **Standard**

- ***Blitzen** (8633) 07/18/97 (J. Stokes) Single white and blue bell. Medium green, plain. **Miniature**
- †***Blue Beacon** (8499) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium blue star/darker fantasy. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- Blue Dragon** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale blue large frilled star/darker eye, red-purple band, variable green edge. Dark green. **Large**
- †***Blue Jeans Baby** (8500) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium blue pansy/thin white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- Blue Mist** (Volkman) Double medium blue star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- †***Blue Silhouette** (8501) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light blue two-tone pansy/variable white, green. Black-green, plain, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
- †***Boo Man** (8502) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light blue frilled pansy/white-feathered top petals, variable green. Black-green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- †***Broadway Dancer** (8503) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double pink star/rose sparkle edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Buckeye Added Touch** (8625) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double light purple ruffled star/darker fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and pink, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- †***Buckeye Beauty** (8579) 01/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pale raspberry-lavender large ruffled pansy/dark raspberry and purple fantasy, variable purple edge. **Variiegated** dark green, rose and cream, plain, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Beguiling** (8626) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double purple large frilled star/darker fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Buckeye Bellringer** (8627) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double lavender-pink ruffled pansy/ purple fantasy, variable purple edge. **Variiegated** dark green and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Beloved** (8628) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pale peach-raspberry ruffled/ raspberry and purple fantasy; variable purple-raspberry edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**
- ***Buckeye Bewitched** (8580) 01/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double bright pink ruffled pansy. **Variiegated** medium green, pink and cream, plain, pointed, glossy. **Large**
- †***Buckeye Blame Doris** (8581) 01/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink-fuchsia pansy/variable thin white edge. **Variiegated** dark green, rose and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Blithe Spirit** (8629) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pale lavender ruffled star/darker fantasy, variable darker edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- †***Buckeye Bouquet** (8582) 01/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double lavender-pink ruffled/raspberry and purple fantasy, variable raspberry edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Bravado** (8583) 01/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double light purple ruffled star/darker fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, rose and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Bridesmaid** (8630) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double bright pink ruffled large. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Buckeye Broidery** (8631) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink large frilled star/purple fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Bubblegum** (8632) 07/14/97 (P. Hancock) Double hot pink ruffled large. **Variiegated** medium green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- †***Buckeye Butterflies** (8584) 01/25/97 (P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender two-tone ruffled pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, pointed, serrated. **Standard**
- †***Burgundy Beau** (8504) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble burgundy pansy. Medium green, plain, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- Butterfly Kisses** (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink star/light blue fantasy, variable green edge, tips. Dark green. **Standard**
- †***Ceremonial Dance** (8639) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double dark purple-red pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**
- Champagne Bubbles** (S. Sorano) Double light pink fluted star. Dark green/red back. **Standard**
- †***Cheerleader** (8640) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble bright pink and white pansy.

- Medium green, glossy. **Standard**
- Christening Gown** (S. Sorano) Semidouble white frilled pansy. Dark green. **Semiminiature**
- †***Christmas Glitter** (8505) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double pink star/rose sparkle flecks, blue fantasy, rose sparkle edge. **Variiegated** green and white, plain, ovate. **Standard**
- †***Cookie Man** (8506) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white star/medium blue mottling. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- Cool Blue** (H. Pittman) Semidouble light blue. Dark green. **Semiminiature**
- ***Cool Jewel** (8594) 03/03/97 (C. Salland) Single chimera medium lavender cupped/wide white to pale lavender stripe. Medium green, plain, pointed, pebbled, glossy. **Miniature**
- Cosette** (K. Stork) Semidouble light pink two-tone pansy. Medium green, glossy. **Standard**
- Crybaby** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white pansy/light blue eye. Medium green. **Semiminiature**
- Cupid's Arrow** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/fuchsia blush. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- †***Dancing Lady** (8507) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/blue fantasy. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Standard**
- †***Dancing Rainbows** (8508) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/blue fantasy. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Dangerous** (8509) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double red pansy/mauve overlay. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- Daria** (S. Sorano) Double light pink pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, pink, cream and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- †***Delightful** (8588) 02/22/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble purple frilled star/white edge, variable green. Dark green, glossy, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- ***Delta Breeze** (8585) 02/10/97 (J. Hatfield) Semidouble-double white pansy/blue ruffled edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**
- †***Designer Star** (8510) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light plum star/pink fantasy, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Large**
- †***Diamond Girl** (8511) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite star/pink-blushed eye, light rose sparkle marking, rose-pink edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Duluth** (8575) 01/16/97 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink two-tone shaded sticktite pansy. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Fantastic Fantasy** (8576) 01/16/97 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble chimera pink pansy/darker pink stripe, purple fantasy. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- Favorite Waltz** (Volkman) Semidouble dark pink ruffled. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- †***Flashy Angel** (8512) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink pansy/red eye. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- Flower Child** (S. Sorano) Semidouble white star/variable yellow, pink mottling. **Variiegated** medium green and white. **Semiminiature**
- †***Frosted Denim** (8513) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light blue pansy/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Miniature**
- Gemstone Halo** (Stork/Boone) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and cream. **Small standard**
- ***Gentle Giant** (8586) 02/10/97 (J. Hatfield) Double lavender large star/purple striated edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Geronimo** (8641) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble red pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- †***Gertrude Frances** (8483) 10/21/96 (Elkin/J. Eyerdorn) Semidouble light lavender wavy pansy/dark orchid eye, fantasy edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- ***Gillian** (8619) 06/16/97 (D. Ferguson) Double white large star. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- Ginger** (Volkman) Single light blue large sticktite star/darker eye. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Gleeful Elf** (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Miniature**
- Glory** (Volkman) Double blue large star/white edge. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- †***Golden Dawn** (8514) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white star/red eye, yellow blush. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Graffiti** (8642) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink large star/blue-purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- †***Guardian Angel** (8515) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double pink star/blue fantasy. **Variiegated**

- medium green and white, plain. **Large**
- Hawaiian Pearl** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double ivory star/dark lavender-rose band. Dark green. **Standard**
- †***Hearts Aglow** (8516) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia star/ivory blush. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- Heavenly Blue** (Volkman) Semidouble medium blue large star/white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Holiday Lights** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble bright fuchsia pansy/white edge, variable green shading. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Standard**
- Honey Berry** (H. Pittman) Double dark fuchsia. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Semiminiature**
- Hortense's Space Dust** (H. Pitman) Semidouble light pink. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Miniature**
- †***Hot Foot** (8517) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble rose-fuchsia star/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- †***I Feel Pretty** (8643) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/pink eye, variable pink edge. Light-medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Ice Pirate** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/variable purple eye. Medium green. **Semiminiature**
- Iced Mocha** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble mauve large fluted star/rose overlay, white edge. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and white. **Standard**
- ***Intrepid** (8484) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble dark red two-tone star/fuchsia-pink shaded edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, wavy. **Standard**
- Irish Cream** (S. Sorano) Double cream-white pansy/bright green ruffled edge. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**
- Irish Mint** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark lavender ruffled star/light green band, darker edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- †***Island Hideaway** (8518) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/blue-purple blushed eye, edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- Island Rose** (S. Sorano) Double dark pink/dark green ruffled edge. Dark green, ruffled/red back. **Standard**
- †***Jane Ellen** (8485) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single red-blue star/raspberry sparkle edge. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. **Large**
- †***Jays' Aussie Belle** (8570) 12/26/96 (J. White) Semidouble-double hot pink sticktite frilled star/raspberry fantasy, edge. Medium green, plain, serrated. **Standard**
- †***Jays' Candy Gal** (8571) 12/26/96 (J. White) Single dark pink sticktite pansy. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Jays' Elizabeth Rose** (8572) 12/26/96 (J. White) Semidouble dark fuchsia sticktite pansy/white frilled edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Jays' Flossy** (8573) 12/26/96 (J. White) Semidouble hot pink sticktite frilled star. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***Jeannie's Girlfren Laura** (8634) 07/18/97 (J. Stokes) Double pink/purple shading, streaks. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Joan Hambley** (8624) 06/16/97 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone sticktite pansy. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, plain. **Standard**
- †***Joy's Pink Halo** (8569) 11/26/96 (D. Hoover) Single-semidouble pink sticktite pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, quilted, pebbled. **Semiminiature**
- Katia** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white sparkle pansy/variable pink eye. Medium green. **Semiminiature**
- ***Kiss Me Love** (8604) 05/23/97 (Ramirez/Domiano) Semidouble blush white large star. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, ovate. **Large**
- †***Kisses of Gold** (8519) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double white ruffled pansy/yellow rays, mottling. Medium green, plain, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***Kris** (8620) 06/16/97 (D. Ferguson) Semidouble-double pink star/purple fantasy edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- †***Lace Shadows** (8520) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white pansy/dark pink fantasy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Layered Gown** (8577) 01/16/97 (D. Harrington) Double red-violet frilled star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- Lexi's Party Dress** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble bright pink frilled pansy/white edge. Dark green. **Semiminiature**
- †***Lil Rich Girl** (8521) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/red sparkle frilled edge. **Variiegated** medium green, white and pink,

- plain/girl foliage. **Semiminiature**
- †***Little Ebony** (8522) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- †***Little Lexi** (8523) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, white and variable rose, plain. **Miniature**
- Little Moonshine** (S. Sorano) Double white star/variable yellow eye. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Little Redhead** (8524) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink pansy/mauve tips, overlay. **Variiegated** dark green and white, plain, pointed. **Miniature**
- Little Snowbunny** (S. Sorano) Semidouble white pansy. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- Little Streaker** (S. Sorano) Semidouble blue pansy/pink fantasy. **Variiegated** medium green, white and cream. **Semiminiature**
- Looker** (S. Sorano) Single chimera pink stickite pansy/light purple stripe. **Variiegated** medium green and white. **Semiminiature**
- †***Lori Ann** (8486) 10/21/96 (Elkin/J. Eyerdorn) Semidouble-double white star/light lavender marking. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- Louisiana Lullaby** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double lavender large star/lighter edge, variable darker tips. Medium green. **Standard**
- ***Love Ya** (8605) 05/23/97 (Ramirez/Domiano) Semidouble rose-pink. **Variiegated** green, pink and white, pointed, wavy, serrated. **Large**
- ***Lovey Lacy** (8595) 04/25/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble-double fuchsia large star/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- †***Luxury Liner** (8644) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble wine star/darker tips, white edge. **Variiegated** dark green, lavender-pink and cream, wavy. **Large**
- Lyon's Ain't Misbehavin'** (S. Sorano) Semidouble white and pink ruffled pansy/variable dark green edge. Medium green. **Standard**
- Lyon's Blue Aura** (S. Sorano) Semidouble blue large star/dark blue band, thin white frilled edge. Dark green, quilted. **Large**
- †***Lyon's Crown Jewel** (8525) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera fuchsia star/white stripe, bright green ruffled tips. Medium green, plain, ruffled. **Large**
- Lyon's Finger Paints** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white pansy/orchid patches on lower petals, variable on top petals. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- †***Lyon's Gold Rush** (8526) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double white pansy/yellow blush. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Lyon's June Bug** (8527) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Lyon's Pink Cadillac** (8528) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink large star. Dark green, ovate, quilted. **Large**
- †***Lyon's Pirate's Treasure** (8529) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink pansy/wide red ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Lyon's Sashay** (8530) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink ruffled pansy/green-edged mauve top petals. Dark green, plain, ruffled/red back. **Large**
- †***Lyon's Victorian Valentine** (8531) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia-red star/white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, ruffled. **Large**
- †***Lyon's Wine Drops** (8532) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double wine pansy. **Variiegated** dark green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Maid in Jersey** (8598) 05/05/97 (E. Wasche) Single-semidouble pale peach-pink pansy/fuchsia-red band, white edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Marching Band** (8645) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble hot pink pansy/raspberry-red sparkle edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- ***Meteor Showers** (8533) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium blue star/pink and rose fantasy. Dark green, ovate, quilted/red back. **Large**
- †***Midnight Tease** (8534) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark wine pansy/white edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Midnight Velvet** (8535) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double dark blue star/variable near-black overlay in center. Dark green, plain, ovate/red back. **Large**
- †***Mindi's Tears** (8646) 07/18/97 (Stork/Boone) Semidouble light-medium blue two-tone pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain. **Large**
- ***Minneapolis** (8578) 01/16/97 (D. Harrington) Double light pink/red eye, variable darker pink edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- ***Mister Sun** (8596) 04/25/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble-double fuchsia large frilled star/wide

- white edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- †***Moonsilk** (8536) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white frilled pansy/random lavender two-tone blush, mottling. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- Morning Showers** (K. Stork) Single-semidouble fuchsia-pink pansy/dark blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Ms. Rosie** (8599) 05/05/97 (E. Wasche) Double dark rose large ruffled pansy/darker eye, variable black-red top petals. **Variiegated** medium green and white, pointed, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- Music Box Dancer** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double rose-pink large star/wide white shaded edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Naughty Lady** (8589) 02/22/97 (J. Swift) Semidouble medium fuchsia star/darker shading, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- †***New Attitude** (8537) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink frilled pansy/blue-fantasied light mauve stripe. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, plain, pointed, serrated. **Standard**
- †***Night Fever** (8538) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble burgundy pansy/variable darker streaks. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- Nocturne** (Volkman) Semidouble dark blue star. Dark green, round. **Standard**
- †***Officer Krupke** (8647) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double dark violet-blue pansy. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- †***Oksana** (8539) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender pansy/variable darker-tipped top petals. Medium-dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- Optimara® Bora Bora** (Holtkamp) Single burgundy/white edge. Medium green. **Large**
- Optimara® Conga** (Holtkamp) Single burgundy-purple frilled. Medium green. **Small standard**
- Optimara® Fox-trot** (Holtkamp) Single light blue/white frilled edge. Medium green. **Small standard**
- Optimara® Little Inca** (Holtkamp) Single blue. Light green. **Semiminiature**
- Optimara® Little Maya** (Holtkamp) Single red/variable white edge. Medium green. **Semiminiature**
- Optimara® Rumba** (Holtkamp) Single lilac/white eye, darker lilac band. Medium green. **Small standard**
- Optimara® Tango** (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue/white patches. Light green. **Small standard**
- Optimara® Twist** (Holtkamp) Single white frilled/purple-blue eye, edge. Medium green. **Small standard**
- ***Orchard's Blue Chip** (8480) 09/10/96 (R. Wilson) Single blue sticktite pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***Orchard's Bumble Magnet** (8479) 08/21/96 (R. Wilson) Double pink star. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Miniature**
- †***Painted Desert** (8540) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Single salmon-pink sticktite pansy/red-mauve top petals, dark red band, white edge. Medium green, plain, ovate. **Standard**
- †***Party Streamers** (8541) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double lavender-pink star/blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Pen 'n' Ink** (8648) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/dark violet-blue edge. Light-medium green, plain. **Standard**
- Peppy Blue** (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, glossy. **Semiminiature**
- Peppy Pink** (H. Pittman) Double pink. Dark green, glossy. **Miniature**
- †***Persuasive Pink** (8542) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- Petite Ruby** (H. Pittman) Double dark fuchsia. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Miniature**
- Pink Mist** (Volkman) Semidouble light pink large star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- Pink Peace** (Volkman) Semidouble rose-pink star/white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- †***Pink Playmate** (8543) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †***Pink Pussycat** (8544) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- †***Pink Satin Pillow** (8545) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink frilled pansy/blue stripe, flecks. **Variiegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- Pink Treasure** (Volkman) Semidouble dark pink star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- Planet Kid** (H. Pittman) Double pale blue/green edge. Medium green, glossy. **Miniature**
- †***Porcelain Doll** (8546) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double pale lavender star. Medium green, ovate,

- quilted. **Semiminiature**
- †***Powder Keg** (8547) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red large star/white edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Large**
- Pretty Poison** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white sparkle pansy/variable light green markings; red ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Private Dancer** (8548) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue pansy/light raspberry ruffled edge. **Variiegated** dark green, white, cream and pink, plain. **Large**
- †***Pueblo** (8649) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble coral star. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- †***Pure 'n' Innocent** (8549) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***Quiet Delights** (8487) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Semidouble plum-fuchsia two-tone sticktite ruffled star/pink-fuchsia shaded edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- ***Quiet Expressions** (8488) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble dusty rose-fuchsia wavy star/violet shaded band, white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Quiet Passion** (8489) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Double dark magenta-wine frilled star/red eye, violet-blue shading, green edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Quiet Sensations** (8490) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single dark coral sticktite star/fuchsia shading, pink ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- †***Quiet Thunder** (8491) 10/21/96 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble light fuchsia wavy star/violet fantasy, dark fuchsia edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- Raspberry Rampage** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark raspberry star/white fluted edge. **Variiegated** dark green and white, quilted/red back. **Large**
- ***Rebecca Jane** (8492) 10/21/96 (Elkin/J. Eyerdom) Single light pink large star/blue fantasy, raspberry speckled edge. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted. Sucker propagation only. **Large**
- †***Rebel's Jay Bird** (8590) 02/24/97 (R. Bann) Semidouble violet-purple two-tone ruffled pansy. **Variiegated** dark green and tan, pointed, glossy, ruffled, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***Rebel's Kelsey** (8591) 02/24/97 (R. Bann) Double rose-pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- †***Rebel's Stormy Sky** (8592) 02/24/97 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double purple ruffled star. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, plain, quilted, wavy/red back. **Large**
- †***Rebel's Watercolor Rag** (8593) 02/24/97 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble mauve two-tone star/darker band, thin white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- †***Red Lantern** (8550) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble red large star/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**
- †***Red October** (8551) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark red star. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Large**
- Retrospect** (K. Stork) Semidouble pink frilled pansy/dark blue fantasy. Medium-dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- Rhapsodie® Gloria** (Holtkamp) Double white/blue edge. Medium green. **Standard**
- Rhapsodie® Patsy** (Holtkamp) Single frilled white/blue eye. Medium green. **Standard**
- ***Rob's Boogie Woogie** (8606) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium shell pink pansy. **Crown variiegated** dark green and tan-beige, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Club Soda** (8607) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double white pansy/blue-speckled pink frosted edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Cool Fruit** (8608) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double white pansy/rose-pink edge. **Crown variiegated** medium green, white and yellow, pointed, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- †***Rob's Doohickey** (7884) 06/02/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium mauve sticktite pansy. Olive green, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Gizmo** (8609) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium pink star. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Ice Ripples** (8610) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white ruffled star/wide medium blue edge. Medium green, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Lucky Penny** (8611) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white pansy/dark blue eye, variable thin blue edge. **Variiegated** light-medium green and white, pointed, glossy. Sucker propagation only. **Miniature**

- ***Rob's Scarecrow** (8612) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double white star/peach-yellow mottling. Medium green, pointed, pebbled, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Silly Sally** (8613) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double dark pink star. **Variiegated** medium-dark green and white, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Smarty Pants** (8614) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white ruffled star/blue-speckled pink edge. Medium green, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Snake Charmer** (8615) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sparkle star. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Twinkle Blue** (8616) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue pansy. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Miniature**
- ***Rob's Whoa Nellie** (8617) 05/31/97 (R. Robinson) Double fuchsia pansy/white edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, pebbled, glossy. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rose Dust** (8600) 05/05/97 (E. Wasche) Single pink star/maroon fantasy, edge. **Variiegated** green and pink, pointed, wavy/red back. **Large**
- Rose Sails** (Volkmann) Semidouble dark rose wavy. Dark green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- Rose Victoria** (Volkmann) Double rose-pink. Dark green, round, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Royal Commotion** (8552) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue star/raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- Rozell** (Volkmann) Semidouble vivid pink ruffled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- Run for Cover** (K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark pink pansy/dark violet-blue fantasy. Dark green, quilted. **Large**
- Sapphire Kisses** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink star/rose-fuchsia blushed eye, dark blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Sassy Sister** (8553) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double dark pink pansy/green ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- †***Satin Dancer** (8554) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue cupped star. Dark green, ovate/red back. **Standard**
- †***Sequins 'n' Ribbons** (8555) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink large star/red sparkle flecks, red edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Large**
- Sharon** (Volkmann) Double dark blue star. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**
- Shattered Glass** (K. Stork) Semidouble dark pink pansy/dark blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Silent Sorceress** (8601) 05/05/97 (E. Wasche) Single coral-red large pansy/burgundy ruffled edge. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- †***Sketches** (8556) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Single chimera pink frilled pansy/blue-fantasied mauve stripe. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- Sky Diver** (S. Sorano) Semidouble light blue and white mottled ruffled pansy/variable yellow. Dark green/red back. **Standard**
- †***Smooth Sailing** (8557) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender-blue frilled pansy, shaded to white-blushed edge. Medium green, plain, wavy. **Standard**
- ***Sociable Sonny** (8635) 07/18/97 (J. Stokes) Double purple/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Miniature**
- Space Cadet** (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue pansy/pink fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green and white, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Stained Glass** (8602) 05/05/97 (E. Wasche) Single light lavender star/darker veins, light purple band, thin white edge. **Variiegated** dark green and tan, plain, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**
- †***Stargate** (8558) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble plum star/pink fantasy, lavender band, white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- †***Still Waters** (8650) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double light-medium blue pansy. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- Strawberry Wave** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink large star/variable red sparkle; wide red edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- †***Sultan** (8559) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark rose-fuchsia two-tone pansy/light wine-blushed top petals, pink-blushed white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- Summer Charm** (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose-pink/raspberry fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Semiminiature**
- †***Sunlit Velvet** (8560) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble rose-fuchsia star/pink ruffled edge. Dark green, quilted, ruffled/red back. **Standard**
- Sunset Beach** (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink pansy/crimson top petals, variable on lower petals; wide crimson band, thin green frilled

- edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- †***Sunset Ridge** (8561) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble coral-mauve pansy/variable red flecks; dark burgundy-red sparkle band, white edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- †***Sweet Cherub** (8562) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Double rose-pink star. **Variiegated** medium green, white and rose, plain, ovate, spooned, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- Sweet Talker** (S. Sorano) Single salmon-pink sticktite large fluted star/pale pink-tinged white edge. **Variiegated** dark green and white, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- Sweet Tart** (J. Swift) Semidouble light rose/darker band, white frilled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- †***Sweet Thing** (8563) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink cupped pansy. **Variiegated** medium green, white and pink, plain, pointed, glossy. **Miniature**
- †***Swing Kid** (8564) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender pansy/variable purple tips. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- Tally Ho** (H. Pittman) Semidouble medium blue. Dark green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- †***Tapestry** (8651) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble wine star/white frilled edge. **Variiegated** medium-dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy. **Standard**
- Teen Icicle** (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/blue-rayed eye. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- Teen Sunshine** (H. Pittman) Semidouble white. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- Texan** (Volkman) Double light blue wavy. Dark green. **Standard**
- Texas Space Dust** (H. Pittman) Semidouble light pink. **Variiegated** dark green and white. **Miniature**
- †***That's Show Biz** (8565) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/red sparkle fantasy marking, edge. Dark green, plain, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
- Tiffany** (Volkman) Double light pink large star. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**
- Tinsel Grape** (J. Swift) Semidouble purple star/green frilled edge. Medium green. **Standard**
- ***Tony's Jennifer** (8618) 06/16/97 (T. Hulleman) Semidouble purple frilled pansy/darker tips. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- Treasure** (Volkman) Semidouble-double lavender and plum star/green ruffled edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- †***Twist of Fate** (8566) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink star/blue stripe, fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Velvet Brocade** (K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid purple star/white edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream. **Standard**
- Verdict** (K. Stork) Semidouble lavender-purple two-tone pansy. Medium-dark green, glossy. **Standard**
- †***Victorian Elegance** (8567) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red-mauve star/pink edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- Vision** (Volkman) Semidouble-double dark purple ruffled/green-edged top petals. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- ***Watermelon Summer** (8603) 05/05/97 (E. Wasche) Double red large frilled pansy/darker eye. **Variiegated** green and white, plain, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- White Dreaming** (Volkman) Single-semidouble large white star/light pink ruffled edge. Dark green, plain, round. **Standard**
- White Ginger** (Volkman) Single white large sticktite star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- †***Wild Irish Rose** (8568) 11/09/96 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink pansy/wide green edge. **Variiegated** dark green, cream, tan and pink, pointed, wavy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- Wishful Teen** (H. Pittman) Double vivid pink. **Variiegated** dark green and white, plain. **Miniature**

LEGEND

Descriptions in this volume have been arranged to create a uniform and logical sequence for identifying, classifying, and judging plants. The format follows the manner in which the class for an entry would be determined.

BLOSSOM DESCRIPTION SEQUENCE

1. Blossom type (single, semidouble, or double)
2. Chimera
3. Color (e.g., pale lavender, hot pink, bright red)
 - a. When describing chimera color, either side of the center stripe is listed as the principle color
 - b. When color of top and lower petals differ, the lower petal color is listed as the principle color
4. Two-tone (values of one hue, not two different colors)
5. Descriptive adjectives (e.g., large, mottled, variable, sticktite, and, under certain circumstances, ruffled, frilled, or fluted)
6. Shape (e.g., pansy, star, cup, bell, wasp)
7. / denotes "with" followed by remaining features listed sequentially, from blossom center toward edge.
 - a. Center or eye
 - b. Top petals
 - c. Petal tips
 - d. Fantasy
 - e. Band (if second color, other than green, is present at edge)
 - f. Edge
 - 1) color (Note: white edge is sometimes called geneva edge)
 - 2) descriptive adjective (e.g., ruffled, frilled, fluted)

FOLIAGE DESCRIPTION SEQUENCE

1. Variegation type:
 - a. Variegated (excluding crown or mosaic)
 - b. Crown variegated
 - c. Mosaic variegated
2. Color (shade of green listed first, if variegated)
3. Shape (e.g., plain, ovate, spooned or cupped, longifolia, heart-shaped, pointed)
4. Texture (e.g., supreme, quilted, pebbled (strawberry), clackamus)
5. Surface (e.g., glossy, hairy, velvety)
6. Edge (e.g., ruffled, fluted, holly, wavy, scalloped, serrated)
7. /back color or type (e.g., /red back, /bustle back)


EXAMPLES:

* **PLANT NAME** (Registration number) Registration date (Hybridizer) Double lavender pansy/dark purple top petals, green-white frilled edge. Variegated dark green and white, pebbled, serrated.
Semiminiature

PLANT NAME (Hybridizer) Single chimera light pink sticktite star/white stripe, edge. Variegated medium green, pink and white, plain, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Standard**


AFRICAN VIOLET BLOSSOM TYPES

The variety of colors, shapes, and forms of the African violet blossom has increased over the years. Some of the more important are the following:

- 
- Bell:** Single blossoms with a bell shape.
 - Chimera:** Blossoms, with stripes that radiate from the center, pinwheel.
 - Double:** Blossoms with at least two layers of petals.
 - Fantasy:** Blossoms are splotched, streaked or rayed with contrasting color or deeper shade of the same color. The blossoms can be of any kind or shape.
 - Fringed:** Blossoms have heavily serrated or fringed outerlobes. The blossoms can be of any shape.
 - Edged:** Blossom can be any shape. Lobes of the blossoms are edged with any color.
 - Geneva or Geneva edged:** Lobes of the blossoms are edged with white.
 - Multicolor:** Blossoms with two or more colors.
 - Semidouble:** Blossoms that possess more than the standard five lobes, such as those blossoms with a crest or tuft at the center, but less than a full second row of petals. Blossoms may appear single.
 - Single:** Blossoms have five lobes, with two upper lobes that are usually smaller than the three lower ones.
 - Star:** Blossoms have five lobes of about equal size and distance from one another. The blossoms can be single, semidouble, or double. The double star has extra layers of petals but maintains the star form.
 - Two-tone:** Blossoms having two or more shades of color.
 - Wasp:** Blossoms are single and each lobe is very narrow.

AFRICAN VIOLET FOLIAGE TYPES

African violet foliage ranges in color from light green through a dark mahogany green. Markings on variegated foliage (in addition to shades of green) can be white, cream, light yellow, or rosy shades from light pink to a deep wine red. Besides color, the shape of the leaves are also distinctive. The more common foliage types are:

- 
- Compound, Wasp, Bustle, or Piggyback:** Leaves are compound with one large and two smaller lobes.
 - Girl:** Deeply scalloped leaves, usually rounded or heart-shaped with white to yellow markings at the base of each leaf. These markings can extend to the leaf blades and edges of the leaf.
 - Holly:** Heavily crested leaves with the leaf edges curled forward or bent back with exaggerated wavy edges resembling holly in form.
 - Longfolia or Spider:** Narrow pointed strap-like leaves with either plain or wavy edges.
 - Plain or Tailored:** Plain in texture and form; it is sometimes known as standard or boy type foliage.
 - Pointed:** Ends of the leaves come to a definite point.
 - Quilted:** Leaves have distinct raised areas between the veins. Some leaves have pie-crust edging.
 - Ruffled, Fringed, Wavy, or Fluted:** Leaves have serrated or ragged edges.
 - Spooned, Ovate, Cupped-up:** Leaves are concave with high edges like a spoon.
 - Supreme:** Leaves are thick, hairy, and quilted with strong pencil-like petioles.
 - Variegated:** Leaves (in addition to shades of green) can be marked with white, cream, light yellow, or rosy shades from light pink to a deep wine-red.
 - A. Variegated foliage: Defines all variegation other than two listed below.
 - B. Crown variegation
 - C. Mosaic variegation



Honey Blue Ace

Hybridized by:

H. Pittman

Semiminiature



Sinningia leucotricha

Exhibited by:

Paul Kroll

AVS of Canada

1997 National Show

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky

African Violets in the Winter

by Ruth Coulson • Australia

Growers often talk about the winter care of African violets as though that is something apart from ordinary good care of the plants. It isn't of course. African violets need the same culture all the year around and the special thing they need in winter is - to be kept warm! Just like the grower.

It has been said that African violets will be happy in home conditions that are suitable to people. We too like it warm and cozy. We should remember, however, that what seems like a warm room to us can be pretty cold after we have turned off the heating and gone to bed. We have quilts and electric blankets, but the plants don't. Fortunately many of us have relatively mild winters with which to contend, but the temperatures are still a little cold for the violets. Our plants are capable of surviving in cooler temperatures, but not happily!

Even in the warmest of houses the plants can show some signs of the wintry weather outside. They just naturally seem to know that the cold weather is upon us. And, of course, exterior walls and windows are cold areas and plants placed near them can be cold even in a heated room.

Cold drafts from open windows are another problem. While heaters can cause problems in themselves. If the plant is directly in front of a heater or receiving a blast of hot air from a circulating fan, it can become burned, the leaves growing dry and crisp.

During periods of cold dry winds, if there is heating, the indoor humidity may fall to 20-30%. This is really too low and may cause the buds to blast - that is, to dry up instead of opening. Usually moving the plant to another position is all that is required, unless your climate gives you long periods of very low humidity. Then you may have to take action to improve the conditions for the health of your violets.

What are the signs of winter? They can be easily seen in the way the African violets grow and behave.

- Plants grow more slowly.
- Plants often tend to curve downwards and are said to "hug the pot". The edges of the leaves also may curl downwards upon themselves, so that the leaves appear much smaller.
- Center leaves of the plant tend to grow more "tightly". (Don't confuse this with mite infestation which it can resemble superficially.)
- Leaves root and produce plantlets much more slowly. Rot is a fairly common problem where leaves are put down to root in cold weather.

- African violet leaves seem to become much more brittle. Since they are very easily damaged in this state it is best to avoid handling the plants unnecessarily.
- Variegated leaf types become much more variegated. Crown variegation (varieties like Rob's Silver Spook) which only affects the center of the plants becomes much more intense and beautiful (this variegation may have been totally absent in the hot weather). Tommie Lou type variegation, especially in the plants which are characterized by very heavy markings like Fisherman's Paradise, can become so intense on the new growth in the center of the plant that those leaves will be pure white. Though this can look delightful, the plant becomes just as fragile as those leaves look, since some green is necessary in the leaves in order for the plant to survive, and certainly to grow.
- Flowers are produced more sparsely, if at all.
- Flowers may not open properly, and seem rather dried up in texture. This can be a result of low humidity and cold drafts (but beware; thrips also cause this problem).
- Less water and fertilizer is used because the plant is hardly growing.
- Crown rot can attack plants when the conditions are cold and if too much water and fertilizer is given, or if the potting mix holds too much water.
- Powdery mildew can be common, especially if cold nights accompany warmish days. Strangely enough mildew occurs even when the weather is dry, so it pays to be alert and look for it at all times. Although mildew is rarely fatal to the plant, it can ruin flowers and mark leaves.
- Because the whole idea of growing things is less appealing in the cold weather and there are fewer flowers to appreciate, we tend to look at our plants less frequently, so unfortunately even mites can take hold badly before they are noticed. The problem doesn't spread so rapidly as in the heat, but still needs to be dealt with promptly.

Not all the effects of winter are bad, however-

- Flowers usually last longer.
- Colors of flowers are more intense, especially corals and pinks, white "geneva" edges to petals are more distinct and fantasies are more heavily marked.
- And of course those variegated plants are likely to look much prettier.

- Watering is less of a chore since the plants are drinking less.
- Some varieties definitely prefer the cooler weather, whether because their colors are enhanced or because they tend to become over-large and coarse in very hot weather.

So what can be done about the winter weather, or rather what can be done about protecting African violets from the winter? The simplest and most effective method (and also the most expensive) is to run heating solely for the violets. (The family may also be allowed to enjoy the warmth if they must.) If this is not for you then you might take note of some of the following tips.

- Keep your violets in the warmest position you can find that is consistent with good lighting.
- Appliances which run all the time, like water heaters, refrigerators and freezers give out heat, and may provide a warmer room.
- Remember that areas which are beautifully warm in the day, like sunrooms and verandas, can be very cold at night, and therefore not suitable unless you have only a small number of plants and choose to move them to a warmer position during the night.
- Bathrooms are suggested as good growing areas for plants. Yes, the bathroom is very warm while you are showering (I always run the heater), but even in the largest and most extravagant household bathing and showering only takes place for a limited part of the day. The rest of the time, especially during the night, the bathroom can be an exceptionally cold spot. There is also the menace of talcum powder, which seems especially attracted to the hairy leaves of African violets and does them no good at all.
- If you grow your African violets on a window sill, or in a bay window, be aware that the window glass becomes very cold on a winter's night. Never draw the curtains across, leaving your violets trapped in that refrigerator-like area between the curtain and the glass. Either provide protection by placing heavy paper or cardboard between the plants and the glass, or else move them to a warmer place overnight. This usually applies even in houses where there is good heating or reverse cycle air conditioning. The cold area at the window still exists. On really frosty nights in cold climates it has been known for plants left between the curtain and the window to suffer frost bite. They don't recover too well from this!
- Leaves under propagation, newly potted plantlets or other sensitive material can be protected in a terrarium. In reasonable conditions this could mitigate the effects of the cold completely, as well as providing extra humidity.

- If you grow your plants on a light stand you have a source of heat as well as a source of light. Run your hand along the tubes when they have been running and you will note they are warm. Feel the shelf above another set of tubes and you will feel the warmth there too. There is usually one area you can identify as warmer than the rest - that is probably directly above the ballast for the lights below. It creates quite a lot of heat. This is an ideal spot to grow plants which are especially cold sensitive.
- If you have many light stands in one room you may find so much heat is created that ventilation becomes important, rather than heating. You can harness this effect by running the lights at the coldest part of the night (I run mine from 1AM through to the requisite 10 to 12 hours). Even if you have just one light stand there will still be some benefit from this regime.
- Two strategies are often suggested to increase humidity locally around plants. Regular misting with warm water is one, and the other is sitting each plant on a saucer of wet pebbles to allow for evaporation. These may well help, but improvement may be too short lived, too localized and too easily dispersed by circulating air. More effective measures are growing numbers of plants closely together to create their own "microclimate" or using capillary mat watering or wick watering with open trays. If the water in trays or mat is regularly topped up the humidity will surely increase.
- Cold and cold drafts can be kept at bay by clever use of curtaining. This could be arranging curtains to hang close to the window behind the plants. On a light stand you might decide to hang a curtain of clear plastic down one end of the stand to deflect a cold draft, or you may decide to hang clear curtains all the way around the stand to keep the plants warm after the lights have been turned off. One grower used this method to advantage by drawing the curtains across an hour before the lights went off, and opening them again an hour after the lights came on. Even though the stand was in an area where it was exposed to cold every time the outside door was opened, the plants never got cold.

If all these tricks have failed to keep your plants from suffering from the cold, do not despair. Indoors, with some care, few African violets die of cold. When the warmer weather comes, repot those which are looking sickly and they will probably surge ahead quickly.

*Reprinted from "The African Violet",
official journal of the AV Association of Australia*



*Pinky Wink, Champagne Pink,
Rob's Sticky Wicket*

Best AVSA Mini or Semi-Miniature Collection

Exhibited By: Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

1997 BEST VARIETIES

Floyd Lawson • 1100 W. Huntington Dr. #21 • Arcadia, CA 91007

Welcome to AVSA's first "World's 25 Best African Violet" List. A bit pretentious? Maybe, but this is the listing from violet growers *around the world* sending in their lists of the twenty-five violets which were their favorites. Lists came in from four continents and eight nations. More than 700 growers submitted lists, and nearly 2,000 cultivars were included in the final tabulation. This is truly a worldwide effort and a collaboration of many people.

This is the first year we have used the number "25" for our final tabulation. Previously any and all which reached a count of 50 or more "votes" became a part of the list. Now we will yearly list the top 25 and then list the runners-up. Those in our hobby will now have a consistent listing of the fifty plants which are favorites around the world, and the twenty-five which top the list. The Honor Roll will be chosen from those which are among the top 25 for three consecutive years.

While a species will never make the Best 25, it is interesting to see which one was this year's favorite: *S. rupicola* (S 10b).

This was also the first year in which we used electronic mail extensively. Nearly 1,000 votes came in to my e-mailbox. Hopefully this will be even more useful in the years to come. I can be contacted at floydll@earthlink.net, or at my regular address, above.

Thank you to all who sent lists, I really appreciate the care with which you prepare your choices, your words of encouragement, and the challenge of being a part of the selection process. Now read on, choose a new plant for your collection, and it may be a favorite of yours next year.

Number of Votes	Name of Cultivar	Registration Number	Hybridizer
195	Irish Flirt	(7577)	S. Sorano
110	Tomahawk	(7269)	K. Stork
105	Granger's Wonderland	(3419)	Eyerdorm
104	Melodie Kimi	(8100)	Sunnyside/Levy
99	Happy Cricket	(5726)	Hollada
98	Picasso	(6924)	M. Tremblay
94	Precious Pink	(6025)	H. Pittman
91	Ode to Beauty	(7677)	Cox/B. Johnson
82	Ness' Crinkle Blue	(8136)	D. Ness
80	Mickey Mouse	n/r	H. Inpijn
78	Ness' Satin Rose	(8144)	D. Ness
67	Scandal	(7988)	S. Sorano
67	Milky Way Trail	(7169)	J. Stahl
66	Rob's Sticky Wicket	(6467)	R. Robinson
61	Amazing Grace	(2688)	Soultz
58	Optimara Rose Quartz	(6969)	Holtkamp
58	Pixie Blue	(2598)	L. Lyon
54	Harbor Blue	(6174)	T. Weber
54	Favorite Child	(7676)	Cox/B. Johnson
54	Snuggles	(5018)	L. Lyon
54	Nortex's Snowkist Haven	(6046)	B. Johnson
54	International	n/r	B. Johnson
53	Tiger	(3433)	I. Fredette
53	Little Pro	(6637)	H. Pittman
50	Nortex's Razzmatazz Haven	n/r	B. Johnson

The Runners Up

Number of Votes	Name of Cultivar	Registration Number	Hybridizer
48	The King	(2698)	M. Maas
46	French Lilac	(2844)	J. Swift
45	Splendiferous	(5813)	S. Whitaker
43	Rainbow's Quiet Riot	n/r	R. Wasmund
40	Fisherman's Paradise	(4843)	B. Sisk
40	Everdina	(5566)	Inpijn/Nadeau
40	Bertha	(6159)	B. Foster
40	Ness' Viking Maiden	(7182)	D. Ness
38	Lela Marie	(5668)	I. Lineberg
37	Dumplin'	(3931)	J. Swift
37	Falling Snow	n/r	Tracey
35	Ocean Eyes	(7780)	M. Burns
35	Blushing Ivory	(7942)	S. Sorano
34	Victorian Velvet	(7607)	S. Sorano
34	Vintage Wine	(8205)	S. Sorano
34	Powwow	(7708)	K. Stork
34	Tommie Lou	(1744)	Oden
32	Dancin' Trail	(5565)	S. Sorano
32	Optimara Little Amethyst	(6937)	Holtkamp
32	Optimara Harlequin	(6947)	Holtkamp
32	Arapahoe	(7706)	K. Stork
30	Elizabeth	(7058)	B. Bryant
30	Pat Champagne	(7084)	H. Pittman
30	Mark	(3007)	M. Maas
30	Georgia Lover	(5976)	T. Davis
30	Kiwi Dazzler	(5888)	D. Snell
30	Something Special	(3668)	R. Nadeau

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

ROZELL ROSE NURSERY & VIOLET BOUTIQUE

Welcome to Tyler, Texas, the Rose Capital of the United States. Surprised? I was too when I first visited Tyler five years ago. Today, roses are still supreme in Tyler, albeit the number of growers has declined as I learned on my latest visit last summer.

The first signs of the rose industry in Tyler are the little stands (kiosks) on the sides of the highways, in the parking lots of supermarkets or near busy intersections. The kiosks are painted in bright colors and may be manned or unmanned. The unattended kiosks operate on the honor system, and at the bargain price of only \$2.00 for a dozen fresh-cut roses, who would cheat?

The cut-rate cut roses are the by-product of an industry dating back to the late 1800s when rose growers first settled in the area. Soon other growers moved in, and by 1917 the first train car of rose bushes pulled out of Tyler.

The combined conditions of sandy soil, an average of forty-five inches of rain a year and a moderate climate made this northeast Texas city of 70,000 people a mecca for rose growers. At its peak a few years ago, some 300 growers processed millions of rose bushes every year. That number has decreased to about 25 major growers who presently utilize 800 to 1000 acres within a 30 mile radius of Tyler.

These 25 growers account for eight to ten million rose

bushes sold annually. Many of the rose growers are second and third generation residents of the area.

The processing of rose bushes is a labor-intensive job, beginning with cuttings being "stuck" in the ground. Once rooted, another branch is grafted onto the root and allowed to grow. After two years the thorny bush is dug up, pruned and packaged for shipment to a nursery or garden shop to be sold at retail.

As the rose plant grows, it produces flowers that are disbudded and sold at up to \$2.00 a dozen to passing motorists. Like our African violets, the disbudding increases the strength and rate of growth and increases flowering once it is allowed.

One of the rose processors is Billy Rozell, who, with wife Carolyn, owns and operates Rozell Rose Nursery and Violet Boutique. The business was formed after the couple married about five years ago. Roses and African violets may sound like an odd combination, but Billy had been in the rose processing business earlier and wanted to return to it. Carolyn's love and knowledge of African violets prompted her to grow them commercially. What began as a marriage of man and woman also became a marriage of two horticultural interests.

Carolyn's interest in African violets dates back to when she was seventeen years old. She was given an African violet her mother had bought at a Woolworth store on a shopping trip to Dallas. The plant was from the Volkmann Brothers Greenhouses of Dallas. "I had a great window for it to grow in. I got really enthusiastic and read and read everything I could about them. In my early twenties I joined an African violet club here in Tyler," Carolyn said.

Born with the eye of an artist and educated as an art major, Carolyn's talent is obvious in her home and in her violets. Her art work, done in various media, hangs on the walls of her home. Some are serious, but most are whimsical. Whether in acrylics, oils or water colors, her



*An unmanned kiosks near
the edge of Tyler, Texas.
This day the price was
\$2.00 a dozen.*

sense of humor spills on to the canvas with apparent ease. As a professional artist, Carolyn sold a lot of her work until the African violet business began to take so much of her time. Carolyn laments, "I miss my art so much and eventually I will get back into it." The decor of the Rozell home reflects an artist's touch with a flair for color and balance.

The violet business had a simple beginning. Carolyn told us that she "...started by selling blooming plants in 4" pots to florists and nurseries first. Then two and a half years ago I began my mail-order business." She is a regular advertiser in the African Violet Magazine.

The Violet Boutique is conveniently adjacent to the house, so, a few steps and another world of color opens up. Bench after bench of African violets, columneas, episcias, *Streptocarpus* and sinningias greeted us. Illuminated by 48" fluorescent lights and cooled by air conditioning doing battle with the hot Texas sun, electric bills are usually high.



Twelve foot long benches stacked two high contain hundreds of African Violets and other gesneriads.

Carolyn grows over 600 varieties of African violets, including the latest introductions by such well known hybridizers as Ethel Champion, Denis Croteau, J.C. and Lenora Munk, Hortense Pittman, Sandra Williams (another artist) and Ralph (Rob) Robinson. Other hybridizers such as Ruby Cox, Barbara Elkin, Dr. Jeff Smith and Bill Foster are represented in her 1997 Plant and Supply Catalog.

The current catalog is beautifully produced and lists several growing supplies in addition to the African violet plants and leaves and other gesneriads. It is available for \$2.50. See Carolyn's ad at the back of this magazine. Also, a catalog of antique and miniature roses is available from her.

Carolyn's potting soil is the commonly used 3:2:1 mix, using three parts peat moss, two parts vermiculite and one part perlite. Her preferred plant food is Volkmann's 15-30-15. When repotting or starting leaves she uses Superthrive at the rate of ten drops to a gallon of water.

Although the Rozells have never attended an AVSA national convention, they are active in the Lone Star African Violet Council and Dixie African Violet Society and a local

club in Tyler which was formed just this past February. They attend one or two nursery growers conventions every year.

The Rozells were honored recently by Walter and Henry Volkmann when they named one of their introductions "Rozell." The variety is described in the current Volkmann catalog as "Bright pink semi-double double star with ruffled edge. Medium green plain leaves." A photo shows a cluster of very pretty blooms.

Carolyn's violet room is also blessed with the busy chatter of four parakeets and one canary. Their bright colors and constant "bird-talk" make for a comfortable, feel-good atmosphere.

An employee in the rose business assists Carolyn in repotting her plants as needed. Otherwise, Carolyn keeps busy growing, grooming and shipping her plants all over this country and several foreign countries, including Sweden, England, Japan and Hong Kong. Recently a request for her catalog came from Russia.

While husband Billy is very supportive of Carolyn's Violet Boutique, he must care for his roses. Instead of the usual two years to get a rose bush to saleable size, he prefers another year to increase



Carolyn quickly and deftly repots an African Violet.

size and strength of the bush. During the three year cycle, 10,000 rose bushes are growing and being cared for at any one time on three acres. Billy sometimes takes Carolyn along when he delivers rose bushes to Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and throughout Texas.

As busy as the Rozells are, they will operate a retail nursery next spring, selling regular nursery stock, roses and African violets. Visitors are always welcome, but a phone call is suggested to make sure Carolyn will be there. The nursery and Violet Boutique are ideally located at the western edge of town on Highway 31.

Like most of the interviews, time passed too quickly. After some quick photos, we had to leave Carolyn and Billy Rozell and head for our next destination. But before we left Tyler, I made one quick stop to pick up a dozen beautiful rose buds for \$2.00 for my wife Beth, because that opportunity won't occur again until our next visit to Tyler.

I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Keith Hanson of the Texas Agriculture Extension in Tyler for information he provided on the rose processing industry.

Join us in January when we visit another AVSA commercial member for "A Closer Look."

What's In Your POTS

by Sue Gardner
Australia



POTS

The best pots for African violets will contain the shallow fibrous root system in a comfortable manner. The original plants grew in shallow depressions in rocks, so we grow our plants in shallow pots. If we use deep pots, there will be a layer of wet unused potting mix at the bottom which can develop rot or other problems.

Terra cotta pots can cause problems. They lose water through evaporation and fertilizers can accumulate around the rim damaging the petioles of plants. Wick watering is not successful in them and they are difficult to clean.

The shallow plastic pot with a rolled rim seems to be the best. It is suitable for wick watering, is inexpensive and easy to clean.

Pot size is important. The root system of an African violet usually grows to about one third of the leaf span. The depth should not exceed 10 cm. Start your tiny plants in shallow 5-7 cm pots and repot into larger ones only when the plant is large enough.

You can also keep your plants small enough to fit your shelves by pruning the roots and leaves and growing in a smaller pot.

POTTING MIX

After a lot of changes over the years, a potting mix has been developed which suits African violets grown in pots. It is a soilless mix of perlite, vermiculite and peat moss. Its purpose is to support the plant and provide a supply of air, water and fertilizer. This is similar to hydroponic growing. The roots should be able to penetrate the mix easily; soil should be kept open. If the potting mix is compacted, few spaces exist for the penetration of water and air. Air supplies oxygen for the roots of plants to do their work of absorbing water and nutrients. If the potting mix is waterlogged, no air is present and the roots cannot survive for long. The same situation can occur if the particles of the potting mix are too small as they are closer together and also hold too much water.

The potting mix is made up of the following ingredients:

1. **Perlite:** This helps keep the mix open and light. It contains some trace elements.
2. **Vermiculite:** This supplies some potassium and magnesium and holds water.
3. **Peat moss:** This holds some water and increases availability of fertilizers.
4. **Dolomite lime** is added to adjust the pH. If the potting mix has a pH of between 6.5-7, the nutrients can be absorbed by the plant.

Some people add charcoal to further aerate the mix and absorb fertilizer for use by the plant. The mix should be moistened so that it will just hold its shape when a handful is pressed into a ball.

pH is important in a potting mix. If the mix becomes too acid, all minerals except iron become less available to plants. Too much iron can be toxic. If the mix is too alkaline, nitrogen, phosphorus and many trace elements become unavailable and the plant "starves".

Slow-release fertilizers in the potting mix are not always successful as the release of the nutrients depends on external factors such as temperature, moisture content and micro-organisms in the potting mix.

ENSURING HEALTHY ROOTS

1. Provide a good porous potting mix.
2. Don't pack potting mix down hard - make sure air is present. If roots grow around edge of pot, there is not enough aeration.
3. Provide water and fertilizer - but not too much!
4. Check for pests.
5. Check roots for healthy growth - you should see fine white growing roots. Compare with a healthy plant. Provide a good environment for plant - temperature, light etc.

*Reprinted from the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.
Newsletter, Australia*

Searching for Freebies

by Jackie Jones • Durant, IA

When we begin doing flower designs for either flower shows or for our homes, we find we begin to look at "common" things with a little different attitude. We are looking for something tall and thin (line), something rough or airy (texture), something that won't overpower the flowers we have (scale and proportion).

We can go to the florist or craft store and find some dried materials that would work, but we have to buy a small bundle at probably \$4 to \$6. With a little (really a lot) preplanning we can build up a small stock of materials and have them available all the time.

When we built our present home in a new area, it became obvious that not everyone thinks alike. The neighbors with farm backgrounds bemoaned the fact that the field behind us was not mowed, while I was back in there looking for weeds to dry. (A weed is a flower growing where you don't want it.)

While on the noxious weed list in Iowa, I can use curled dock everywhere else. If you watch for this you can cut it at various stages, and the color will be different—yellow, then green, and on to light to dark shades of brown. Goldenrod dries a beautiful soft yellow (an no, it's the stuff that blooms at the same time—ragweed—that makes the sneezing). You don't need to know the names—just that they have interesting shapes and many times pods.

I dry miniature rosebuds in summer in silica gel, but have neither the patience nor the time for other blossoms. All the grasses and weeds work fine for me when I take several stocks fastened together with a rubber band and hang them upside down in an airy place. Ideally it should be a dark area, but I use what I have, and that is a corner of our garage out of the sun. It is important that there be air so they do not mildew. Some things like cattails and many other weeds can be stood upright in any type container until dry.

Okay, we don't all live in an undeveloped area, nor are we adept at walking down rural roads. Your own (or your

neighbor's) garden can present many easily dried items.

One of my favorites is blue salvia, which I grew from seed. It grows quite tall, the bees love it, it dries beautifully, and it provides nice scale and color in violet designs. Mine reseeds itself even though I cut a lot.

Another of my favorites is a type of oregano. It grows small heads, rosy in color, also is no trouble to dry, and it holds a nice color. As with many herbs it can be quite invasive, so I have a good clump from my neighbor—and if mine does not winter through, she will be *glad to share more*.

Russian sage and lavender hold their color. Yellow yarrow must be cut at the nice yellow stage to stay that way, however it paints easily with spray paint and adds much interest when black, dull red, or even pink. I now have a variety of other yarrows, but have been told they are not quite as showy when dried.

Monarda (bee balm) has an interesting pod when let dry in the garden, as does purple coneflower. Poppy pods are attractive also, and if you are worried about reseeding, just shake the seeds out into the bed after you cut them. Some irises have a nice pod.

When you begin to collect you will be surprised at how many types you can use. Even if something does not dry as pretty as you thought it would, the compost pile will be happy to have it.

If you amass more than you need, these dried items might be a good idea at the Ways and Means table. In my area I know where the pencil-sized cattails grow, and when in the car I keep an eye out for when they are ready. I also have a friend with Harry Lauder walking stick bush, which must be trimmed each year.

Cost? Zero. Time? Well...

*Reprinted from "African Violet Leaves"
publication of the Illinois AVS, Inc.*



Moon Signs & Planting Guide

Follow the MOON SIGNS for putting down leaves and suckers, planting baby plants, transplanting larger plants and killing pests...you'll be pleasantly surprised at the results! For additional information, write to: PORTER R. TEMPLE, 6221 Temple Road, Franklin, TN 37069-7138.

NOVEMBER 1997 (TIMES ARE IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

DECEMBER 1997 (TIMES ARE IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

Date and Time	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat 11:27pm	Sagit	Fire	Barren	1st
2 Sun	Sagit	Fire	Barren	1st
3 Mon	Sagit	Fire	Barren	1st
4 Tue 7:31am	Capri	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
5 Wed	Capri	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
6 Thur 1:33pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
7 Fri	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd 4:44pm
8 Sat 5:35pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
9 Sun	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
10 Mon 7:44pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
11 Tue	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
12 Wed 8:46pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
13 Thur	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
14 Fri 10:05pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	Full 9:13am
15 Sat	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
16 Sun	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
17 Mon 1:33am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
18 Tue	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
19 Wed 8:38am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
20 Thur	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
21 Fri 7:33pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th 6:58pm
22 Sat	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
23 Sun	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
24 Mon 8:29am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
25 Tue	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
26 Wed 8:43pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
27 Thur	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
28 Fri	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
29 Sat 6:28am	Sagit	Fire	Barren	New 9:14pm
30 Sun	Sagit	Fire	Barren	1st

Date and Time	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon 1:38pm	Capri	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
2 Tue	Capri	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
3 Wed 6:58pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
4 Thur	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
5 Fri 11:08pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
6 Sat	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
7 Sun	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 1:10am
8 Mon 2:25am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
9 Tue	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
10 Wed 5:01am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
11 Thur	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
12 Fri 7:36am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
13 Sat	Gemini	Air	Barren	Full 9:38pm
14 Sun 11:25am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
15 Mon	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
16 Tue 5:58pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
17 Wed	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
18 Thur	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
19 Fri 3:59am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
20 Sat	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
21 Sun 4:35pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th 4:43pm
22 Mon	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
23 Tue	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
24 Wed 5:07am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
25 Thur	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
26 Fri 3:08pm	Sagit	Fire	Barren	4th
27 Sat	Sagit	Fire	Barren	4th
28 Sun 9:49pm	Capri	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
29 Mon	Capri	Earth	Semi-fruit	New 11:57am
30 Tue	Capri	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
31 Wed 1:59am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st

THE MOON'S SIGNS

CANCER, SCORPIO and PISCES are the "water" signs and are the most fruitful. CANCER rules growth. It is very fruitful and productive and promotes healthy, fast-growing plants. SCORPIO rules the sexual and reproductive organs of plants. Plant and transplant vines and trailers. PISCES rules water-seeking in the root system, therefore develops a good root system.

For best results, use 1st and 2nd Quarters of the Moon, when the Moon is increasing or "in the light of the moon."

Bulbs, root crops and vines do best when planted in the 3rd Quarter.

TAURUS, LIBRA and CAPRICORN are "earth" signs and semi-fruitful. Good time to plant and transplant.

AQUARIUS, GEMINI and VIRGO are "air" signs, which are barren. Use these signs to destroy pests and suckers when the Moon is in the 4th Quarter.

ARIES, LEO and SAGITTARIUS are "fire" signs and the most barren. Under these signs are the time best to kill pests, especially when the Moon is in the 4th Quarter.

THE MOON'S PHASES

Everyone has seen the Moon wax and wane, growing progressively larger and smaller through a period of approximately 29 1/2 days. This circuit from New Moon, when the surface of the Moon is completely dark, to Full Moon, when it is totally lit, and back again, is called the "lunation cycle." It is the result of a relationship between the Sun, Moon and Earth. As the Moon makes one entire trip around the Earth it reflects the light of the Sun in varying degrees, depending on the angle between the Sun and Moon as viewed from Earth. During the year, the Moon will make thirteen such trips, each called a lunation.

The *first quarter* begins when the Sun and Moon are

in the same place, or conjunct. The Moon is not visible at first since it rises at the same time as the Sun. Toward the end of this phase, a silver thread can be seen just after sunset as the Moon follows the Sun to the west.

The *second quarter* begins half way between the New Moon and Full Moon, when the Sun and Moon are at right angles, or a 90 degree square to each other. This half-moon rises around noon, and sets around midnight, so it can be seen in the western sky during the first half of the night.

The *third quarter* begins with the Full Moon, when the Sun and Moon are opposite one another and the full

light of the Sun can shine on the full sphere of the Moon. The round Moon can be seen rising in the east at sunset, and then rising progressively a little later each evening.

The *fourth quarter* begins about halfway between the Full Moon and the New Moon, when the Sun and Moon are again at 90 degrees, or right angles. This decreasing Moon rises at midnight, and can be seen in the east during the last half of the night, reaching the overhead position just about as the Sun rises.

*Reprinted with permission from
"The Dixie News"*

Why Join AVSA?

1. Help in finding where to get a plant you want.
2. Access to commercial growers around the country.
3. Information on the latest developments of hybrids to be released.
4. Questions and Answers which may cover something you are asking about.
5. Keeps you up-to-date in the plant world of African violets.
6. Information on pesticides to help out with the buggy situations which sometimes occur.
7. Pictures of African violets both new and old releases which are always just beautiful.

*Alice Easter, AVSA Representative
THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF
PHILADELPHIA AVSA MEMBERSHIP &
PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEMBER*

I've grown house plants for years, including an occasional AV that would catch my eye at a chain store or the supermarket. Usually the violets wouldn't bloom a second time, despite all my coaxing and fertilizing.

About a year ago I saw the AVSA magazine at a newsstand and couldn't believe my eyes - all the wonderful articles and lists of growers offering interesting AV's and other gesneriads which are unavailable locally. I joined, sent for catalogs and growing guides, and started ordering.

I don't need to tell you that before long I had over 100 plants! As orders arrived, I ran out of window sills so I dedicated a room to gesneriads, put up shelves and lights, and moved them all into their new home. Now, after a year of TLC, I've just had to discard half of my collection because of soil mealy bug infestation - and I don't even know which of my careless actions allowed this to happen.

I thought I was being careful. Although the articles advised about sterilizing soil, I bought expensive soilless potting medium from a local nursery, figuring it was already clean. The articles warned about quarantine

of new plants, but I examined every new purchase with a magnifying lens and put it directly into the AV room if it passed my inspection. It's extremely hot here in Miami in the morning, so I would take care of the yard first and then wash my hands and take care of the AV room, but never thought about the bugs I might be carrying in there on my clothes and shoes.

Worst of all, I had accumulated 200 gesneriads - way more than I had time to care for properly. Although I regularly examined the foliage to check for problems, I never seemed to have time to repot and never thought to check the soil - until the day I saw some tiny gray things crawling around on a tray and found a strep (bought from a local nursery) that in spite of its beautiful blooms and healthy-looking foliage, was absolutely loaded with soil mealybugs. Upon checking its neighbors, I found almost every plant on that side of the room had those awful cottony masses in the soil, even though they looked so healthy.

From now on, I will follow the advice of the experts. What seemed like the easy way to do things really proved to be the hard way when I lost those little beauties.

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

by Mary Bannan
N. Miami, FL

Violets On The Web



by Pat Richards
Olathe, KS

One thing about violet growers is they like to talk about their hobby. Recently another medium for conversation has come into being: the Internet or the world wide web. Being a subscriber to America Online (for good or for bad) allows access to the African violet board, which allows messages to be posted and responded to indirectly. This is compared to "live chat" or "instant message" which allows individuals to "talk" directly to one another.

After a few months, patterns begin to develop. There are some individuals who post a lot, some intermediate "posters" and some who make a brief appearance, ask a question, and are never heard from again. There are also millions of lurkers who never make a posting, but they read avidly and learn. Naturally, those who actively participate become well known to the rest of the board. Soon, friendships develop. In most cases you eventually learn the persons "computer" name, perhaps their real name, and maybe where they live.

In early spring, AOL African violet board members began to talk of forming a club to offer a more in depth and spontaneous discussion of violets. Many of the participants were already members of local African violet societies so they knew the benefits of active exchanges. Everyone seemed to love the idea of being able to chat live . . . but the logistics of doing so presented a few unique problems.

Geography creates both problems and opportunities. Unlike our local affiliates, we had to deal with time differences because our membership comes from across the nation! So far we have had individuals from Connecticut, Maryland, Texas, California, Washington, Kansas, Oregon, New Jersey, Kentucky, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, Missouri, Georgia, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Maine, Virginia, South Carolina, and Iowa in attendance. We worked through time changes, trying to squeeze in a meeting so those on the Pacific coast could get home from work before those on the East coast went to bed. Geography also allows a spontaneous exchange of information regarding the effect of widely varying environments on our hobby. In one instance, you have someone in arid Arizona, speaking with someone in rain soaked Connecticut. There's extremely hot and humid Florida, and the widely varying temperatures of

the Midwest. We also have the distinct advantage of being able to reach violet growers who don't have access to affiliates, don't know about affiliates, or simply don't want to join an affiliate. We do promote AVSA a lot: emphasizing if you love the Board you'll love being able to learn about violets without having a mouse in hand and a monitor in your face! We're also able to clue people into commercials who sell violets and violet supplies.

The type of hierarchy most appropriate for our group merited some concern. We needed someone to lead us, and someone to put together programs, but we didn't need a treasurer (no need for dues and what are we going to spend money on?), or a secretary or a historian (our computers do it for us). Also, membership takes care of itself: we get all the publicity we need vis-a-vis the AOL African violet board. We finally decided on a Director of Operations (leader, president) who conducts meetings, gets notices out to us, maintains our website, and helps get us to meetings (technology can be a very difficult thing). Glenn Smith of Wisconsin does an absolutely extraordinary job for us in this regard. Carol Allegretti, who lives near Chicago, is our program chairman. Her task is not an easy one because the range of experience among our members varies so greatly from meeting to meeting. Also note, we must be careful because we can't use visual aids, or have hands-on learning experiences! So far we've discussed trailers, general culture several times, our favorite plants, types of violets, violets books and the AVSA convention.

Meetings are another matter. We begin with 30 minutes of basic chat immediately preceding the formal meeting. Here we discuss problems, compare environmental conditions, and cultural dilemmas. New purchases are always a hot topic. Sharing information is the key, and as Carol puts it, "It's current, timely and supportive." Imagine being able to talk only as fast as you can type. And you can never tell when someone is going to say (type) something, so often the conversation overlaps, and simultaneous conversation threads are going on at the same time. We're often just like we are at affiliate meetings, so anxious to talk to each other and exchange news that it can become difficult to follow what's

being discussed.

Then we move into the formal meeting. Business comes first, and there's very little of it! Then we have our program. The speaker usually types using all capital letters so it's easier to follow them. When someone has a question, they will type in three question marks "???" to let the speaker know. When something is meant to be funny, because we can't hear the tone it's said in, or see their face, the speaker will add something to indicate the tone: "LOL" (laugh out loud), "VBG" (very big grin), "(:)" and "ROFL" (roll on the floor laughing). Something sad can be indicated as such: ":((" . When there's a pause awaiting a response, someone may type in "We're all eyes" When voting, there's the temptation to say, "all in favor, raise your mouse." After the formal program, there is more live chat, where members drop off, one by one, either to go to bed or to eat supper.

Another big difference is we're thoroughly unable to have a show! We have discussed posting photographs of our plants once a year, but again, technology presents a problem. Personally, I believe this is a blessing in disguise because it removes the competition and the exhaustion that comes from shows. And again, because there's no need for money, we don't need the profits that would come from the sale associated with the show.

We have finally decided on how to handle our project plant dilemma. We knew up front the benefits that could arise from having growers all over the nation growing the same plant and having the results and observations

immediately available to everyone, but again, logistics was a problem. Shipping dates are hardly universal: too hot and too cold is prevalent around the country during most months. We have decided October is perfect for almost everyone, though. We will be shipped two mystery leaves. We'll then compare how quickly the plantlets come up, when they're potted up, first bloom and when we get a nice, mature plant, all of this done comparing our widely varying conditions.

Affiliation with AVSA also presents unique problems: where could we be listed in the current geographic listing to let everyone know about us? Thank goodness an Internet Committee has been formed and Lynn Lombard has taken up the cause. Also, several of us were able to meet at the St. Pete convention. It was wonderful! At first, you couldn't find the right words to say and felt the odd sensation of wanting to TYPE something, but once the awkwardness wore off, the spoken words began to flow. It was as if you'd found a long lost friend.

We still talk on the Board, but our live meetings are special, just as when local affiliates meet. If you're interested in accessing our website maintained by our "Director of Operations", Glenn Smith, go to <http://members.aol.com/pbxbaker02/avclub-index.html>. There are links to many violet related websites, including AVSA, meeting transcripts, and a notice of the next meeting. Remember our purpose: to bring people together from all over the world to chat and learn about the plant we love . . . African violets. We hope to chat with you soon!

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS LEAF PROJECT

by Adelle Johnson, Norridge, IL

The AVS of Northern IL, Inc., conducted a leaf project that proved quite interesting. Each member was given three leaves of the same variety. These came from a club member who grows large plants and had decided it was time to reduce them in size. The following explains our procedure using 5 oz solo cups in which to plant the leaves, and 5 oz. clear plastic party tumblers for the tops, creating a mini greenhouse.

1. Write name of AV variety and date on each cup.
2. Fill each cup with moist vermiculite.
3. Trim off top of each leaf.
4. Plant each leaf in a cup.
5. Place one cup on a window sill with NO top.

6. Place second cup, with a plastic top (greenhouse), on a window sill.
7. Place open cup under plant lights with NO top.
8. Each member is to record on the cup, the date the leaf appears rooted (a slight tug will tell).
9. Each member is to record on the cup, the date the first plantlet is observed.

The object is to see how fast a root and a plantlet will take to develop using these three growing methods. Project plants were returned to the club meeting three months later to compare the results. Prizes were given for the earliest date of rooting and the date the first plantlet appeared. This was a hands-on project for most of our members, which we all agree was most interesting.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US!

by Jackie Jones • AVSA Library Chair

WE WANT YOU TO. Not something you hear everyday. But the AVSA Library wants to get the message to all our members.

Affiliate clubs have known for a long time that the Library is a good source for program materials. But do you know that ANY member may rent the slide programs and videos for their personal use also? All that is needed is a request mailed to the AVSA office with the rental fee and date you would like and the staff goes into action.

Because we are aware that there are many members of AVSA who do not belong to a club and are eager to grow their African violets to their very best, we have added some videos that are aimed mainly to this audience.

“Teaching the Tricks” is a great one for the inexperienced grower wanting to start new plants and wanting basic tips. This is also a good “how to” for an educational display at your local show.

“Growing Beautiful African Violet Trailers” helps the grower that is expanding his collection and needs to understand how to care for the different growth pattern of trailers.

“From Rags to Riches” is a real goody to answer those questions the novice grower has when his plant

starts looking like a bush or “my bottom leaves are all dying”. Another good one for a show display.

“Propagating Your Posies” caught me off guard. Here is a young grower using the water method for leaves that we “seniors” read about when we began – and it produces prize winning entries for her. Believe me as I have judged the results! This video also shows starting *Streptocarpus* leaves and starting chimeras from bloom stocks. Your club members will get a kick out of this one.

The convention slide programs for the current year are always popular and this year we have an addition - The AVS of Canada has shared a slide program of their '97 convention show. This is truly lovely and displays some varieties that we have not had at our American conventions. After you see this program I will be looking for some of them in future shows.

So members, if you are too far from a club think about sending for a video and have a few friends in to share or just for you (dare I say ‘when Monday Night Football is on’?). These would be great if you work with a small group of youngsters - Girl Scouts, etc. or need a program for your local garden club or your senior center.

Some things are just meant to be taken advantage of!

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title African Violet Magazine	2. Publication Number 0091020	3. Filing Date September 24, 1997
4. Issue Frequency Bi-Monthly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 6	6. Annual Subscription Price \$18.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) 2375 North St., Beaumont, (Jefferson), Texas 77702-1722		Contact Person C. Chatelein Telephone (409) 839-4725
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 2375 North St., Beaumont, (Jefferson), Texas 77702-1722		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) The African Violet Society of America, Inc. 2375 North St. Beaumont, TX 77702-1722 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Ruth Rumsey 2375 North St. Beaumont, TX 77702-1722 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Not Applicable		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name: The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Complete Mailing Address: 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702-1722		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Full Name: Complete Mailing Address:		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		

PS Form 3526, September 1995 (See Instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title African Violet Magazine	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below September 1997	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	10,367	10,000
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	131	165
(1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not mailed)		
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof copies and exchange copies)	9,562	9,435
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))	9,693	9,600
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)	163	105
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	10	5
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	173	110
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	9,866	9,710
h. Copies not Distributed		
(1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	432	290
(2) Returns from News Agents	69	0
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))	10,367	10,000
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c/15g x 100)	100	100
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the November 1997 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.		
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Cynthia Chatelein AVSA OFFICE MANAGER	Date 9-24-1997	
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).		
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5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.		
6. Item 17 must be signed.		
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True Blue African Violets

by Peggy Payne • Hallsville, MO

I have been growing African violets for about thirty years. I have been a member of a local club for sixteen years and a member of AVSA for twenty years. Before I became interested in growing African violets, I observed my mother growing them.

I have been growing them long enough to see fads and fashions in African violets come and go - fantasies, yellows and blends. I once rushed to a Mid-Missouri commercial grower to buy the newest introductions as soon as they were available. Each time, I would bring home a dozen or so violets.

I look at my plants today and wonder where those plants are. They are no longer part of my collection. There are some that I would love to grow again, but I don't rush to buy the newest plants any more. I tend to buy the Best Introductions from the previous year, and I keep a lot of the older varieties on my plant stands. They are proven plants, genetically stable, and distinctive.

Presently, I am re-acquiring plants that were old favorites. Among them are Fredette's 'Tiger', Fredette's 'Alouette', 'Granger's Heart's Desire', 'Granger's Wonderland', and 'Lullaby'. All are on the AVSA Honor Roll.

I like plants that I can look at and say, "Oh, I know who you are!"

'Lullaby' is certainly one of these. The flower is distinctive and it is still a good show plant. I would suggest that if you have a 'Lullaby', hang onto it. It is a hard plant to find now, but it does propagate true from leaves.

'Splendiferous' is another true propagating older plant.

I also have several Optimaras. I think they are programmed to grow fast and bloom young, and have been award winners. These are generally good plants for beginners because they are hardy and have been grown and tested for a long period of time.

Recently, I acquired some of the Ultra Violets which are available in supermarkets. They have recently been registered and are good heavy-blooming African violets.

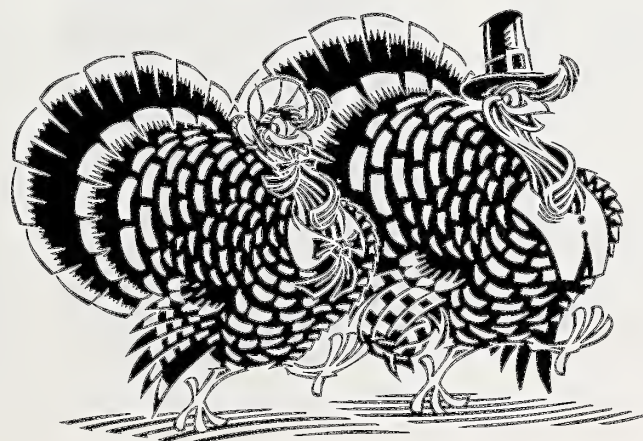
Many of our hybridizers are putting out good, new plants. Among the newer introductions, the Rebel series from Ruth Bann are heavy bloomers, and they bloom young.

Of the variegates, I truly think no one did it better than Barbara Sisk or Winston Smith with his Wrangler series.

For a time, everyone wanted fantasies. I have my own favorites, but have been disappointed in the past that many of the fantasy African violets are not stable.

There are many good older small plants. I've always enjoyed 'Irish Angel' and 'Irish Flirt', as well as 'Beginner's Luck', 'Snuggles', and 'Precious Pink'. Of the newer plants, I like almost anything by the Ness' or Rob.

If a plant does well for you, keep it, whether it's old or new. Check the AVSA Honor Roll, read the Commercial lists and catalogues, and attend shows. Look at the plants and talk to the growers. They love to talk violets! Then, select the plants you like and start your own list of "true blue African violets"!



Members



Bessie Pyle (L) and Pat Webber, Delaware AVS



Lucinne Lemieux (L) with her Best In Show 'Picasso' and Rosanne Blackburn, founder of Les Violettes Saguenéennes, Quebec, Canada



Mary Gregory, South Coast AVS, CA, Best Standard 'Mary Craig' Best In Show 'Shy Blue'



Cincinnati AVS Winners (L-R) Penny Wichman, Heather Herzner and Jeanette Martin



Onalee McEwen, NASA Area AVS, Best In Show 'Champagne Pink'



Phyllis King with Best In Show, 'The Alps', AV Council of Florida



Madeline Gallaway (L) and Jean Patterson, Topeka AVS, Topeka, KS. Each Jack-O-Lantern is planted with an AV starter plant



Lyn Sweeny, Carlsbad AVS, CA, Best In Show 'Favorite Child'



Iona Pair, first AVSA Judging School Teacher in Tennessee.

MY African Violet BUDDY

In 1943, I was a six year old girl with no understanding of the war that raged across the ocean in Europe. My father was an architectural student by day, a clerk by night, and my mother was a homemaker. We lived in the same town as my paternal grandmother, and I had been cautioned repeatedly, by both parents, not to touch the treasured African violet plants that filled many window sills and table tops in several rooms of Gram's house.

My world changed dramatically that year when Daddy, who had always had a passion for airplanes, enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Mother and I moved into Gram's house, and soon Mother was doing her part to help the war effort, joining the thousands of other women working in the factories.

I became Gram's responsibility as Mother often worked 12-14 hour days. I was still fascinated by Gram's African violets, and very surprised when she told me that it was alright to touch them. The beautiful blossoms seemed to look up at me and the sturdy leaves didn't mind at all when I petted their furry surfaces.

Daddy came home briefly, then shipped out to Europe, part of the Eighth Air Force stationed in England. He was a B-17 navigator and in his letters told us how he truly loved the "Flying Fortresses".

Mother, Gram and I shared his treasured letters, reading them over and over. Mother worked so hard, often falling asleep in her chair at the dinner table. I missed Daddy terribly, and Gram, knowing that I needed a diversion, decided that I would grow an African violet of my own. I still remember watching in awe as she removed a leaf from a plant she said was my father's favorite. Together we planted it in a special pot. I checked it everyday, waiting for the magic to happen. How excited I was when, at last, two tiny baby plants appeared! As they grew, Gram let me assist her in caring for her many African violets.

She wanted me to learn, so I would be able to care for my own small plant when it was ready to be transplanted. Later, when that glorious day came, I carefully helped Gram remove it from the mother leaf, placing it in its own pot.

"I'm going to call it Buddy," I said, for that was my father's name. "When he comes home, I'm going to share it with him."

I diligently watched my 'Buddy' grow, trying not to touch it too much. I still helped Gram with the care of her plants, and we were in the midst of repotting when the telegram came.

Daddy's B-17 had been shot down over Holland, and

he and the rest of the crew were now listed as "Missing In Action". Mother and Gram were devastated, but they clung to the hope that he was still alive.

My 'Buddy' plant became a dear companion, a confidant. I spent a little of each day sharing my secret thoughts and fears with my plant, pretending that Daddy could hear me.

We had no news of my father for a long time, although we did get calls and letters from the War Department. That year, I watched my plant grow into a full-sized African violet. I thrilled to see the buds develop and it was a minor celebration each time another of the lovely blossoms opened.

When we did receive news of my father, it came in the form of a small photograph of a letter from the War Department. An Allied radio broadcast had been picked up, and Daddy was listed as a Prisoner of War, a patient in a German hospital, soon to be transferred to a POW Camp in Germany. Mother and Gram were SO happy! He was a prisoner, but he was alive! Time passed slowly for us, with me counting each blossom 'Buddy' produced, and carefully dusting each leaf.

Then, came the good news that the war was over! Our American troops began returning home. My father called us from New York one morning, and two days later, he was home. After his call, I had carefully groomed my 'Buddy', hoping Daddy would be pleased by my efforts.

It was a real celebration for several days at our house, with friends coming by and relatives calling from all over the country. The first time Daddy and I had any time alone, I showed him my special African violet plant and told him how I had confided in my 'Buddy' all the things I wished I could have shared with him. He told me that he knew I had been thinking about him, and that thoughts of me had helped him stay safe.

We stayed on at Gram's house after the war. My father thought about becoming a commercial pilot, but instead finished school and owned several small planes later in life. My mother had discovered that she liked working out of the home and went back to school. Gram died years later and left her massive African violet collection to me.

More than fifty years have passed since my first violet days, but I never fail to think of Gram when I work on my several hundred plants. In a few days, my own granddaughter will be coming to spend some time with me. I think it's time she started an African violet of her own. A leaf from a distant grandchild of my 'Buddy' should do nicely.

African Violet Holiday Centerpiece

by Joyce Stenger • Houston, TX

The holidays are a wonderful time of year to show off your leftover show plants. A display of gorgeous African violet plants with seasonal trappings can be the talk of your table for sit-down dinners or casual buffets.

Materials:

- Wooden base about 12" X 18"
- Florist clay or hot glue gun, with glue
- Three candle holders for tapers
- Oblong mesh holder or needle frog
- Flexible florist wire and stakes
- Florist tape
- Cutters for wire and stakes

Decide now if your arrangement is to be used for an Autumn (Thanksgiving) event or the Winter (Christmas) holidays. This decision determines the material and colors needed for your holiday centerpiece.

For the Autumn Centerpiece gather these items:

- 3 thin yellow or orange candles
- 3 African violet plants with white, yellow, or coral blossoms. (The best size to use is semiminiature or small standard.)
- 10 small cattails
- 4 large bunches of red grapes
- 6 small bunches of white grapes
- 24 colorful oak leaves in red, green, yellow and orange
- 12 marigold or button mums

For the Winter Centerpiece gather these items:

- 3 thin red or dark green candles
- 3 African violet plants with white, red/white stripe or dark red blossoms. (The best size to use is semiminiature or small standard.)
- 10 small branches of pine needles
- 4 large pine cones
- 6 small pine cones in 2 bunches
- 24 small branches of holly with red berries
- 12 baby carnations in white, red, or striped and white

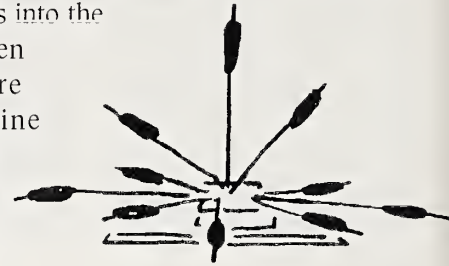
Step 1

Use the wooden base as an anchor for the mesh holder or needle frog. Affix the holder/frog in the center of the wooden base with florist clay or glue from the hot glue gun.



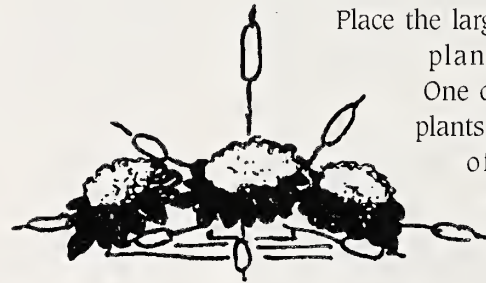
Step 2

Place the cattails (Autumn) or the pine needles (Winter) upwards and outward from the center by pushing these stems *into* the holder/frog. The seven lower items that are inserted (cattails/pine needles) should reach beyond the edge of the base. (If the material is not long enough, wind florist wire around a stake then to the stem. Twist wire and cut off. Cover with florist tape.) Repeat as needed for each item used.



Step 3

Place the largest African violet plant in the center. One of the two smaller plants goes on each side of this one. To secure the plants in place, wire or hot glue a slip-pot to the base then slip the potted plant into it. The African violets can be removed for watering or grooming.



Step 4

Wire the four large bunches of red grapes (or four large pine cones) to the right and left sides of the center African violet, in front and in back of the centerpiece.



Wire two of the six small bunches of white grapes (or small pine cones) on each side of the African violet on the right and do the same on the left. Put the final small bunch of white grapes (or small pine cones) between the large bunches of red grapes (or large pine cones) in the front and back of the centerpiece as filler for the arrangement.

Step 5

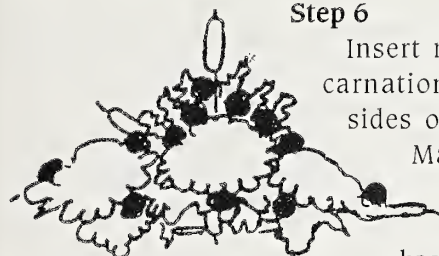
Insert oak leaves (or holly with berries) wherever there is an open space in the arrangement. Turn the design from the side to establish balance with this filler material.



Step 6

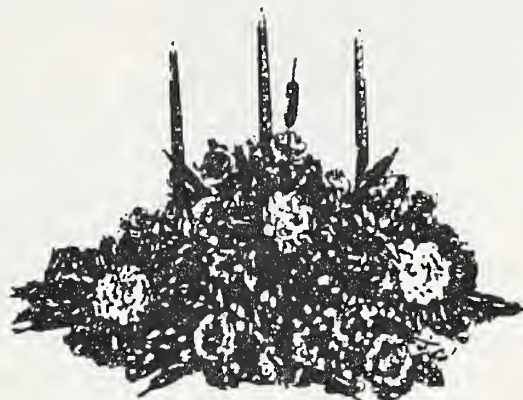
Insert marigolds (or small carnations) balancing both sides of the arrangement.

Make adjustments to material so that the arrangement has a "tucked in" look to



it. Now, carefully place the thin candles in the holders.

Now you have a lovely arrangement completed in the traditional style that is sure to please your family and guests.



Looking Back ... 1951 ...

AVSA Famous Firsts

First AVSA Life Member: Mrs. J.E. Mackey

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., honored Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey of Alhambra, CA, founder and President of the chapter with a Life Membership in the AVSA at their regular meeting on November 14, 1951.

Mrs. Mackey was honored for her work in organizing the local chapter and serving as its President. At this time, Mrs. Mackey was Regional Councilor for the Pacific Coast of AVSA, and was acknowledged for organizing several chapters in this area and as far north as Portland, OR.

First AVSA Judging School:

Memphis and Shelby County AV Society

"When I took over the presidency of the Memphis and Shelby County AVS," reported **Ruby Ward**, of Tennessee, "I realized that I had many responsibilities. The biggest of all was planning our annual African Violet Show. We had two shows previously, and oh, what confusion there was on the day of the show! Classification Chairman, Schedule Chairman, and Entry Chairman all in a huddle with the General Chairman.

"I realized that we were new and had many things to learn, but we could not take too long to learn, and surely not the trial and error way! We had Nationally Accredited Flower Show Schools, (I was a Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judge), but I certainly did not feel qualified to meet all the situations that arose.

"Judges were hard to secure and when they did come, they said they did not know the names of the

violets, or what merits they were to be judged on...as you know, ANYONE who grows African violets resents a plant getting a blue ribbon that is not a good horticultural specimen; if it doesn't have symmetry, luxurious foliage and flowers according to variety. So with a membership of 300 I knew something had to be done immediately.

"I wrote Alma Wright (AVSA President 1949-50 and AVM Editor 1947-63) and asked her if there was anyone available who could come to us and instruct us on how to put on an African violet show, and how we could find qualified judges.

"Mrs. Wright replied that such a course was under way, and she thought that within six months they would be available for the clubs. In January of 1951 I purchased a little booklet, "African Violet Handbook on Judging", by Mrs. James (Ruth) Carey. I studied the book religiously, and one day decided to call Mrs. Carey and ask if she could help us acquire this desired information. In just a few days a reply came from Mrs. Carey saying "Yes", she could give us this course!

"Immediately, plans were under way, and on October 25th we had our African Violet Judging School.

"I thought we were the first club in Western Tennessee to have such a school, but imagine my surprise when Mrs. Carey said we were the first in the United States! Thirteen of our ladies took the examination and many more sat in on the lecture. Last year we had approximately 20,000 visit our show and this year we will be ready with a smile of confidence to welcome twice that many."

AVSA and Today's Technologies

by John Carter
AVSA Technology Committee



The Technology Committee has completed the evaluation, selection, purchase and installation of new computing equipment in the Beaumont office. The staff will be getting familiar with them as the committee now focuses on identification and selection of the computing software which can best maintain the membership records of our organization. We have found there is a large selection of software available and it is expensive. We have a challenge to find the best value for AVSA.

A big challenge in converting to a new membership system will be the conversion of the existing membership data to the new system. This will be a carefully planned process but there is always the chance that a name can get dropped or a date changed that should not have. If you feel that an error may have been made with your renewal or subscription do not hesitate to call the office. You will see some changes in the invoices and member renewal notices you receive from AVSA as a new system is implemented. The old system will be kept in place for a period of time as a

source to verify the data in the new system.

The Technology Committee also assisted in the selection and replacement of the fax machine used in the office. The office is now using a plain paper fax which produces much better images. The machine has the ability to store images in memory which reduces the time the machine must connect and transmit or receive images. This will result in lower costs in addition to having better quality documents to work with.

I have not received any response so far to my request for information about computing software used by councils or clubs so there is no information to share at this time. This will be an ongoing project so if you have computing software you are willing to share let me know about it. If your club or council has a need for computing software for your show or convention let me know also. You may send your information or request to John Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, Texas, 77094-3412 or you may email your request/information to JTCarter@worldnet.att.net.

**Upgrading the
Computer System
in the
AVSA National
Office**

The computer system in the Beaumont, Texas office is now outdated. Fortunately the Board of Directors has made the replacement of this system a priority. To help defray the costs of such an important office system, please send your contributions to the

**AVSA Booster Fund
Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057**

Correction to September 1997 Shows and Judges Column page 22, first column, listing changes in the scale of points "Quality of blooms" should read "Quantity of blooms"

My Amazing African Violet Adventure

by Linda Colborn • Sebring, FL

Back in February of this year, I decided to contact the local african violet society, near Sebring, Florida. I wanted to display my African violet stamps at a meeting and hopefully to take some orders. Well, what ensued was an experience of a lifetime!

I had seen the announcement in our newspaper for the African Violet Society meeting and called the number listed for information. I contacted Shirley Berger and found out that she is a member of the AVSA Booster Committee. She invited me to bring one of my violet stamps over to show to her and told me of an African Violet Convention scheduled for June 1997, at the TradeWinds Hotel in St. Pete Beach.

I also contacted with Booster Fund Chairman, Bill Lyons who recommended that I join the AVSA as a Commercial Member. Next, I contacted Charles Wells, the Commercial Sales and Exhibits Chairman.

If you haven't seen one of my 3-D creations with postage stamps, try hard to image the stamp layered twice, then each blossom put on individually, making a very realistic African violet plant. Pictures do not do my postage stamps justice, as the layered look is lost to the camera.

My contact with the African Violet Society through a small newspaper notice opened a whole world of opportunity. I had never set up a display table for any type of convention. I just didn't know what to expect. The more "violet people" that I spoke with, the more I realized what hard working, dedicated folks belong to this society. Each one that I had dealings with were very friendly and encouraging and they helped me make up my mind. I was going to St. Petersburg in June.

I sent my completed application to the Commercial Sales Director along with checks for membership in AVSA, registration for the convention and space rental in the Commercial Sales Room.

I was a little apprehensive of this new experience, and

hoped I hadn't made a mistake. Right after I opened my table for sales, Alyce Droege, of Florals of Frederick's came by and purchased 3 of the African violet stamps. That was just the beginning. She has since accepted some of my violet stamps and a couple of the valentine stamps for sale in her store. My table was next to Barbara and John Cook, from Cape Cod Violetry. They were most helpful in breaking me in and also very encouraging. (They also bought one of my violet stamps.) Directly behind me were Kathryn and Bill Paauwe, Violets by Appointment, from West Sayville, NY. I know that the Commercial Sellers are there as extensions of their business, but the comradeship that is enjoyed with each other is also amazing. Never did I have the feeling that I was the "new kid on the block".

Within the first hour of selling I sold so many of my creations! What a joy! This meant that I could sit back and let the stamps sell themselves. By this time I actually had a sales pitch, "Have you seen MY African violets?"

When I called my husband, Richard, he was impressed and said we should look for another convention real soon. By the end of the third day, I had sold more of my stamp creations than I had at any other time. On Saturday, during a luncheon break, I decided to visit the showroom and observe some of the other activities outside of the salesroom.

When I entered the showroom, I could not believe my eyes. A rainbow of color that I cannot describe.

I met many wonderful and interesting people on my violet venture, and learned what a powerful little plant this African violet is.

Oh, and something else really nice happened! I won one of the raffles! One dozen African violet leaves from Shirley's House of Violets, in Texas!

What a joy my African violet stamps have brought to my life. And, guess who is now learning to grow real ones?



CHEMICAL SAFETY AND THE BUGS THAT BUG US

by Betty Tapping • Canada

Thanks to Canadian Government regulations, few products that we purchase for use in the home are highly dangerous when handled properly. They may however be hazardous to your health and the health of others if improperly used, stored or carelessly disposed of. Thanks again to Government regulations you can tell the toxicity of each **if used as directed on the label.**

Most people growing gesneriads in the home worry about safety when using certain sprays or drenches. The variety of chemicals entering our environment is a major concern, and it behooves us to think seriously about just how poisonous they are.

First : The bugs that bug us and the fungal diseases that frustrate us.

Blossom Thrips: These tiny light colored insects can easily be located in the blossom. First telltale sign is spilled pollen on petals, especially noticeable on dark blossoms. They spread rapidly and are difficult to eradicate. They have a life cycle of five weeks and since they feed on pollen, it helps to disbud your plants for a period of eight weeks, spraying weekly for at least six of those weeks. Contact sprays like pyrethrum are only effective if sprayed directly on the insects.

Cyclamen Mite: Mites which are not visible to the naked eye but can be seen with a magnifying glass. Center of plant will become gray, brittle, hairy and tight. Blossoms do not open properly and stems are thick and misshapen. Mites spread rapidly through an African violet collection, destroying it in a short time. They are usually brought in on infected plants. Destroy all infected plants, and carefully watch for signs of trouble on plants close by. They are so tiny they can be transported in a current of air. Do not attempt to start new plants from the leaves, unless you wash very thoroughly in soapy water. Treatment with Kelthane or Cygon 2E, both of which are highly toxic, is possible but risky.

Fungus Gnats: Tiny flies often times brought with the peat moss. They seem to be quite harmless - but hard to explain to visiting friends, who won't appreciate them flying around while they have a cup of tea or coffee. Use pyrethrum or any house and garden spray (Raid etc.)

Foliar Mealy Bugs: White fluffy masses will appear in the leaf axils and leaves of your plant. These pests spread rapidly through a plant collection, so ensure new plants are clean. Play it safe and isolate. Touching each bug with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol will work if the infestation is light. Heavy infestations must be treated with a pesticide.

Soil Mealy Bugs: Tiny bugs with a waxy white appearance, which may be mistaken for perlite - except they move when prodded. They feed on the fine roots. An infected plant may look normal for a long time, so unless you are observant enough to see the floating in the saucer after you have watered, you may be surprised when suddenly the plant shows signs of stress, wilts and dies. They can travel from one pot to the other, or you may accidentally transfer the problem while working on your plants. Destroy badly infected plants, or remove from pot, wash the root ball and repot in fresh soil. Always use sterilized soil or include systemic granules in the mix.

Spider Mites: These reddish brown mites can be easily seen, scurrying around on the plant, leaving silky webs in and around the leaves. You can use a pyrethrum or any house and garden spray.

Springtails: You will notice these jumping around after a watering; tiny white insects on the soil and trays. They are a nuisance but seemingly not harmful, feeding only on decaying organic matter. To rid a pot of them, simply place moth flakes or crystals in the saucer, and water as usual. Use sterilized soil.

White Flies: Tiny white flies that enjoy making a home in your gesneriad collection - but don't seem to like the hairy leaves of *Saintpaulia*. You may use a house and garden spray

Botrytis: A gray mold that mainly affects the crown of a plant. It is transmitted by airborne spores which may be triggered by rapid changes in temperature. Dust with a fungicide or use sublimed sulphur (flowers of sulphur) which may be available at your pharmacy.

Mildew: Similar to Botrytis but appears as a white powdery substance on blossoms, stems and

leaves. Caused by high humidity, lack of ventilation, or sudden drop in temperature. Easily spread to neighboring plants. Remove infected blossoms and stems, supply good ventilation in the plant room and dust with a commercial fungicide, and/or flowers of sulphur. Open saucers of sulphur placed in your growing trays will also act as a deterrent.

Now a word of caution about products we may use at one time or another for our plant afflictions - and problems associated with the 'cures.'

Fungicides

Sulphur: (Flowers of sulphur, Sublime Sulphur): A wettable powder used for control of powdery mildew. Toxicity - Safe for man but may be toxic to certain plants.

Benomyl: (Systemic) A wettable powder with a wide spectrum of uses in stem rot, leaf spot, powdery mildew and botrytis. Toxicity - May irritate skin, eyes and airways. Do not inhale or ingest. Avoid contact with skin or eyes.

Ferbam: A powder, useful in the prevention of stem rot, mildew, botrytis. Toxicity - Avoid contact with skin. Irritates skin and mucosa of the mouth and throat. May damage kidneys if ingested.

Captan: A wettable powder that has a broad spectrum of action against damping off, stem rot, and botrytis. Toxicity - Irritates skin and eyes. Large doses cause vomiting and diarrhea and can increase incidence of cancer.

Insecticides

Malathion: Has a broad spectrum of action against thrips, scale insects, red spider mites. After dilution with water it becomes a milky suspension. Toxicity - Do not inhale or ingest. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. High dose exposure can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and increased salivation.

Cygon 2E: A milky suspension that fights infestations of white flies, scale insects, cyclamen mites and red spider mites. Toxicity - Same as Malathion but much more severe and longer lasting.

Kelthane: (Dicofol) A contact insecticide used to eradicate cyclamen mite. Toxicity - Inflammable. Do not use while smoking or near an open flame. May cause skin irritation. Avoid contact with the eyes or skin. Do not ingest.

Pyrethrum: An oily liquid, soluble in alcohol but insoluble in water. Used to battle aphids, mites, thrips.

Acts synergistically with piperonyl butoxide. Together their killing power is greater than the sum of each alone. A contact insecticide. Toxicity - Safe for man but not for fish and birds. Although one of the safest insecticides, but has allergenic properties in a few susceptible individuals.

Rotenone: A contact insecticide, derived from Derris root and used in the fight against thrips, white flies and red spider mites. Toxicity - Paralyzes fish. Do not ingest or inhale.

Now, to try to bring all of this into perspective, let's make a comparison with a few items we normally use around the home. For instance: Aspirin is more toxic than half the chemicals listed.

Salt is more toxic than any of the fungicides such as Captan and Ferbam. Mothballs are toxic. Some organic products are more toxic than man-made chemicals. Generally fungicides are less toxic than insecticides.

Cautionary reminders

Most chemicals are toxic to some degree, and every one should be handled with the greatest respect. Buy only what you need and utilize every ounce of each product. We are responsible for wise choices, not only insofar as product usage, but also their disposal. None should be discarded into sewage, because they contribute to the contamination of natural resource and water supplies.

Most municipalities have Household Hazardous Waste Collection programs. If yours doesn't have such a program you may still be able to seek advice from municipal authorities concerning disposal.

In order to lessen dependency chemicals, buy only disease free plants from reputable growers.

Keep your growing area meticulously clean and provide good air. Soil borne organisms may be eliminated or at least controlled by pasteurization of soil. (Place one pound of soil in microwave for 2 minutes). Isolate plants for at least two months. Be sure they are disease and insect free before integrating into your collection. Confirm that you really have a problem before using anything.

Use natural, less toxic products alternatives when possible. For instance, at first sign of a problem, **isolate the plant** and spray with insecticidal soap or a homemade soap solution.

Don't hesitate to throw out a plant with a major problem - You may be doing yourself and the environment a big favor!

*Reprinted from "Chatter",
publication of the AVS of Canada*

Vive la

Variegated African Violets!

by A. M. Brooks

Variegated African violets, one of the most popular types of violets, are the result of spontaneous mutation. African violets are a highly variable group - it is this characteristic that has given us double, fringed, banded, and striped blossoms, as well as a multitude of leaf forms.

Variegated African violets include all violets whose leaves show a pattern of green and cream/pink/tan/yellow as the contrast color. The variegation can be evenly spread across the leaf, a band around the edges, or flow from the crown.

Variegation is a spontaneous mutation that may be either genetically linked or linked to growth conditions. Variegated African violets are not caused by virus-infected plants; instead, variegation is bred into the violets. That is why hybridizers are reminded to use a variegated violet for the pod parent in order to produce variegated offspring. However, the genetically linked variegation remains sensitive to cultural factors.

History

Variegated African violets were introduced to the public in the form of 'Frosty,' a variegate released by Frank Tinari in 1954. Other variegates followed. 'Wintergreen' is a blue and white double variegate that was registered in 1958 by Ulery. The first spontaneous variegates were not popular with the public and were treated as curiosities rather than as an exciting new category of plant foliage. Some of the lack of excitement, no doubt, stemmed from the lack of stability in these variegates.

The big breakthrough in variegated African violets came with 'Tommie Lou'. Tommie Louise Oden of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, put down a leaf cutting of 'White Pride' which came up variegated. She propagated it through nine generations to see if it would maintain stable variegation. Previous variegates had been highly unstable under propagation. 'Tommie Lou' was registered in 1967 and has a double white blossom with just a touch of pink.

For a decade 'Tommie Lou' was considered sterile, as numerous attempts to produce seed failed. An African violet enthusiast, Harold Rienhardt from upstate New York, succeeded. Finding the blossom pistil deformed, he pulled the blossom apart to get at the pistil and succeeded in setting seed using 'Purple Gold' as the cross. Seed pods had ripened by 1969 when Harold Rienhardt passed some of the seed on to Lyndon Lyon. It is the offspring of Lyndon Lyon's

seed that began the hybridizing craze of variegates. The second generation included 'Nancy Reagan', 'Happy Harold', and 'Lyndy Lou'. Other famous variegates claiming 'Tommie Lou' ancestry include 'Fisherman's Paradise' and 'Tiger'.

From those long ago beginnings spring several major types of variegation. It's true that the base pattern is cream against green foliage, but the cream tint now comes in white, cream, yellow/tan and pink. The pattern of variegation also varies widely. Look closely at your variegated violets and you will see flecks, streaks, splotches, and bands of variegation.

Tommie Lou Variegation

'Tommie Lou' foliage has a flecked white border around a dark green center. 'Wrangler's Pink Patches' is an excellent example of pink-tinted 'Tommie Lou' variegation on holly type leaves, as is Sisk's 'Java' and Fredette's 'Tiger'. All are classics. 'Tommie Lou' type variegation is relatively resistant to high temperatures and high nitrogen levels.

Mosaic (Lilian Jarrett) Variegation

Mosaic, commonly known as 'Lilian Jarrett', type variegation is streaked evenly over the whole leaf. Tinari registered a solid green cultivar in 1961 known as 'Lilian Jarrett'. 'Lilian Jarrett' is listed in the African Violet Master Variety List (1983) as a light pink double with pointed, quilted, serrated (green) leaves on a large standard plant. Three years after introduction 'Lilian Jarrett' mutated and began producing a mosaic pattern of leaf variegation. Both 'Lilian Jarrett' and the variegated sport continue to be popular show plants.

There has not been a lot of work with mosaic type variegation. Mosaic variegates are very stable, resistant to temperature and nitrogen levels, but may have a serious genetic defect. The defect is suspected because of the very low survival rate of seedlings resulting from crosses with mosaic variegates. Only a handful of violets have been registered over the years. Some examples of 'Lilian Jarrett' type variegation include 'Emperor' by Taylor, 'Captain's Lady' by Lear, and 'Moonlight Maiden' by Groeneman.

Crown (Champion) Variegation

Crown variegation is characterized by a nearly albino crown with leaves that turn more green with age. Plantlets with crown variegation are often almost completely albino

until they reach a larger size. The 'Val' series hybridized by Mrs. Vallin in the 1950's and 1960's represents the first major work with crown variegates. Ethel Champion has taken up crown variegation and developed pink and yellow tints. Excellent examples of Champion's work include 'Yum Yum', 'Silver Crest', and 'Midget Midnight'. Color photos of many of Ethel Champion's 'Champion' variegates may be found in the 40th Anniversary souvenir book from the African Violet Society of America (1986). Crown variegates are vulnerable to both high temperatures and high nitrogen levels, which rapidly turn these variegates solid green.

Cultural Factors Affecting Variegation

Culture has a strong impact on variegation. Although there is light at the end of the tunnel, over the last 40 years hybridizers have made some progress in making the variegates less culturally sensitive. Cultural factors affecting variegation include temperature, light, and fertilizer.

The amount of nitrogen in your fertilizer has a direct effect on the amount of variegation. Too much nitrogen, and your variegate will lose all variegation. This includes standard formulas such as 20-2-20 or 12-3-14. Fertilizers low in nitrogen are necessary to maintain variegation. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer formula to green up variegated plantlets, which are often albino. The plantlets need some chlorophyll in their leaves for photosynthesis in order to thrive. You should alternate feedings of "regular" fertilizer with one that is low in nitrogen to regulate the amount of variegation you wish in your plant. I use a schedule of feeding my variegates "regular" fertilizer once every three waterings and use a low nitrogen fertilizer for the remaining feedings.

Cooler temperatures help variegates to retain their variegation. Growing plants on the cool side of 75 degrees, preferably between 65 and 70 degrees, results in more strongly marked patterns of variegation. Many variegated African violets lose their variegation during the heat of the summer. The connection is that higher temperatures release more nitrogen from the soil, which greens up the plant. Temperature also seems to affect the intensity of the pink or tan tinting. Cool temperatures help promote more intense tints.

Because variegates have only a limited amount of green leaf surface, they are sensitive to light intensity. Place variegates in the middle of the shelf for maximum light intensity. Remember to choose a formula low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus and potash. Grow your variegated plants on the bottom shelf where it usually runs about 10 degrees cooler than the top shelves. Following these rules should result in more strongly marked variegation patterns.

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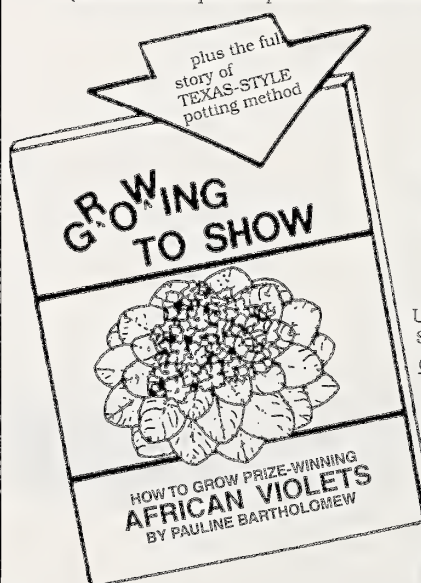
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2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
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6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
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8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
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4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00

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Size	10	25
6"	\$2.75	
7"	4.30	
8"	5.10	
9"	6.40	
10"	7.30	
11"	10.25	
12"	11.75	

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6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00
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10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00

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#	Description	Color	1	10
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#2	Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3	Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
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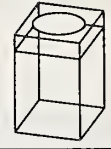
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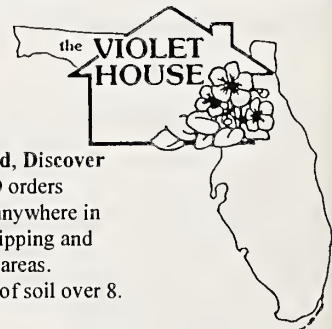
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3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
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7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

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	4.75	27.00	51.00		

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		1.60	3.00
		4 oz	12 oz
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	1.25	3.00
		4 oz.	16 oz.
20-20-20	General Purpose	1.25	3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone			2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	40 oz.
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
		4 qts.	16 qts.
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.75	5.00
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss		1.75	5.00
		432 cu. inches/\$3.75	

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25
32 oz. - \$10.50
1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79
1 oz. - \$3.97
2 oz. - \$4.55
4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

*May Peace and Joy Live In Your Heart,
Bring Cheer And Blessing From The Start.
May You Always Walk In Harmony,
Yesterday, Today And All The Year.*

*Holiday Greetings From All Of Us At
Tinari Greenhouse*

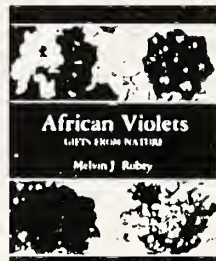
ALL ITEMS LISTED ARE SUGGESTIONS FOR
APPROPRIATE GIFTS AND ARE SHIPPED PROMPTLY
THE YEAR ROUND BY UPS



**"AFRICAN VIOLETS
GIFTS FROM NATURE"**

by Melvin J. Robey

Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2" x 11" all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece. \$45.00 ppd.



**Insect and Mite
Pests of
African Violets**



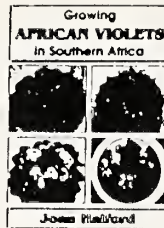
**"INSECT & MITE PESTS
OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"**

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included. \$12.00 with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.

**"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"**

by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed. Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements. An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success. \$16.95 ppd



TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS ... TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length ... \$65.95 ppd

MODEL TT240WS ... TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 48" length ... \$75.95 ppd



4-TRAY LITE STAND ... Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing they are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid. 3" wheels included.

4-Tray Lite Stand ... Aluminum finish ... \$319.00 ppd.
4-Tray Lite Stand ... Brown finish ... \$339.00 ppd.



DANDY POTS - Reservoir Wick Planters available in blue, pink, violet, and white. Made of fade resistant plastics, simple-to-use wick watering system, easy-to-fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning.

Dandy Pot ... 4" pot, 16 oz. transparent reservoir \$5.99 each with any order, specify color desired.



PICK OF THE LITTER ... NEW ITEM ... by popular request - a litter of 5 stuffed cats in attractive violet motif fabric with satin violet-colored ribbon collar and violet felt eyes. Ranging from 9" to 4 1/2" tall ... SPECIAL litter of 5 cats \$12.95 ppd

TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 0-1-2	\$12.95 ppd
12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 3-4-5	\$13.95 ppd
12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 6-7-8-9	\$14.95 ppd

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT



STYLE CSW-1
Height ... 4 - 1/2" overall
Width ... 7" overall
Pot Size ... For 3" or 4" pots
Price ... \$14.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-2
Height ... 3 - 1/4" overall
Width ... 5 - 1/2" overall
Pot Size ... For 2 - 1/4" or 3" pots
Price ... \$10.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MINI
(for miniature & semiminatures)
Height ... 3 - 1/4" overall
Width ... 4 - 3/4" overall
Pot Size ... Minis
Price ... \$8.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MIM (Micromini)
NEW - especially for Microminis
Height ... 2 - 1/4"
Width ... 3 - 1/2" overall

2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 20 sparkling colors in deep lavender, lilac, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, dark green, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter. 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay ... soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white ... \$14.95 ppd



Ceramic African Violet Pot - 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets ... \$5.95 with any order.

WINDOW PLANTERS

3 white plastic trays with frame constructed of aluminum, for use on double hung windows. 15" wide, length is adjustable from 13" to 24".

WP153 - tray size 15" x 2" x 3" \$17.95 ppd
WP156 - tray size 15" x 2" x 6" \$22.95 ppd

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle ... \$3.49 each ppd.

SUCKER PLUCKER



"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle great for hairy leaf varieties ... \$4.95 each ppd.

LEAF DUSTER



SPECIAL: One of each \$7.95 ppd.

G22A ... Compact Lite Stand - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS. \$175.00 ppd



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