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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African

January • February 2004

Volume 57

Number 1



AVSA Information

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

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

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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

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

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

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African Violet

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

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COVER

Thunder Surprise
From Best AVSA Collection
Miniatues and Semiminiatures
AVSA 2003 National Show
Exhibited by: **Anne Nicholas**
Hybridized by: **S. Sanders**
Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretzky

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OFFICERS

Janet Riemer, President
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007
email: j_Riemer@comcast.net

Linda Owens, 1st VP
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
email: Ldowens215@aol.com

Joyce Stork, 2nd VP
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S, Fremont, NE 68025
email: kents@tvsonline.net

Ron Davidson, 3rd VP
941 F. M. 2377, Red Oak, TX 75154
email: chiefrond@aol.com

Nancy Hayes, Secretary
9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002
email: john.hayes@snet.net

Gary Gordon, Treasurer
5202 Links Lane, Leesberg, FL 34748
email: ggordon120@aol.com

John E. (Jack) Wilson, Immediate Past President
114 Pine Valley Court, DeBary, FL 32713-2300
email: cagmo@aol.com

STAFF

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012
email: avmads@valornet.com

Barbara Pershing, Publications
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
20 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL 60301
email: geoajl@aol.com

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,

The fall shows are now just memories (and photographs). If you were involved in any, or just visited some, I hope you enjoyed them as much as I enjoyed those I attended. Both the New York State African Violet Society and the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society had great conventions and beautiful shows. It was a pleasure to join in the fun.

Now, the new year is here. I hope that your holiday season was enjoyable. Whether you had family and friends visit, or just took a break from routine work, the holidays can renew our spirits and help us face the winter season. Those of you in the colder climes, will have to make sure your violets don't get too chilled. With good luck and a helping hand from Mother Nature, we won't have the dreadful storms with loss of power that threaten our plants. On dreary wintry days, our violets brighten our lives with their vibrant colors, helping us to keep a cheery outlook.

To keep you apprised of progress on AVSA publications, above and beyond the *African Violet Magazine*, the revision of the culture brochure is in the hands of the Publication Committee for final review. It should be ready for distribution for spring affiliate shows. Correspondence with Pauline Bartholomew regarding her book *Growing To Show* continues, with details concerning the letter of transfer of publication rights still to be worked out. Plans are underway on how to meet the initial cost of printing. If you would like to help, a donation to the Booster Fund would be greatly appreciated.

Slowly declining membership is still a major concern. Perhaps you were able to help by giving a gift membership to someone at Christmas. Not only does a gift membership provide the recipient with six beautiful and interesting issues of the *AVM* and give you a warm, wonderful feeling, but it helps AVSA as well. Memberships are great for birthdays and other special occasions too. Please consider it throughout the year.

As you read this, the 2004 convention in Tucson, Arizona, is only a few months away. AVSA has never held a convention in the Southwest so this is your first opportunity to join in the fun there and see a beautiful, national show. The hosting group has been hard at work and plans for the big event sound wonderful. See the "purple pages" in the center of this issue to learn all the details. Be sure to check the new schedule which will allow an extra day to view the show. Come join us if you can. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Tucson. We'll have "A Fiesta of Violets."



Happy Violeting,

Janet Riemer
AVSA President

Editor's Notes



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

Happy New Year!



I hope your holidays were filled with family and fun. 2004 should be an exciting year for AVSA members, especially those planning to attend the April convention in Tucson, Arizona. In the center of this issue you'll find the Purple Pages, your guide for all of the convention activities - interesting presentations, tours of the historic southwest, convention functions, and most importantly, for those of you planning to enter the national show - the show schedule.

This issue also contains **Elmer Godeny's** debut, as he replaces **Cathy and Al Cornibe** as writers of the "For Beginners" column. Elmer will be alternating with the Storks in sharing these duties. Many thanks to the Cornibes for five years of valuable information, presented in a friendly and informative way. Elmer is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and it's good to have a columnist from the southern part of the country contribute to this magazine.

The last four pages of this issue contain the 2003 Annual Index, compiled by **Bill and Katherine Paauwe**. Many times, we receive phone calls from members looking for an article on a specific topic or by a certain author. We usually refer them to Bill's carefully compiled index, which appears in each January issue. Articles of the previous year are sorted and listed by author, as well as title and subject. The color photographs appearing in the AVM throughout the year are also alphabetized and listed here for your convenience.

My dear friend from New Mexico, **Agatha Garrison**, let me know about the trouble she'd been having with her plants

over an extended period of time. She was losing many of them, and when none of the conventional methods for treatment worked, she turned to her local agricultural extension office for help. Undaunted by this disaster, Agatha has shared her experiences with us on page 10, "A Violet Saga."

Read "Variegated African Violets", by **Pat Hancock**, on page 50. Pat explains the importance of chlorophyll, light, pH, and temperature when growing beautiful variegated plants, like those from her "Buckeye" series of violets. She also gives us tips on repotting, putting down leaves, and the extra care needed when taking care of baby plants.

Claude Norton, member of the Town and Country AVC of Michigan, sings the praises of **Joe Bruns'** First Class program, "Keeping Track of your Plants" on page 22. Having taken many orders for this fine program, I know how valuable it is to our members!

Also, in this issue on page 16 are the 2004 nominees for AVSA Board of Directors. From various parts of the country, these are the folks you will be voting on at the Annual Meeting in Tucson.

Dr. Jeff Smith, author of the "In Search of New Violets" column, has written a series of very informative articles for the AVM. The first in this series covers "Mather No. 21 - A New Species Clone." (page 40). Over the next few months, Jeff will be covering other species clones, so be sure to look for them.

Be sure to patronize the advertisers who regularly support the African Violet Magazine.

Office Update



Jenny Daugereau
AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
email: avsa@earthlink.net

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. I hope you all had a great Holiday season and a happy start to the New Year. 2003 was a wonderful year for AVSA. The Baton Rouge Convention was a great success, and we are now looking forward to the Tucson, AZ. Convention. I have never been to Tucson and am really looking forward to seeing the sights. The local groups there have been working very hard to make sure we all have the best time and the best show ever. Start getting those plants ready, and let's all meet there to show our love and support for AVSA and the plant we all love.

I always need help at the registration desk during convention. Check the schedule in the purple pages and find a time to help out. Email or call me with a time you would like to help. The registration desk is the best place to get to know our members. All will stop by to say hello and pick up their registration packets. It is a fun way to meet people and help AVSA. Email me at avsa@earthlink.net or call 800-770-2872 to sign up.

Be sure to notice the changes we are making at convention. The show will be open for two days this year. All the effort that went into growing those beautiful show plants will be appreciated by more people. We have a one day registration now, and our package deal that is a real money saver. Come join us and have a great experience with the nicest people in

the world, our AVSA members. I hope to see many of you there.

Attention Affiliates: All U.S. and Canadian clubs have been billed for Affiliate Liability Insurance renewal. If your club did not receive the renewal letter and want to purchase the insurance, please contact me at avsa@earthlink.net or 800-770-2872. Canadians call 409-839-4725.

Library Problem: Please make sure that you return the library rental slides and videos on time. When they are returned late, it is impossible for the next club scheduled to receive them when needed. Many clubs plan their entire meeting around that program, and it is a real shame when we are not able to provide the program they have reserved in advance. Also, when you do return the programs, even if there is no balance due, **please enclose at least one copy of the invoice.** This helps us to determine who rented the program and makes it much easier to check the slide program back in. Remember to order in writing **at least 6 weeks in advance** of the date you need to receive it. Any orders received after that time may not be honored. Always give a second choice in case the one you choose is not available. We will send you a confirmation notice to let you know which program you will get. Thank you for your help addressing these library matters.

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Elmer Godeny
7004 Government Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
email: ekgprof@cox.net

Temperature & Humidity

I am starting 2004 with my first column in the AVM. I am replacing (as if anyone could) Al and Cathy Cornibe. Al and Cathy have given invaluable information in this column for five years; their advice will be greatly missed. I hope I can fill their shoes and make them proud. I would like to thank Ruth Rumsey and Janet Riemer for their confidence, and I look forward to working with Joyce and Kent Stork on this column.

One of the reasons I was asked to be a columnist for the AVM is because I grow African violets in Louisiana. We southern growers may have different growing perspectives than growers from the rest of the United States, due to different climate conditions. As you all know, Louisiana is hot and humid. Therefore, I will cover temperature and humidity in my first column.

To be successful in growing African violets in the home, it is important to know and understand the environment in which African violets grow naturally. African violet species are found in the Usambra mountain district of Tanzania in East Africa. Depending on the species, the plants can be found in high mountain regions (7000 ft) to the low foothills of the region. Although this area is considered tropical, wild African violets tolerate a large temperature range because of the temperature differences at different altitudes. African violet species grow under tree canopies and are therefore protected from the hot sun. The plants can usually be found in a fairly humid place, in or near decaying forest material, in a rock ledge near a waterfall, or growing near a riverbank.

As with any living organism that has been hybridized and genetically altered for generations, African violets have become soft as compared to their wild siblings. The hybrids we grow in our homes today would not be able to grow in the harsh conditions of East Africa.

Temperature

Although African violets in the wild can grow in temperatures between 40 and 80 degrees F, today's hybrid plants prefer temperatures ranging from 65 to 75 degrees F. The plants can tolerate temperatures above 75 degrees F but growth will slow down at 60 degrees F and stop around 50 degrees F. When plants are exposed to excessively high temperatures (>80F) for extended periods of time, flower production will decline, and blossoms that do open will be smaller than usual. Bloom stalks will also droop, and the blossoms will shrivel up and turn brown within a few days at higher temperatures. Like other living organisms, the metabolism of the plant will increase during higher temperature exposure, resulting in a greater loss of water through the leaves, transpiration. To compensate for increased transpiration, the plant will increase its water uptake through its roots. In time, the plant will not be able to keep up with the water loss, and inadequate amounts of water reach the leaves, resulting in plant wilting. Another consequence of high temperatures is that the plant will absorb too much fertilizer with the increased water uptake. This will result in burning of the edges of new foliage in the crown.

As temperatures decrease, the metabolism of African violets also decreases. As temperatures approach 60 degrees F, plant growth will slow. Few flowers will be produced at low temperatures, and blossoms that do open will be discolored and deformed. The foliage will become turgid and curl downward at temperatures below 60 degrees F. The plant will stop growing and eventually die if temperatures fall below 50 degrees F.

Humidity

Humidity is the amount of water vapor in the air that can

be measured using a hygrometer. African violets have thick, fleshy leaves that require high humidity. In nature, wild African violets thrive in humidity between 60 and 80%. It would be difficult to live in a house with 70% humidity, so the African violet hobbyist should try to maintain humidity levels between 40 and 60%, the higher the better.

The only disadvantage to high humidity levels is an increased growth of fungi and other pests. For example, powdery mildew; however, good air circulation will resolve much of that problem. Most humidity problems occur when levels get too low. Proper humidity promotes good plant growth and large blossoms. As the humidity levels drop, plant growth will decline, and the foliage will lose its normal healthy luster and sheen. More importantly, low humidity levels will affect the blossoms: blooms will be sparse and small. In low humidity, many buds will dry up before they open.

Successful Growing

Optimal temperatures and humidity levels for successful growth of African violets in the home are not difficult to maintain because these levels are comfortable for most of us. *When dealing with temperature and humidity, the general rule of thumb is: if you are comfortable, your African violets will be comfortable.* However, to be successful in growing these plants, you must always consider the microenvironment of the plant (the conditions immediately surrounding the plant). For example, although you may maintain your household temperature at 72 degrees F, the ballast in the fluorescent light a few inches from the plant may be giving off heat and raising the temperature on that plant. Further, when

growing plants on a windowsill, the temperature between the window and a curtain may be quite different than the temperature in the rest of the room. It is suggested that a few thermometers and hygrometers (inexpensive combinations can be purchased) be placed around the African violet growing area. This allows the grower to determine the temperatures and relative humidity levels of the plants' microenvironment.

Temperatures in growing areas are easily controlled with central air conditioning and heat. However, do not place the plants in the direct exposure of an air vent (this can change the microenvironment). Like you, African violets do not like drafts. Good air circulation is also important in maintaining the microenvironment temperatures consistent with room temperatures.

Humidity levels are relatively easy to control as well. Most homes are generally quite dry, especially in the winter months. Heated air holds more moisture than colder air so as the temperature increases, the relative humidity decreases. Therefore, many homes dry out in the winter months when the heating system is on. To increase the humidity in the plant area, bowls of water can be placed among the plants. Humidifiers and cool vaporizers can be placed in the room to increase the humidity. The plants can also be placed on capillary mats or on trays covered with wet pebbles or sand. Growers who wick water do not generally have a humidity problem.

Regardless of where you live, African violets can be grown in the house with relatively little care. However, it is the growers' responsibility to make sure the temperature and humidity ranges are optimal for good growth of the plants.

The Old Pueblo

by Nina Lazzeroni

Anyone wanting a look into both Native American and Mexican culture will want to explore Tucson. The Native American name for the ancient settlement on the Santa Cruz River was "stjukshon," pronounced like Tucson, which loosely translated means "springs at the foot of the black hill."

The San Xavier Mission south of Tucson was established in 1700 by a Jesuit priest, with the present structure being built between 1783 and 1797 by the Franciscans. It received National Historic Landmark status in 1963. The Mission is located on the Tohono O'odham Reservation and is still the main church and school of the Tohono O'odham people. During the mid 1990's, painstaking work was done to remove centuries of dirt and grime from the interior walls, revealing the beauty of the carvings, arches, alter, and murals.

The Arizona State Museum is on the University of Arizona campus and is the region's oldest and largest anthropology museum. Its exhibits tell the history of the south-

western cultures from pre-historic mammoth hunters to present day Native American and northern Mexico peoples. It is a "must see" for those interested in the native cultures. The University of Arizona is just three miles from the convention hotel and easily reached by city bus.

Tucson's Native American and Mexican roots are ever present throughout the city. Mexican-Americans make up a large portion of the population with Spanish being widely spoken and Native American languages occasionally heard as well. Low, pueblo-style buildings with adobe walls and tiled roofs predominate, and interiors of many homes and businesses are decorated in a southwestern style. Mexican restaurants are prevalent, serving some of the best Mexican food in the country.

You will want to plan to spend a few extra days in the Old Pueblo (as Tucson is affectionately called) to enjoy the culture of this southwestern city.



Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512
email: robsviolet@aol.com



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

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

QUESTION: *I've only recently gotten serious about growing African violets. How often do you transplant them, and how do you know when they need it? Do you go to a larger pot each time?*

ANSWER: Most violets need repotting at least once every six months. By this time, a standard-size variety originally potted as a plantlet off of a leaf cutting into a 2" or 2 1/2" pot will be root-bound and in need of a larger pot. Pot this plant into a 4" pot at this time. Fill the 4" pot with soil, make a hole in the center the size of the smaller pot (you can use an empty pot to make a "mold"), then simply drop the plant into the hole. Be careful not to water too much, at least until the plant begins to fill the larger pot with new roots.

Six months later, this violet will need repotting again, but not into a larger pot (unless you intend to disbud it and grow it for show as a much larger plant). Since the root system on most standard size varieties grown as a "house plant", shouldn't exceed 4", there's no need to use a larger pot. This time, the purpose of repotting is to freshen the soil, encourage new root growth, and to bury the "neck" (bare stem) that has developed over time as lower, older leaves have been removed. To disturb the plant and root system as little as possible, remove soil and roots from the bottom of the root-ball equal to the length of the neck above the soil. Now lower the plant into the same-size pot and add soil to the top to cover the neck. The lowest row of leaves should be at soil level and even with the pot rim.

For miniature and semiminature varieties, the process is

the same, except that maximum pot sizes should be no more than 2" or 2 1/4" for miniatures and 2 1/2" for semiminis. In all cases, repotting is best done when the plant *requires* it, even if it's still in bloom. The longer you wait, the longer the neck becomes, and the more of the root system needs to be removed to lower the plant enough in the pot. This increases the likelihood of the plant going into "shock" or growing poorly after repotting. Regular, gradual repottings are easiest to do and the best for the plant.

QUESTION: *You've told me that you can ship only plant crowns into my country with no roots or soil. How can I successfully root these?*

ANSWER: For many countries, such as Russia, most in Southeastern Asia, and the Caribbean, it is not possible to send potted plants. Only cuttings, or the plant crowns (the top of the violet with all roots and soil removed), can be shipped. Surprisingly, this can be quite easily and successfully done. As soon as possible after receipt, root the crown much as you would a large sucker. Fill a small pot (2" or 2 1/2") with soil and moisten (wet, but not soggy). Make a small "divot", or hole, in the surface center. Drop the crown into the hole and firm the soil around it. It's important that the crown is in the soil firmly – it doesn't easily "pop out" when you touch it. To do this, you might need to remove a few more leaves. If you can't, press the crown as deep into the hole as possible. So long as the very tiny center of the plant isn't totally buried, the plant will eventually grow out. After rooting the crown, place in a clear plastic container, like a sandwich bag or deli container, seal it, and wait about four weeks before removing. You'll then have a small (rooted) plant!

Do the same if you'd like to root suckers, especially those taken from chimeras – those that you can't propagate true from leaf cuttings. Or, do this if you've divided a multi-crowned plant, and some of those crowns ended up without roots. You might also want to intentionally remove and root a crown if you have received a plant you suspect may have

soil-borne problems like soil mealybug (though doing so isn't a foolproof solution), or if you have to "restart" a plant gone so long without repotting that its neck is too long to bury.

QUESTION: *Should I ever remove leaves from my violet? I would guess so but, other than removing obviously dead ones, I have no idea how to decide. Which ones need to be removed?*

ANSWER: Yes. Most (non trailing) varieties only need to have 3 or 4 rows of leaves since blooms are produced only from these leaves. This means a total of no more than a dozen or so leaves. Some larger plants grown for exhibition may have more but, even then, not as many as you might think. Their large size is due more to the size of the leaves rather than the number of them. For some varieties, especially those with very wavy, girl, or ruffled leaves, removing excess foliage is even more important. If outer leaves are never removed on these varieties, new growth becomes very crowded in the center as there becomes no place for it to grow, and the leaves that are produced can be distorted or misshapen. Further, bloom stalks that are produced have a hard time finding their way up through the foliage.

How to decide which leaves to remove? Plant "symmetry" or "form" is important, but this is a concept that can be difficult for some to grasp (not everyone has an "eye" for this). Instead, here are a couple of never-fail, easy to understand rules that can be followed. Rule #1: *always* groom from the bottom up. The first leaf to be removed is *always* that leaf that is growing from the lowest point on the plant. Look at the plant from the side (not from the top), and determine which leaf is (or leaves are) growing from the lowest point. This is the oldest leaf on the plant and is the first to be removed. *Now* you can look at the plant from overhead. If it doesn't have the shape you want, remove another. Which one? Repeat rule #1. Rule #2: looking from above, leaves hidden beneath other leaves are unnecessary and can be removed (assuming twisted and out of place leaves have been properly arranged). These leaves are invariably older leaves, growing beneath younger ones, that add nothing to the symmetry of the plant. Removing them will not even be noticed, since leaves above them already occupy the same space!

Finally, be certain to remove leaves being produced from the axils between existing leaves – these are suckers! The only place where new growth should appear is from the crown, or top, of the plant (except on trailers). Removing suckers as soon as they appear not only improves symmetry and overall appearance, but it will encourage your plant to produce more flowers, sooner.

QUESTION: *We live in an old home, and most of the windows are quite old. I'm afraid that my windowsill will be much too cold for growing violets in the middle of winter. Any suggestions on what I can grow there?*

ANSWER: Actually, violets will tolerate a good deal of cold. We grow some on the windowsills of our greenhouse

that, on some very cold days, will be covered with ice on the inside. Most violets will easily tolerate temperatures down to 60F degrees before showing signs of distress. Below this temperature, you might notice crowded growth in the plant center, and hairy, brittle leaves. It will just "stop growing" and only reluctantly flower. Even then, the *occasional* night down to 50F degrees or so should irreparably harm most varieties.

One solution would be growing some of the *Saintpaulia* (African violet) species, many of which will actually prefer your cool windowsill – it will remind them of their native habit high in the mountains of East Africa. Another solution is to grow some African violet relatives, such as *Streptocarpus* or *Chirita*. These are two very easy to grow gesneriads that thrive in cool conditions. Care for both is similar to violets, but they'll easily tolerate your chilly windowsill. If space is a consideration, you might try growing a couple of the miniature species of *Chirita*, like *C. gemella*, or *C. tamiana* (probably one of the easiest of all plants to grow and bloom). Another good choice would be *Petrocosema*, most of which are very small in size and will grow and bloom well in a cool location. There are other choices, but these are some of the easiest to find and grow.

QUESTION: *Which varieties are easiest to grow?*

ANSWER: This is a very commonly asked question, and one that's almost impossible to answer, except to say, "it depends". It depends upon what you like, what suits your growing environment, and your space. All else equal, plants that do the best are those that get cared for the best. "Favorites" become favorites because they are often the most looked-at and cared-for. So, grow varieties you like – if you don't like a plant, it likely won't do well.

Having said that, choose varieties that suit your environment and space the best. Those with limited space might want to grow miniature or semiminature varieties. Don't grow more plants than your space will allow. Hiding a small mini between or beneath a larger standard doesn't do it much good. It's not surprising that minis grown this way don't do well! Crowding large plants together won't help either – give them some room to grow to their desired size. Have lots of good windows but no windowsill space? Try growing trailing African violets in hanging baskets. Variegated varieties will look their best in cooler temperatures. If your conditions are too warm (consistently above 80 F degrees), you may lose much of the variegation on many varieties, especially if crown-variegated. Still, these varieties may be lovely even without the variegation and can be grown for the blooms alone.

If you're neglectful about watering and tend to let your plants wilt, larger growing plants may be easier than smaller ones. Larger plants will take longer to die than smaller ones – there's just more of them to kill. A self-watering system, such as wicking, self-watering pots, or capillary matting might be for you if this is the case. Trailing varieties may be easier if you tend to be neglectful about grooming and repot-

ting. Though grooming is beneficial, there's no need to worry about suckers on a trailer – the more the better!

When buying from a commercial grower, ask them for recommendations, since they will have more experience growing these varieties than you will. After growing many different varieties, notice who the hybridizer was of your best-performing varieties. It's quite likely that the hybridizer has growing conditions similar to yours. When adding to your collection, you might want to select more from this

hybridizer. The best advice is to join a violet club (if you don't already belong to one) and ask other members who have similar growing conditions and preferences to yours. Better yet, pay them a visit! See how they grow their plants. See how their growing environment may be similar or different from yours, and see what kinds of varieties do best for them.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print

A Violet Saga

by Agatha Garrison

In July 1977 my sister Hazel gave me an African violet. It was not named, but had beautiful pink blooms. Just a few weeks later, I bought four more!

I later read an article written by a lady from Boston, in Yankee Magazine. She included photographs of African violets, and asked anyone interested to write to her. So, I did.

When I received her answer, she included a folder with an application to join the African Violet Society of America, which I did.

After I moved to New Mexico, I looked around for a local African violet club to join. Then, I met Peggy Staat. She invited me to her home, and wow, I was hooked! I joined the AAVC in 1986.

Over the past twenty six years, I have had the usual setbacks with thrips, springtails, black flies, and of course, weather problems. All growers who live in the southwest know about the humidity problems.

During the fall of 2001, my real problems began. My plants began to have hard centers, and the leaves were deformed. They grew small with no blooms. Thinking it might be mites, I began to call for help. I first contacted my club, then Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. There, I spoke with my friend Paul Sorano

who suggested I call the local Agriculture Extension Office.

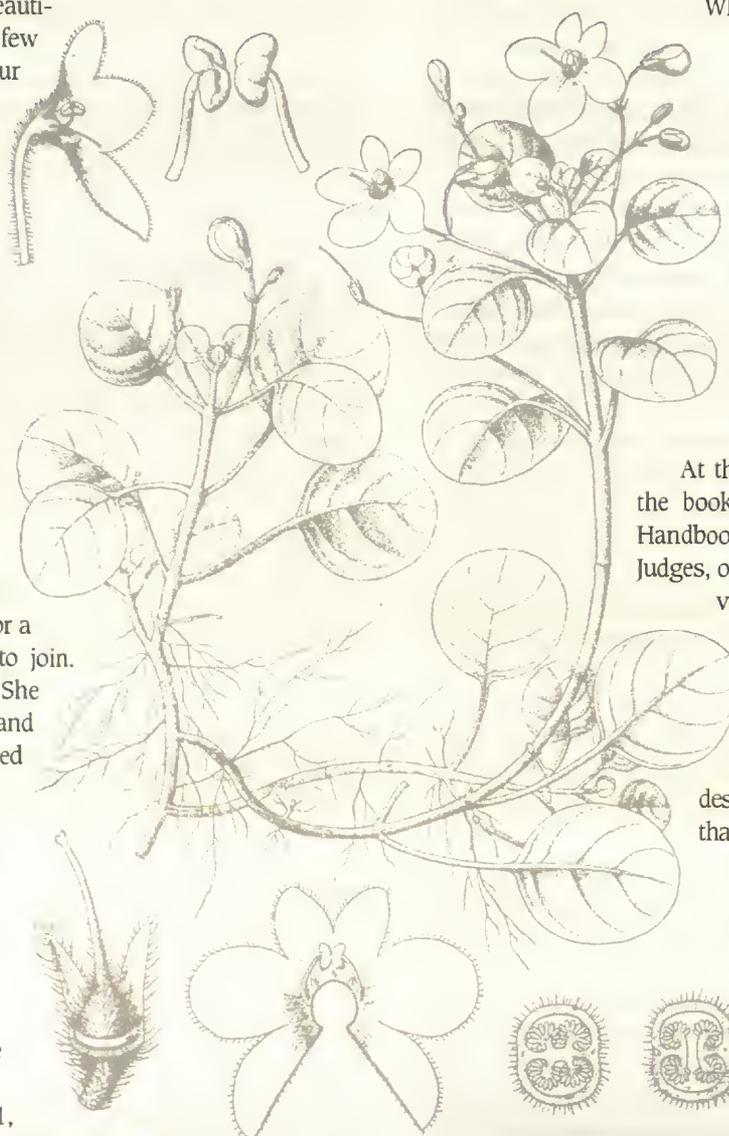
When I contacted them, they asked me to bring in a plant. I took three! The manger took the plants and examined them with a microscope. He could find no mites or insects of any kind. He removed one leaf from each plant and sent them to New Mexico State Agriculture College. The report that came back said they were not sure what the problem was, but would continue checking. They thought it looked like a virus.

At that time, I began to search in all the books I had for information. In the Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges, on pages 33 and 34, there are two viruses listed under viral disease: Mosaic Virus and Stunt Virus.

I still am not sure, but it appeared that my plants were suffering from Stunt Virus. The book said no cure existed and to destroy the plants! I destroyed more than fifty of my African violet plants, which was so hard for me to do.

At a local nursery, I bought a meter to check soil pH, humidity, and light, and another one to check the water. I began repotting and sterilizing all my pots and mixing new soil.

Then I cleaned all the plant stands with Lysol, washed the walls, and sprayed everything with Lysol. I started over and ordered new plants. Now my African violets are again growing and blooming. They look healthy and happy - and so am I!



“And the winners are ...”



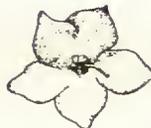
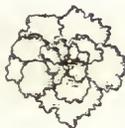
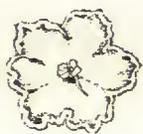
Mary J. Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time, Sedona, The Alps; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Bunny Blue, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Silk Reflection; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Peppermint Brocade'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Christel Collier**. Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Charlene Boses**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Shirley Berger**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bob Green**.

SWEETWATER AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Desert Dawn, Bud's Jane, Mindi's Tears; Best Standard: Granger's Desert Storm, **Jane Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ghost Dance, Fantasy Maker, Ness' Coral Sunset, **Eleanore Hull**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Dandy Lion, Boo Man, **Bud Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Sweetheart, Persian Lace, Aca's Merry Mary; Horticulture

Sweepstakes, **William Papawe**. Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Joyce Rodler**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cool Fruit; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Trailer: Lyon's Pinky Wink, **Eileen Montgomery**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Petticoats', **Nancy Platnick**. Best Design, **Annette Hershkowitz**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Heinrich**.

VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, TN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kev's Heavenly Star, Apache Delight, Rebel's Valiant; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lyon's June Bug, Irish Flirt, Rob's Seduction; Best in Show/Best Standard: L'Heure Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Seduction; Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink, **Brenda Brasfield**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pawnee, Optimara Little Cherokee, Optimara Little Ottawa, **Mike Ramsey**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Judy Ellis**. Best Gesneriad: *Achimenes* 'Taratella', **Marian Zoller**. Best Design: **Ginger Ilardi**. Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Ferguson**.



How to Say It in Tucson

In the Tucson area, Spanish words are pronounced with a Mexican accent. The “LL”

(L-yah) does not keep both the “L” sound and the “Yah” sound. The “L” sound is silent, and so one only pronounces the “Yah.” The garden plant, “Bougainvillea,” on the East Coast is “Boo-gan-vil-yah.” Here in Tucson it is “Boo-gan-vee-yah.” The animal is a “Yama” not a “L-yah-ma,” or even a “Lama.”

Another tongue-tripper is our wonderful giant cactus, the saguaro, “sa-hua-ro.” The “G,” in this case, is pronounced like an “H.” And one of the sightseeing destinations just south of Tucson is the Mission San Xavier del Bac. The “X” also is pronounced as an “H,” San “Hah-vee-air.” But if you find a word with an “H,” you don't say it at all! It is a silent letter. The ranch house, or “hacienda” is an “Ah-see-en-da.”



In Search of New Violets



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

I recently received an e-mail from a person who was interested in studying African violet mutations or sports. In answer to their questions, I drew up a list of some observations about sports. Since several of this month's questions deal with sports, the list may have some extra relevance.

1. Sports are more common in fantasy blooms than other types because of the nature of the fantasy mutation (a transposons or jumping gene). Most of these sports are loss of the fantasy gene giving solid colored flowers.
2. Stress, either environmental or chemical, increases the incidence of sporting. To avoid sports, keep your growing conditions consistent. To increase the likelihood of sports, stress the leaf cuttings as much as possible.
3. Plants with red backed leaves, especially in the heterozygous condition, are more prone to sports. The sports are usually green leafed plants that have lost the red leaf backing. Changes in flower color may or may not also be linked to the loss of the red leaf backed trait (a genetic dominant).
4. Some coral shade flowers seem to be more prone to sports than non-coral shade colors. For example, 'Bob Serbin' is a coral red that seems to sport frequently.
5. Placing a leaf very deeply into the rooting medium seems to increase the incidence of sporting. This is likely because of the additional stress the new baby plant undergoes in growing up through the rooting medium.

Q: *I am interested in the production of "baskets" on trailers. This is where the bloom stalk has flowers, but also produces a miniature crown. Since these "baskets" or crowns can be rooted to reproduce the plant, I'd like to know how they are inherited.*

A: I've seen bloom stalks produce crowns before, but this is the first time I've heard the phenomenon called a "basket". I've seen this on a few plants in my collection, mostly on the species plants. You are correct that they can be an easy way to start a new plant.

I would speculate that the ability to produce a "basket" is

similar to the production of stolons in other plants such as episcias or strawberries. The new crown is a vegetative meristem or growth point. The production of these crowns is likely due to a change in a genetic control gene of some sort. I've not seen any studies that show how this trait is inherited.

If you want to encourage this trait in new hybrids, I'd suggest crossing to a trailer that frequently produces "baskets". The trait may be linked to the trailing growth habit and disappear in the first generation unless the other parent is also a trailer. Inbreeding the F1 offspring should produce some plants that also produce "baskets". I'd like to hear about the outcome of your crosses if you should choose the experiment with this trait.

Q: *Sometimes a crown on a trailer will sport to a new type. If leaves are taken from this crown, will they produce the original plant or the new sport?*

A: I would expect the leaves from the sport to produce more plants with the same mutation. Once the DNA of a plant has changed by sporting, it is unusual (although not entirely unknown) to have it revert back to the original type.

Q: *I recently acquired a plant of Saintpaulia 'Botanika' and am intrigued by its unusual flowers. Do you know if this mutation can be inherited?*

A: No, I am unaware of any hybridizing attempts with Saintpaulia 'Botanika', and I don't know if the mutation can be based on to offspring. Given the extreme mutation of the flower parts (the petals are modified into pollen sacs and the stamens are overly expressed) I wouldn't be surprised if the plant was sterile. If you are able to get seed using this plant as a parent, please let me know the outcome.

Q: *Many of my wasp flowered plants tend to lose their crowns. Is this a genetic trait?*

A: Wasp flowered plants represent an extreme mutation or sport in both flower shape and in their bustled foliage. When

the plants are stressed, they do tend to lose the crown entirely, or produce multiple crowns. This seems to be a common genetic weakness associated or linked with the wasp mutation, and I'm not sure that there is much that can be done about it. However, I've seen pictures of some new wasp hybrids that show promise in having fewer problems with this annoying growth habit. Perhaps the best cure is to keep the plants in good growing conditions that limit stress. With the renewed interest in wasp plants, hybridizers may be able to improve the plants with this trait and breed out the problem.

Q: *How can I produce a trailer with crown variegation and single stick-tight flowers?*

A: I would start with a plant that trails and also has crown variegation. Or, you could cross a good trailer onto a crown variegated plant. If the variegated plant is used as the seed parent, the offspring will show the variegation. If a good

F1 is backcrossed to the trailer parent, you should improve the trailing ability of the offspring while maintaining the crown variegation.

The single stick-tight blooms will be another consideration. I would suggest finding a plant that has this trait to use as one of the parents. This bloom type is dominant to single-droppers, but recessive to semi-doubles and doubles. If one parent has single stick-tight blooms and the other has semi-double flowers, you should get a good percentage of offspring with stick-tight flowers. If the F1 offspring are all semi-doubles or doubles, back cross the best offspring to the stick-tight parent.

The trick will be in working with both traits at the same time. Choose your parent plants carefully. Ideally, one parent would show trailing with semi-double flowers and the other a crown variegated plant with stick-tight blooms. This would allow you to work with both traits at the same time. Good luck!



Boyce Edens Research Fund

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Donations received from August 1, 2003 - September, 2003

Montrose African Violet Society, Montrose, CA . . . \$50.00
In memory of Nadine Parsons, a longtime valuable member of MAVS

San Fernando Valley AVS, Panorama City, CA 25.00
In memory of Helen Dalton

Hoosier African Violet Society, Crown Point, IN 10.00
In memory of Tillie Roszkowski, a charter member of HAVS

Windsor African Violet Society, Windsor, CT 50.00
In memory of Don Ness who has made so many important contributions to African violets and the African Violet Society of America

African Violet Council of Southern CA 25.00
In memory of Nadine Parsons

Annette N Hershkowitz, Commack, NY 3.00

Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY 10.00

Don & Jane Jepsen, Golden, CO 100.00
In loving memory of our son, David Jepsen, member of the Rocky Mountain AV Council and AVSA

San Fernando Valley AVS, Panorama City, CA 25.00
In memory of Gladys Cunningham, a longtime member

Sundowners AVC Madison, WI \$25.00

First AVS of Denton, TX 10.00
In memory of Glennis Crouch, a charter member of our club. She passed away at the age of 91

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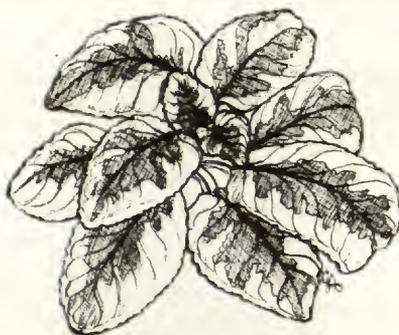
Linda Holifield, Bedford, TX 5.00

Sara Opie, Callington, England 5.00

A Family Portrait



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



Episcia 'Peppermint Brocade'

The colorful 'pink-green-crème' leaves of this Cleo-type episcia love to grow in a terrarium. The sensitive leaves grow best when given a comfort cushion of whole sphagnum moss on top of the growing medium. They also need some of this moss, chopped in small pieces, in the soil mixture. Any good African-violet soil mix will do well. Rain or distilled water is preferred in any terrarium. Very little, if any, fertilizer should be used.

These handsome episcias can't use much fertilizer, and they should never have moisture on the foliage. Temperatures above 80 degrees will cause "wash-out" of the pigmentation. Never let the temperature go below 65 degrees because growth stops and rot sets in. Fresh soil is appreciated every six to nine months. The plant will probably have out-grown its container by then. Also, remember to remove all spent blossoms because they will cause a rot as they decompose on the foliage. The orange flower is not great with the foliage, so it looks better removed.

FRIEND AFAR

Laverne Cottet from Fresno, California recognized me as a speaker from the San Jose convention back in the early '90's. What a remarkable memory! She and I had the good fortune to travel with the American Rose Society through the gardens of the United Kingdom. Can you believe she even remembered my slide program? Well, we did not see a lot of gesneriads.

Once we were only twenty miles from Dibley's, the fabulous *Streptocarpus* growers. They win gold at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Laverne designed a fantastic rose arrangement for the World Rose Conference in Glasgow. Imagine traveling over there with all your design materials and getting who-knows-what rose material. What a great job! We had the most wonderful time. She knows Barbara Elkin, Barbara Gordon, Gary Beck, and the California growers and enjoys entering the shows. Our violets and plants create instant friendships.

We were so impressed with the people, gardens, and food. Royal Princess Anne was our sponsor. She is a truly humble woman who does great charity work without publicity or pretense. At a luncheon, she socialized with all of us on a one-to-one basis. Her body guard said that she was exhausted from a long tour of the AIDS hospitals of Africa.

She inspired me to try to do something nice for someone everyday. My extra plants are going to go to a nursing home nearby. Life is too short not to share the beauty of our plants.

ACHIMENES REVIEW

Ingrid Bowman has e-mailed me in regard to the statement I made in a previous column about *Achimenes* being pest free. She purchased two already growing instead of the usual unplanted rhizomes. Later, she noticed mealybug infestation on one, and later the other one produced them too. She thinks

they were in the soil and is trying to use Safer's Insecticidal Soap and Q-tips dipped in alcohol.

So, I stand corrected. *Achimenes* do become infested. I will let you know what success she had in controlling them.

EXHIBITION

Our local club lost the meeting and exhibit room in our local library so we moved the show to a Galleria Mall. It was fantastic. We simplified everything. The show was only one long day. There wasn't even a schedule. We just placed our plants on the beautiful tables with a tag that gave the name of the grower and plant. The variegated foliage and colorful gesneriads created a real buzz. We got at least six or seven new members and sold hundreds of plants. Children under the age of twelve got a free leaf to pot up and we gave away African Violet Magazines, donated by Nan Walther, to those who purchased two or more plants. A free plant was given to anyone

who joined us. We have simplified membership, too. We have only household memberships for a set fee of \$12. This pays for the newsletter. Twenty percent of sales go to the club. We had only two hours to set up the show before the stores opened. They have already asked us to come back next year because of all the great publicity we did for the Galleria name.

Ninety percent of our membership does not want a judged show, and I feel badly for the couple who do. They are driving to Ohio to show their plants. We lost many members because we pushed "growing for show" too much. It is much more important, this day and age, to promote the social and educational aspect of growing our beautiful plants. Perhaps some day we will have the treasury and membership to support a judged show. I will never forget the last judged show we had at Phipps Conservatory. Eileen Lott and a team from Ohio judged. It scored 99 points. We were so proud. Then the heat moved in and baked everything. Such is life.



AVSA LUNCHEON AUCTION

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

A Special Request to all Members, Commercials, Hybridizers and Affiliates

The seventh annual luncheon auction will take place on Friday, April 16, 2004. If you haven't done so already, won't you consider doing a violet-related item or craft to auction? Your donations have always made the auction a success, and we rely on your help and support.

As always, anyone making a donation will be listed at the auction and thanks to them will be extended in an article in

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

Please let me know if you will be donating an item. A description of the item donated along with its approximate value and whether you are sending them on or bringing them to convention would be most appreciated. Again my thanks for your help and support. I look forward to hearing from you.



2004 AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES



Marjorie Bullard

In 1992 I received my first African violet in an assorted basket of plantings. This was the first step on a path which continues today; through this magnificent flower I have found an entirely new world populated with wonderfully delightful people.

I am a member of the local Corpus Christi AVS, having served as officer and show chair. My first state convention for LSAVC was in 1994 and I found more violets and more people. The Texas LSAVC has allowed me to have even more fun as I am a co-editor of the LSAVC Newsletter and have served as Convention Chair, Judges Chair, and Rosettes Chair. I am an AVSA Advanced Judge and try to judge in the state and national conventions. I attended my first national AVSA convention in 1999 in Houston, and each I have attended national convention since. I am currently a member of the AVSA Internet Committee, and of the AVSA Publication Committee.

I have three children and five grandchildren. I am an Engineering Coordinator, devising and controlling systems for documents and interface between Manufacturing, Engineering, and Quality. I have worked in various areas in this company for over 25 years. I find real-time manufacturing very interesting and challenging; the job has been many things, but never boring.

I have six stands of violets and still love them! I also enjoy very much the new doors the computer has opened into violets. I am a member of the AVConnectionn, AV International, and several of the other on-line AV groups, and I correspond with members from these groups. I am a compulsive reader - bouncing between mysteries and science fiction. I take photos of all the shows I visit and try to post as many as possible in a photo album on-line, with plans to someday get them better organized. A lot of ideas - not near as much time!!



Christel Collier

I love everything about African violets! Most of all, I like the excitement of a well organized AV show with the many glamorous plants all in place! About fifteen years ago, I learned how to grow African violets and make them bloom. My husband kept bringing poor, beat up African violets with spent blossoms and broken leaves home from his grocery store. When they recovered and bloomed again, I kept one for myself and sent the rest back to the store. So began my collection and addiction to African violets. Over the years, my collection has grown to approximately 225 - 250 varieties of

African violets and Gesneriads. I soon found the local AV club and very dear friends and mentors who were always willing to answer my many questions.

I have held every office in the local violet club. Presently, I am the Treasurer for First Lakeland AVS. For the Florida Council, I have served as President, VP, Membership chair, Awards chair, Treasurer, and Show chair for three Florida Council shows. I also had the honor to serve as DAVS Convention Treasurer and Assistant to the Judges' chair for the AVSA convention in Tampa, FL. Recently, I have been Entries chairperson for local clubs and Florida State Convention shows. Another very rewarding activity of mine is to conduct work shops in retirement homes which usually always turn into a re-potting party of African violets which look like palm trees. I try to give all of the participants a blooming plant. It gives me so much satisfaction to see the happiness in the residents' eyes when they receive them.

Born in Berlin, Germany, I came to the US fifty years ago to marry my husband whom I met in Berlin when he was stationed there with the US Armed Forces. We have always lived in Lakeland, FL. We have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. I retired as Sr. Laboratory Technician in Research/Development from IMC Global Phosphate Co.



Sue Ramser

Sue Ramser, of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for thirty-two years. She has served as show chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President nine times.

As member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, Sue has served as newsletter editor twice, Parliamentarian, 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.

Sue has served as a member of the AVSA classification committee, aide to the president for the 1988 AVSA Convention in Dallas, vice chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, elected director, AVSA Sales and Promotion Table Volunteer Coordinator, Secretary of the Shows and Judges Committee, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policies and Procedures Committee, and AVSA Secretary. Sue is an AVSA Life Member, Master Judge, Teacher, and in 1993 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. Sue's other interests include sewing and knitting.



Edna Rourke

Edna Rourke has been a member of AVSA for 27 years and a life member since 2001. She has served AVSA and local African violet organizations for many years. She is a senior judge and currently serves on the Affiliate Committee and AVSA Convention Committee. She is a past AVSA Director and is the Chairman of the annual Auction.

A resident of Shelton, Connecticut, Edna has held various offices in the Nutmeg State African Violet Society including Treasurer and President. She is President of the Naugatonic African Violet Society and a member of Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, Tri State, and Tristate Judges Council, as well as AGGS.

Edna and her husband, Al, have just celebrated their 30th anniversary and have two sons. She currently works as an administrative assistant for the Shelton School System.

In addition to growing and showing African violets and gesneriads, Edna is an avid reader who also enjoys painting and needlework.



Roger Wheeler

Roger Wheeler, a resident of Shelton, Connecticut, has been a member of AVSA for 25 years and has attended 17 conventions. Roger has served all offices of both Nutmeg State and Naugatonic African Violet Societies. He currently serves as treasurer of both societies. Roger is a senior judge.

Roger also is a member of Empire State AVS, Mid-Atlantic AVS, Dixie AVS, Tri-State and the Tri-State Judges Council, as well as AGGS and New England AGGS.

Roger is a Navy veteran, having served in the Mediterranean area. Roger is fluent in Greek and Arabic. He currently is a Social Security Administration Claims Representative. Roger is an avid UCONN fan and attends all football games and men's and women's basketball games. He also enjoys traveling the US by car.



AVSA BOOSTER FUND

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

CONTRIBUTIONS: August 1, 2003 - September 30, 2003

Annette N. Hershkowitz, Commack, NY \$3.00
 P. M. McKee, NSW, Australia 10.00
 Marvin K. Nester, Lakeland, FL 5.00
 Walter J. Golba, Jr., South Hadley, MA 10.00
 Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS 15.00
 Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA 5.00
 Windsor AVS, Windsor, CT 50.00
In memory of Ruth Warren
 North Star AVC, Minneapolis, MN 20.00
In memory of Leonne McAlindon
 Cheryl Gagnon, San Leandro, CA 10.00
 Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY 10.00
 Karen Cichocki, Lafayette, NJ 5.00
 Sharon McKenna 10.00
 Jeanna Mellert, Ellicatt City, MD 5.00
 Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK 10.00
 Colleen Harambasic, Inver Grove Heights, MN 5.00
 Natalie Dann, North Brunswick, NJ 5.00
 The Unpredictable's AVS, Blue Springs, MO 10.00
 Elizabeth Scott AVS, Tuscola, IL 30.00
In memory of Eileen Peer, former member respected for her enthusiastic participation.

Elizabeth C. Evans, Memphis, TN \$5.00
 Selective Gardener Catalog, Nashville, TN 20.00
 Sundowner's AVS, Middleton, WI 25.00
 Omaha AVS, Council Bluffs, IA 50.00
In memory of Richard Sip, a long-time member
 Julie Brown, Tucson AVS, Tucson, AZ 50.00
 African Violet Council of Florida 50.00
In loving memory of Dora DiLorenzo, charter member
 First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL 50.00
In memory of beloved member Dora DiLorenzo
 Cristel Collier, Lakeland, FL 10.00
In loving memory of Dora DiLorenzo
 Mid-Polk AVS, Winter Haven, FL 10.00
In memory of Irene Gasperson, Rita Hilton's mother
 Betty Callahan, Fairless Hills, PA 25.00
In memory of Marion Allen, long-time friend and active member of the Lower Bucks County AVS
 Linda Holifield, Bedford, TX 5.00
 Sarah Opie, Harrowbarrow Callington, England 5.00
 Emerald Necklace AVC, Brighton, MA 3.00
 Brenda M. Brasfield, Olive Branch, MS 10.00

TOTAL: \$536.00

Registration Report



Janice Bruns
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
email: janice@qwip.net

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

.....

Hortense Pittman - Celina, TX

- ***Cloud Puff** (9260) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white/green edge. Medium green, girl foliage. **Miniature**
- ***Confetti Dream** (9261) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble pink/purple fantasy. Light green, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Cool Teen** (9262) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble bright pink frilled. **Variegated** dark green and cream, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- ***Country Romance** (9263) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double pink frilled. **Crown variegated** medium green, cream and pink, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Country Wonder** (9264) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double burgundy/white frilled edge. **Variegated** green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- ***Honey Blue Ace** (9265) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark blue pansy/white edge. Medium green, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Honey Pink Jewel** (9266) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink pansy. Light green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- ***Hortense's Bayou Baby** (9267) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/thin white edge. Dark green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- ***Mi' Sherri** (9268) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Double pink frilled/purple fantasy. **Variegated** green and white, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Midas Glow** (9269) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white star/yellow markings. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***Mikah** (9270) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Single pink sticktite pansy. **Variegated** green and white. **Miniature**

- ***Sassy Angel** (9271) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble coral-pink pansy. **Variegated** green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Sassy Honey** (9272) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender and purple pansy. **Variegated** green and white, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***Sassy Splash** (9273) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Sticktite single light pink pansy. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Sassy Wonder** (9274) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble lavender pansy. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Sundown Cowboy** (9275) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Sunshine Lady** (9276) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Double pink. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Super Boy** (9277) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Semidouble blue frilled. Medium green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- ***Teen Fantasy** (9278) 8/14/03 (H. Pittman) Sticktite single purple/darker fantasy. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

.....

Barbara Werness - Coon Rapids, MN

- ***Sora Kalissa** (9279) 8/18/03 (B. Werness) Single-semidouble white frilled pansy/purple eye and overlay, green edge. Medium green. **Semiminiature**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Nelly Levine - Arvada, CO
* Kyle D. *

.....

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA
* Micheline *

Vintage Violets



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

Having returned from China, I am now bilingual. I don't know how to spell their words, but I can say them. "LeHow" means "hello", "sheshay" means "Thank you", and "No Thank you" is "bullshay". Now that we have that done, we can say that China in September is beautiful. Weather warm and humid. People very gracious. I felt comfortable and could speak all the language I needed. What more do you need other than Hello, Thank you, and No-Thank you? We visited thousands of Terracotta Soldiers, walked the Great Wall in the rain, cruised the Yangtze River, went through the Three

Gorges Dam and locks, and saw the most fantastic mountain range in Lijane. You know, the mountains you see in all of the China pictures. Straight up with no way to scale them.

All this beauty, but not one violet did I see. I looked for chintas; they are from China you know, but found nothing.

Let's say I don't want to visit our Chinese restaurant anytime soon either. Bring on the beefsteak, I say.

Most of the names below on the Wanted List are either hybrids of Dates or Baker. Please, whoever is growing these oldies, speak up.

AVSA Most Wanted

Baker's Hot lips
Beach Comber
Bonnice
Cobalt Halo
Columbella
Coral Halo
Crème de Menthe
Dalliance
Dates Fanfare
Dates Jubilee
Dates Mystique
Dark Crystal
Dippity Doo
Elizabethan Ruffle
Eternal Snow
Evajeau

First Recital
Flash Back
Fleur De Mais
Fruit Salad
Fudge Marble
Great White Way
Helen K
Jade
Imperial Halo
Intensified Pride
Ivory Venus
Katja
Krista Lynn
Limelight
Lime Ricky
Lime Taffy

Mary Louise
Midnight Wave
Mint Julep
Miriam Steel
Nancy Ann
Ontario Sport
Peek A Boo
Pennsylvania Purple
Peppermint Candy
Peppermint Frost
Pink Fingers
Pink Owl
Pink Proliffity
Pony Tail
Poodle Top
Puppy Love (Baker)

Pussycat
Quiet Reflection
Rachel (Baker)
Rose Embroidery
Sabrina
Show Off
Snow Owl
Southern Comfort
Thelma Unsinger
Toyland Sport
Tra LaLa
Tweedle Dee
Virgo
Wild Wing
Wrangler's Ricochet Romance
Zuri

1-800-770-AVSA

Downsizing

by Jeremy Clark

Wingina, Virginia

jeremy@jeremysviolets.com

Anybody who is addicted to violets has at one time or another run into this problem.

After seeing the title of this article, another violet lover said, "Are you talking about getting rid of some of your violets? I hate that."

That is exactly what I am talking about! When you have so many violets you are simply running out of space! You've pawned your violets off to all of your friends, coworkers, etc., and you still have no room. The time has come to "downsize" your collection, as hard as it may be.

You hate to do it, but unless you have a greenhouse, it's virtually impossible to grow all the varieties you like. This is my proposed course of action.

Your first and most obvious consideration is that you can name the violets you know you'll want to keep. That's the easy part, unless of course that means your whole collection! Your second consideration deals with your African violet "buying habits". How often do you buy violets? Every week? Every month? Depending on how far along your African violet addiction has gone this will vary. Since space is so precious, you need to be very selective as to what you purchase. If you always want the latest and greatest hybrids, try buying

only two or three a year. This will slow you down and make your collection even more worthwhile because you have put a lot of thought into what you're looking for. Thus, you will appreciate the special varieties that you do buy a lot more.

Another option is to cull your collection of the larger plants and grow miniatures or semi-minis. They don't take up nearly as much space as standards, and you may like some of the mini varieties more than some of your standards! If you've never given thought to growing minis or even wanting to grow them, this is a perfect opportunity to "test the waters".

What this eventually comes down to is that you have to get rid of some of your violets! Heck, you may even be doing yourself a favor! You might have some that you thought were appealing at one time and just don't like it anymore. Or maybe there are some that you've just lost interest in all together. Maybe ones you really don't pay attention to, or some that are way too big for your growing space.

In the end, it simply comes down to what you can and cannot live without. Get rid of those violets and make some room! From growing minis to only buying a few violets a year, the choice is yours.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029

E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836

Donations Received

Report 8 - August 2003

Selective Gardener Catalog, Nashville, TN	\$ 20.00
Cen-Tex AVC (Disbanned), Copperas Cove, TX	255.00
The Unpredictable's AVS, Blue Springs, MO	10.00
Karyn Cichocki, Lafayette, NJ	5.00
Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY	10.00
Natalie Dann, North Brunswick, NJ	5.00
Elizabeth C. Evans, Memphis, TN	5.00
Cheryl Gagnon, San Leandro, CA	10.00
Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK	10.00
Shirley McKenna, Redwood City, CA	10.00
Joanna Mellert, Ellicott City, MD	5.00
Harriet K. Morgan, Manhattan, MT	10.00
Eva Terry, Hagarville, AR	5.00
David B. Tooker, Red Bank, NJ	10.00

TOTAL \$370.00

Report 9 - September 2003

Garden State AV Club, Allentown, NJ	50.00
<i>In lieu of Judging Expenses: Lauren Brown, Lee Borey, Florence Friedman, Bob Kurzynski, Jan Murasko, Frank Senna</i>	
North Texas AV Judges Council, Mesquite, TX	10.00
<i>In memory of Glennis Crouch</i>	
Sundowners AV Club, Middleton, WI	25.00
The AVS of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY	10.00
Tucson AVS, Tucson, AZ	50.00
Camilla Ingle, Simpsonville, SC	5.00
Linda Holifield, Bedford, TX	5.00
Yen Yu Kao, Taipei, Hsien, Taiwan	2.50
Pierre Laforest, PQ, Canada	10.00
Sarah Opie, Cornwall, England	5.00
Howard Royce, Belmar, NJ	10.00
Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA	5.00

TOTAL \$167.50



AVSA AFFILIATES

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*
7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506
Promers22@hotmail.com

Strive For the A+, Part I

As students, we learned that a "C" grade is average, the grade received for doing just enough to "get by". To get a "B", an "A", or even an "A+", one has to do more. It is no different with any job, project, or responsibility in an affiliate club. I challenge every affiliate member to strive for the "A+". The end result should be an "A+" club that not only attracts members but keeps them.

I recommend that each affiliate member use the following principles or guidelines to evaluate his job or responsibility. Some examples are included; all guidelines can be applied to any affiliate office or chairmanship.

1. Accept the right job

This may sound simple, but, it is amazing how often people accept jobs that they are not suited for, don't have the capability to do, or they are not available at the time necessary to do the job. Some jobs require organizational abilities and are accepted by unorganized members. Knowledgeable growers better fulfill some jobs. Others jobs require that the member attend the meetings regularly. Evaluate. Can you attend meetings regularly, or, do you work or have family commitments that would interfere? You might be better suited to a chairmanship that does not require faithful attendance.

Try publicity. You can do an "A+" job by checking into radio, television, flyers, and other possibilities from home.

Attendance of the Membership Chairman should not be overlooked. He needs to be available in order to meet visitors, encourage membership, and to inform the visitors of membership requirements.

The AVSA Representative needs to be present to keep visitors and members informed of AVSA and its importance.

2. Plan ahead

Whatever job a person accepts, he should take the time to plan ahead. Most jobs require some planning; some require more planning than others.

A president should plan each meeting well in advance with a detailed agenda. This gives him the time to research questions that may come up while putting the agenda together. It gives him time to make sure that he has all the information needed rather than having to consult with members prior to the meeting. It would be wise to lay out a calendar of requirements in the beginning; for example, when certain donations are usually considered, when a nominating committee should be appointed, dates for the club members to remember, etc.

The job of the Program Chairman is one of the most demanding. It takes time to schedule programs for a year, make sure that the speakers are assigned, and to have the yearbook or list of programs for the members by the first annual meeting. A last minute attempt to plan the programs usually results in only

a "C" grade. Strive for the "A+". Knowing what the program is in advance encourages members to attend. Gift and plant exchanges should be announced well in advance so that members have the time to plan ahead.

The Secretary needs to have the minutes ready before the meeting. They should be prepared as soon as possible after a meeting. If there are questions, he has time to research them.

The Publicity Chairman should make his plans immediately. Deadlines for publications vary and are usually earlier than one anticipates. Plan and check the dates early; then place them on a 'working calendar'.

Anyone who is in charge of plant sales, shows, exhibits, etc., should make sure that the facility is available when wanted. This allows time for publicity, participation, and enough notice for the members to bring plants into bloom.

3. Do the job

Remember that accepting a job is a commitment. A member lets the whole club down when he doesn't complete the job.

- Are you a member who has an email address in my directory contact list? Are you listed as the contact on the affiliate web site for your club? That means that when you receive affiliate correspondence from me, it is your responsibility to share that correspondence with your members and to notify me of any changes of your club information on the web site in a timely manner, especially changes in email addresses.
- Are you the club treasurer? It is your responsibility, not only to collect the money, but to keep accurate records. Find out when your affiliate dues should be sent to the AVSA office and make notes for those who continue as club treasurer after you.
- Are you responsible for the yearbook? It is important to make sure that it is ready to distribute at the first meeting of your club year so the members can see what is planned.

To be continued...

I want to thank you all for the wonderful attendance and sharing of information at the Affiliate Meeting in Baton Rouge. The topic focused on getting new members, both for AVSA and the Affiliate. If you were unable to join us, please check out the Affiliate columns in the January, May, and September AVM issues of 1999.

There are schedule changes for the upcoming convention in Tucson. The day and time for the Affiliate Meeting has changed and is combined with a meal - breakfast. Anyone can attend the meeting with or without the breakfast. Everyone is welcome; we hope that those of you who have not been able to arrive early enough in the past to attend the Affiliate Meeting will take advantage of the new day and time.

Keeping Track Of Your Plants

by Claude Norton
Town & Country AVC of Michigan

Do you have trouble keeping track of your plants? Do you ever wonder if you still have a certain plant and, if so, where it is? I used to have that problem. I kept a record of my plants in a spiral notebook divided into three sections. One section was for mature plants, another section was for baby plants, and the third section was for starters like leaves etc. I tried to keep the sections alphabetical as much as possible. I think you can see the problem with this system already. When you acquired a new plant, you either added it on to the end of the list to keep your notebook neat or you squeezed the new arrival in between two other entries to maintain your alphabetical listing. Worse yet, what happens when a starter plant becomes a baby and moves into the next category or when one of your mature plants dies? More scratching out and moving things around. Ultimately, you end up with a notebook that is illegible and useless. What is the solution?

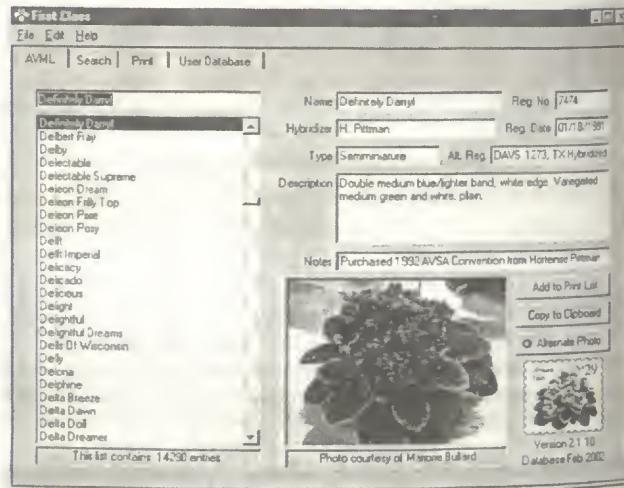
Actually, there are a couple of solutions. One perfectly good solution is to open up your Word Perfect or MS Word program; whichever you prefer, and type in your lists of plants which you can then save and print out. With a system such as this, it is much easier to add new names or subtract old ones of varieties that you no longer wish to keep.

Making and saving lists with your word processor is a good way to account for your plants, but there is an even better way to do it. We use Quicken or MS Money to keep track of our financial and household accounts. These programs are designed for that purpose specifically. Why not use a program especially designed for your plants? The AVSA has just such a program and it's called "First Class." It has many features that would not be available to you just using a word processor. For example, it has photos, descriptions and other data on many of the registered plants. These lists are updated and available for downloading at regular intervals.

First Class may be used to search for African violet cultivars found in the AVSA's *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars*, its supplements, and the registration reports in the *African Violet Magazine*.

When the program is opened, the first thing that you will see is the master list on the right hand side of the screen. You may scroll this list looking for a particular violet, or you may type the name of the violet in the box provided at the top of the list. If you should type a letter "M", the list will scroll to the beginning of the M's. If the violet you are looking for is present, the data will appear in the box to the right of the master list, and if there is a photo for the violet, it will appear in the box at the bottom of the screen. Sometimes there is an alternate photo, in which case, a little green light will go on to the right of the photo, and clicking on this box will bring forth an alternate photo of the plant.

The Search Tab allows you to set certain criteria. For example, if you were to type "pink" in the search box, the program will list every cultivar with pink in its name. Even fragments of words can be used. If you were to type "ink", you would find any and all violets with that fragment in its name.



You can also search using the hybridizer field as the search criterion. If you are looking for a plant hybridized by a certain individual, listing his or her name in the hybridizer field will produce a list of every one of his or her plants in the database.

There are many other ways to search. If you were to check the Photo box, the search will return only cultivars with photos associated with them. Or, you may choose to search only for plants for which you have written notes. Click on the "Notes" box. Searching is limited only by your imagination.

The Print Tab allows you to print descriptions of plants you are interested in and save them in a text file. It also permits you to print labels for your plants complete with data on the plant.

But now we come to the good part, your own list of plants. Click on the User Database tab and you can enter listings of your own plants. You can include descriptions of the foliage and flowers. You can include other information such as the hybridizer, where, when, and from whom you acquired the plant. You can even include a photo of your plant. This program is the complete database for the violet hobbyist. You can't go wrong for the \$25.00 price tag, available from the AVSA Office in Beaumont, TX. I am sorry to say that this program is not available in an Apple version yet. Now, if only somebody would write a program for orchids...

Container Gardens

by Phyllis King

There are four kinds of container gardens: terrariums, dish gardens, natural gardens, and bottle gardens, although it is rare to see a bottle garden in one of our area shows, and I've never done one, so I'll omit that category from this article. All container gardens are miniature scenes or landscapes. For African violet shows, these gardens must contain at least one blooming African violet plant along with other plants. If you are creating a container garden, it will be viewed from the front, but it needs to be effective from all sides. With the exception of the possible use of a piece of driftwood for line material and height, all plants must be rooted and living, with no cut material used.

The first thing you should do is READ YOUR SCHEDULE. From the show schedule, you will determine whether there should be a theme used in your container garden. Then look for an appropriate container. Terrariums can be square, round, rectangular, or any other shape, but must have a cover. The container should be free of scratches, soil particles and stains. Dish gardens are created in low containers, without enclosure. A natural garden is a planting in something natural, such as a piece of lava, a seashell, driftwood, a gourd, or some similar object found in nature. If the object you have chosen for your natural garden does not have pockets for inserting plants, you may have to do some carving to make them work.

The same elements and principles of design apply to the container gardens as to other exhibits in the Design Division of a show. In all container gardens, you have to consider the space you are going to fill. You don't want to have your planting look skimpy or overcrowded. You want your creation to have good balance. It can be symmetrical or asymmetrical. When you are planning your miniature landscape, you will want to use a variety of plants for contrast in height, texture, and color of the foliage, with some having shiny leaves and others with a dull finish. The combination of plants used must be compatible with African violets - for example, you would definitely not want to use

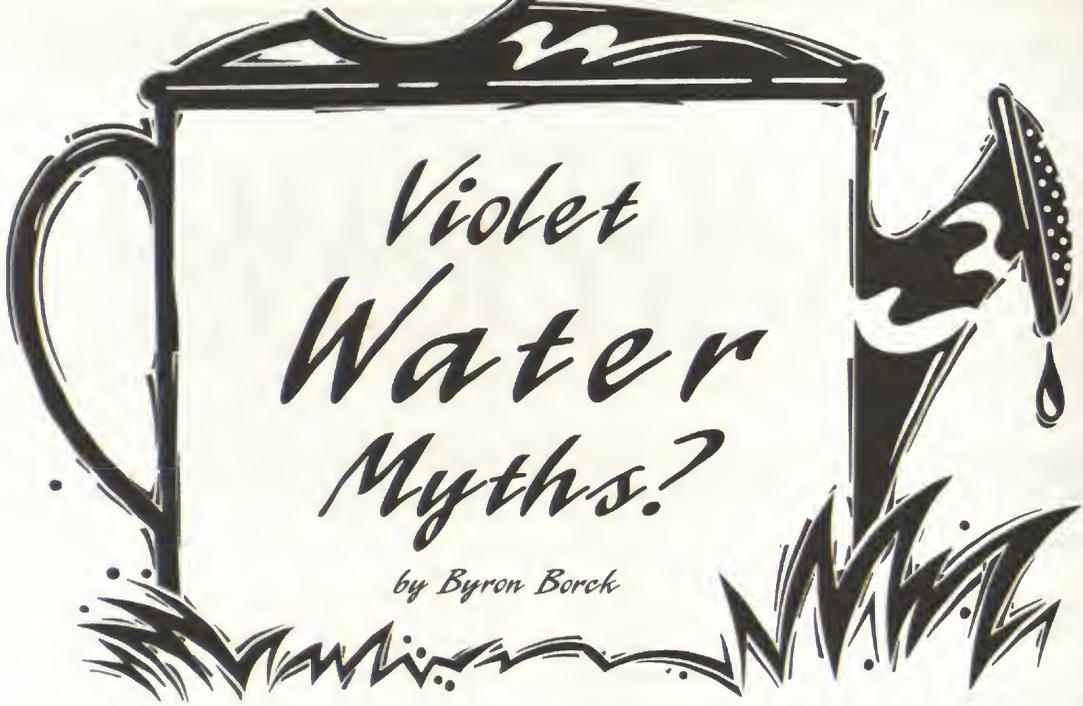
a cactus plant in a container garden for one of our African violet shows.

When I am creating a container garden, I try not to use more than five different varieties of plants, although I may use several plants of the same variety. I think using more varieties makes the planting look sort of haphazard. Be very sure that all plants you use are disease and bug free, and well-grown. If you are using accessories, they must be of the right scale for the planting and appropriate to the class title or theme of the show. Remember to "keep it simple" - do not over accessorize. You will need to build up the landscape to lead the eye. If you have a river (or the illusion of one) it should go into the scene, not across it. You can make meadows, woods, valleys, and cliffs in miniature landscapes for terrariums and dish gardens, just by the way you use rocks, wood, and your planting medium; however, you don't want to have multiple or divided planting areas. You want the design to "flow." Because of the types of containers provided by Mother Nature such as driftwood or lava rock, natural gardens MAY have more than one planting area or pocket.

One suggestion I have is that you make cuttings of several varieties of plants, two to three months before you will need them, to have plenty of planting material to use in your garden. Another is to create our garden at least a week or two before a show to give it time to sort of "get settled in." If you plant too far in advance and don't give the container garden enough light, the plants will begin to elongate and get leggy which will disturb your proportion and scale. You will probably want to leave putting in an African violet until the last minute, so put an empty pot of the appropriate size into the scene where you want to place it just before the show.

Good luck!

From *The Florida Connection* publication of the
AV Council of Florida



When I started growing violets seriously many years ago, I was told "how to", "you must do this", and "never do that". After months of research and asking the right questions, I started weeding out the facts from the myths regarding water and the African violet.

Recent internet postings dealt with the subject of water. Is one type of water and method for applying it better than another? Do I need to use aged water or room temperature water? Does foliar feeding really work? Grandmother always said not to get water on the leaves.

I must confess that I do not let my water stand or use water that is at room temperature. The water I use is warm water from the tap with fertilizers added. I stuck my arm in water that had sat overnight and come to room temperature. It was cold! The temperature of the water must have been down in the 65° range. Knowing violets like air temperature in the 70's, what about the water? What temperature is the water for plants that are being wicked?

A friend of mine works for our local water agency as a supervisor. She has dealt with many types of water problems from industrial waste water to balancing pH. I asked her about the chlorine added to water. Her comment was, after laughing at me, "There is not enough chlorine added to the water to harm a violet". She went on to say, "Think about your garden. You use water right out of the tap. Does the chlorine harm your garden?" By the way, she has some marvelous violets at work from fellow workers who brought them in about dead and asked for help.

Now I must add, please check with your water agency and see how much chlorine is added to the water in your area. Can you taste it as it comes out of the tap? In our area we can't. Are we going to a lot of extra work that is not really needed by letting the water "age" and come to room temperature?

One of Dr. Jeff Smith's articles on foliar feeding got me thinking and wondering. Can violets absorb nutrients through the leaves? Dr. Smith felt, after his experiments, that foliar feeding did very little for the plants. He did observe that the soil sometimes became dry, and he commented that if the plants were stressed for lack of water, the effects of foliar feeding might not be seen. I also wonder: If the experiment had been continued for a longer time and used several violet varieties, might it have shown different results?

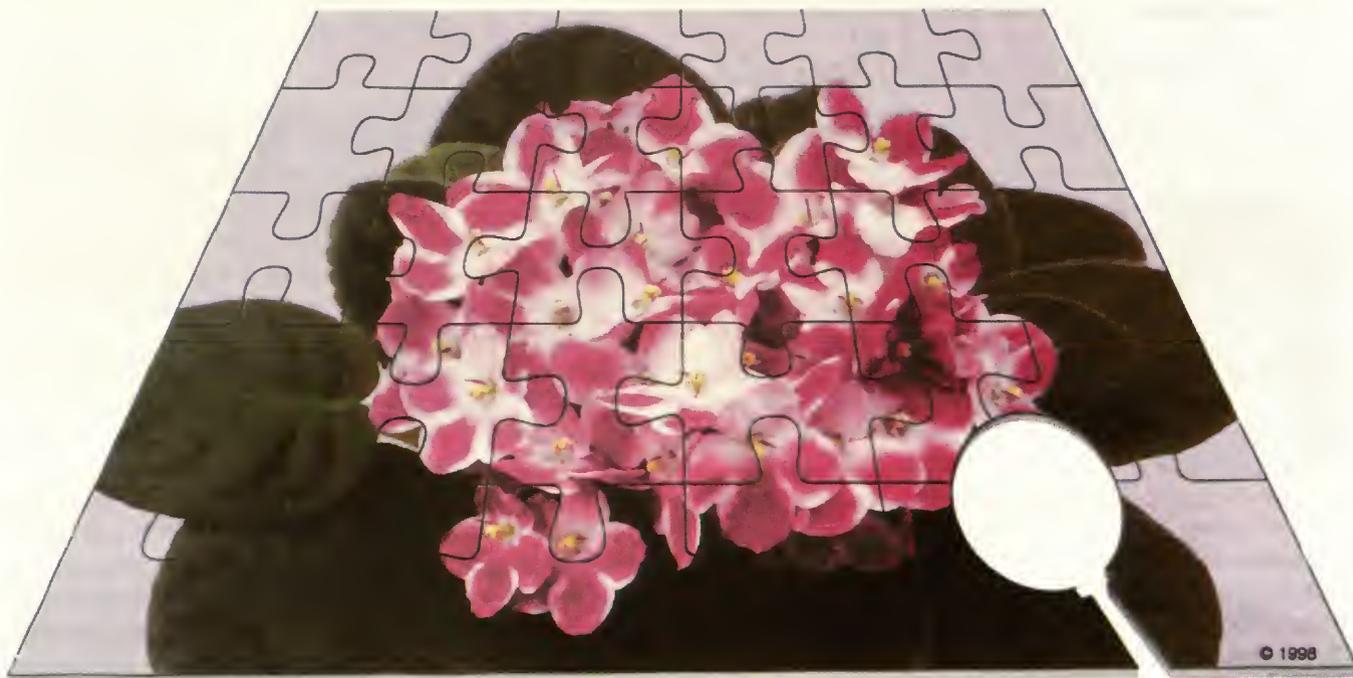
In one of Dr. Charles Cole's presentations at the Sacramento AVSA Convention, he stated that a plant's growth will be affected by the amount of water that the plant receives. If a plant is dry, it does not have the necessary mechanics in its cells to carry on the growth process.

Osmosis is the chief means by which nutrients dissolved in fluids pass in and out of plant and animal cells. Many studies have shown that plants, as well as animals, can absorb as well as excrete fluids through their leaves and skins.

Water on a violet's leaves was once thought to be harmful to the plant. Now we know that a warm water bath cleans the leaves and makes the plant grow better. If you are not sure how to do this, ask a fellow club member for a demonstration.

The proof in all this, I feel, is how your plants grow. Do your plants grow and bloom the way you'd like them to? If you believe that aging water, or warm tap water, or wicking, or top watering, or bottom watering works - they do for you. So, keep on growing your way.

Water and how it's applied are just two of the many variables of violet culture. Find out what works for you and be consistent in doing it!



What's Missing From This Picture?

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

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

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

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

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

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

A Complete African Violet Resource

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

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

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

The Selective Gardener Catalog

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

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

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





Pat Richards

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

January. In the northern hemisphere, cold, bleak, anticlimactic. January. In the violet world, a time for rebirth, peaked interest, and planning. January. A new *African Violet Magazine* from which planning can be done, either to attend the AVSA convention in Tucson, or to order new cultivars from the many hybridizers and commercials. It is with this in mind we discuss selection of cultivars, both new and old!

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

Do you want variety? Do you want uniqueness? Do you want showplants? Are you nostalgic? Do you want easy? Perhaps you even want a mix of several or all of the above. Regardless, there is a mini or a semi for you (actually, there are several!) and a supplier out there for you.

For variety, select a commercial who doesn't do a lot of hybridizing. Lisa DiMambro at Chestnut Country Violets comes to mind. Also, because she grows a lot of different varieties, she keeps on hand a lot of vintage varieties. Lisa also exhibits and does very well at national conventions, so she carries a good selection of showplants. Unique? The first commercial which comes to mind is Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses headed up by Paul Sorano. Paul is well known for putting out exquisite plants with exquisite blooms. The classic 'Irish Flirt' comes to mind with its wonderful double green "cabbage" like blooms. It's tremendously heavy blooming, with foliage that is not incredibly easy to grow. It and its sister, 'Sassy Sister', is a mirror image except having a pink bloom with wide green edge. All would agree these cultivars set the standard for uniqueness. Two recent introductions are 'Plumberry Glow', with very attractive dark variegated foliage topped by lovely plum colored thumbprint blooms. 'Crystal Blue' was introduced last year, and it is simply ethereal: blooms of blue and white with a soft yellow eye seemingly made of sheer silk arise on a lovely variegated plant, giving it an absolutely "take your breath away" look.

Showplants? I always think of Hortense Pittman's plants: perfectly symmetrical plants which will stay in size and

which are extremely heavy blooming with very little coaxing. Names such as 'Little Pro', 'Definitely Darryl', 'Petite Jewel', 'Winnergreen', 'Magic Blue', 'Precious Pink' are just a few which immediately come to mind. Showplants and unique? Think of her girl foliage varieties such as 'Petite Blarney' and 'Peppermint Girl'. While Hortense doesn't sell, her plants are available from Shirley's House of Violets, Chestnut Country Violets, Cape Cod Violets, and The Violet House, among others. Another great place to go for showplants is Rob's Violets. Here you get a lot of everything: heavy blooming showplants as well as unique corals, fantasys, crown variegation, reds and chimeras, and easy, tried and true varieties. Just think of 'Rob's Mad Cat', 'Rob's Mango Mongo', 'Rob's Love Bite', 'Rob's Boogie Woogie', 'Rob's Squeeze Toy' and 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' to get you motivated!

Nostalgia? Try Marsha Belisle of the Violet House. She carries many, many cultivars, including Jimmy Dates' wasp hybrids, Ethel Champions' lovely "Trinket" variegates, as well as many of the wonderful Ness varieties. Also strong in that area is John Cook at Cape Cod Violets, with his amazing collection of rare and hard to find violets as well as the best newer cultivars. As far as easy, how about Travis' Violets? Travis Davis stocks a little bit of something for everyone, but mostly, those which grow and do well year after year after year: a lot of Pittman, a lot of Rob's, and a lot of Lyons. And for someone with a lot of the esoteric cultivars, try going to Shirley's House of Violets, Shirley Sanders, proprietor. Now we're talking about the unique, mostly show plants hybridized by Shirley's brother Dean Hobbs: 'Dean's Blue Bunny', 'Dean's Ivory Lace', 'Dean's Peach Frost' to name a few. Shirley carries many of Hortense's new and older varieties, plus she has begun hybridizing on her own and now carries her own line of "Shirl's" plants. They have wonderful foliage and tend to put on a head of bloom reminiscent of ice cream cones!

I might also mention Violet Perfection by Gini McCanne, which carries a moderate variety of exceptional minis and semis, and Bluebird Greenhouse operated by Libbie Glembocki.

PLANT OR LEAF?

Most commercials offer the choice of purchasing by plant or leaf. If given the choice, what do you buy? If you want quick performance, get a plant, but if you're patient and want good results, try a leaf! By using a leaf, you can get a plant which is used to your environment, your soil, and over the long run, will do better. Plants come in the grower's soil, which often is quite different from yours with respect to constitution, how hard it is packed, whether it's been wicked or not, and overall root structure. When new plants arrive, it is advisable to wait a couple of days to allow them to recover from the shock of the transfer, and then transplant them into your own soil. At the same time they can be shaped up to improve symmetry, and leaves damaged in shipment can be removed. Basically, your bright, new plants can get off to a fresh start!

As for a leaf, usually the commercial will send two. If their ends haven't been wrapped, don't panic, as this may have allowed your leaf to begin forming the callus necessary for rooting. If your leaf is limp from its journey, you can take it out of its baggie and place it in a bowl of warm water overnight. This will usually revive a wilted leaf. Another alternative is to place a small amount of warm water in the baggie, take a deep breath, blow into the baggie (a lot of hot, moist air and beneficial CO₂), and seal it up. This also helps restore a weakened leaf to good condition.

Once the leaf is ready to plant, examine the end of the petiole. You may want to recut it 1) if it's too long, 2) if it's cut at the wrong angle, or 3) if it's ragged, damaged, or otherwise questionable. If you recut, be sure it is done at a slant, with the exposed face of the slant toward the front of the leaf; if you cut with the exposed slant to the back of the leaf, the plantlets will come up behind the leaf! Now, where to put the leaf? Many growers place it in separate pots among their regular collection. Others devote a specific growing area to propagation. Some place their leaves in shallow dishes, others in enclosed containers. As for me, I prefer the latter,

using small, clear salad bar or bakery containers with a hinged lid. They are cleaned out; then fresh, moist soil is put in about 1-1 1/2" deep, and the leaves are placed in rows within the container. A permanent marker is used to mark the name of the leaf on the top of the container. The benefit to doing this is you should not have to water or monitor the leaves until it's time to transplant, because you have created a mini, self-watering terrarium. For those of us with hectic lives, this is wonderful!

There is some debate as to what type of soil to use to start your leaves. Some individuals prefer pure vermiculite, others a half and half mix of vermiculite and perlite, while others place the leaf directly into the same potting mix as the rest of their collection. I prefer the latter, as again, the plantlet has to go through less culture shock when transplanted, and also, it's one less mix I have to prepare and store. Bottom line is, though, do what works for you! As far as fertilization, once plantlets have begun to come up, within 6-8 weeks depending on light and temperature, you can fertilize with a weak fertilizer solution.

Once the leaves of the plantlets reach about the size of a dime, or your pinkie fingernail, it's time to move them into their own pot. From this point on, they should really take off, as they're now receiving individualized attention with all the perks: fertilizer, great growing medium, good air circulation, and plenty of light. Within a short period, you should have a lovely, blooming plant!

ARIZONA!

Convention should be very exciting this year as we travel to exotic Tucson, Arizona. This issue of the *AVM* is filled with convention information which should spark your interest in attending. Be sure and look over your collection, identify and start working with a mini or a semi you can bring with you for the show, and start saving those pennies to purchase the great new varieties the attending commercials will have on hand. Take care!

WHY REMOVE SUCKERS/SIDE-SHOOTS?

by Sue Gardner

Some people wonder why we bother to remove suckers, also called side-shoots, on a standard African violet. They suggest that it is best to allow the plant to grow as it likes.

If however, suckers are allowed to develop, the plant will become an untidy mass of leaves. This will block light from reaching the center leaves. Why is that important? It is known that African violets usually produce flowers in the axils of the center three rows of leaves. From experience I have found that the crown or center leaves need to receive light to stimulate flower bud production. So keep the center

leaves open to the light.

Why can we grow trailers which flower if the above is true? Trailers have smaller leaves which are further apart which allows more light to penetrate. If, however you allow a trailer to become too bushy, flowering will be restricted. That is why leaves are pruned to open the plant to light producing optimum flowering.

From the Newsletter of the
Early Morn AV Group, Australia

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 27

Showcase

Louisiana Lagniappe

New Cultivar 2003

Hybridized & Exhibited by: Kent Stork

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Persian Prince

Best Miniature

3rd Best in Show

2003 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Linda Golubski

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

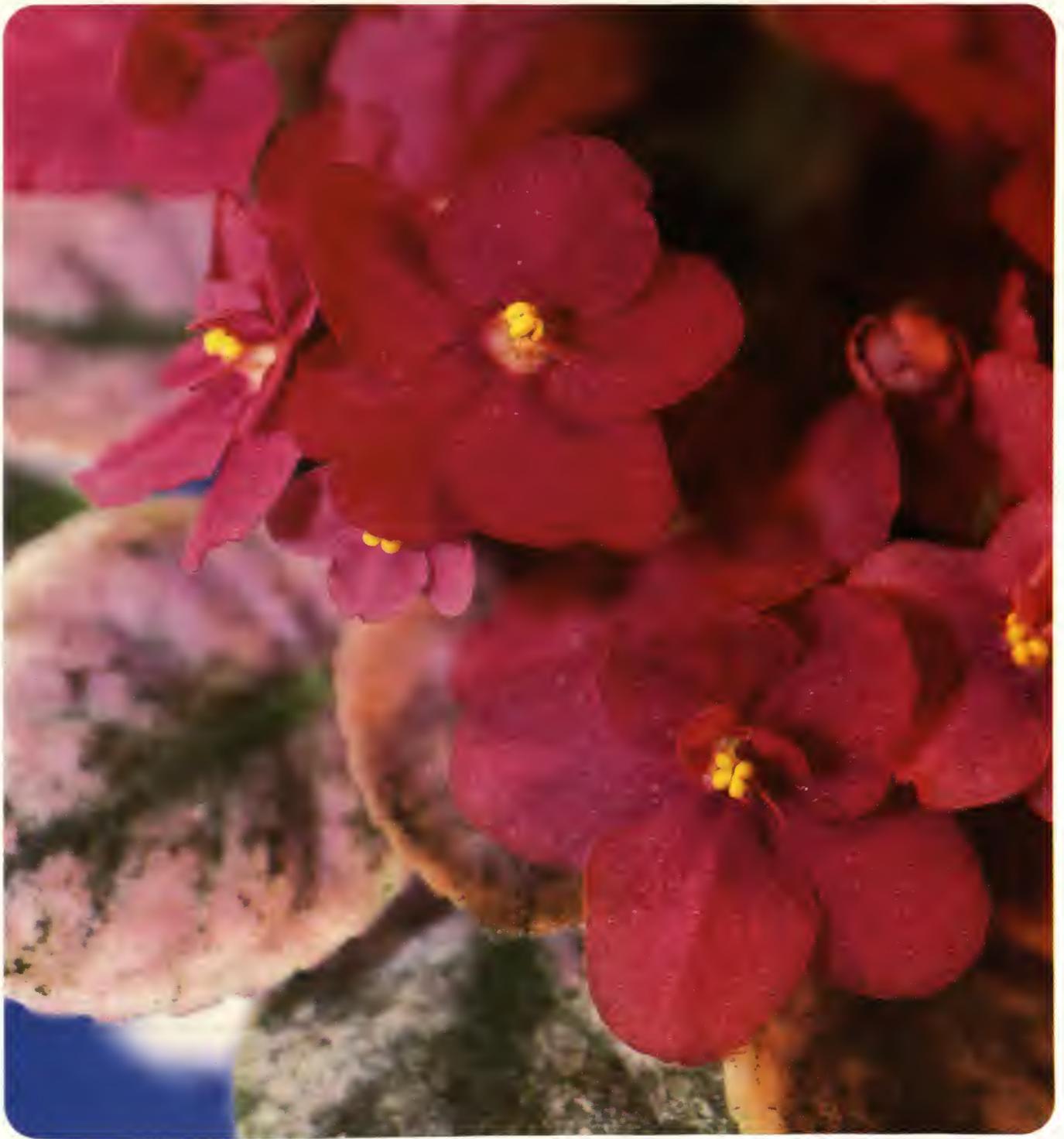


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Slap Happy

2nd Best New Cultivar

2003 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited & Hybridized by: **Ralph Robinson***
Semiminiature

Judges' Class

In September a review class and exam was held in Austin, Texas for Judges. It was very enlightening.

These are some of the things the Teacher, Meredith Hall, mentioned.

1. The AVSA rule changes are published in the Shows and Judges column of the African Violet Magazine. Most of the changes appear in the September/October issue. Update your Handbook immediately with any rule changes.
2. Learn the reason for the Handbook and the stated purposes of the AVSA .
3. The handbook has illustrations of the various types of blooms and foliage. Learn these (to be called a "Geneva Edge" the band must be white!)
4. The Classification Committee disqualifies entries with bugs such as: mealy bugs, thrips, and mites. The speaker pointed out that mites are not insects, but a member of the spider family, and most insecticides will not kill them.
5. Powdery mildew is a fungus and can appear overnight on a plant with poor air circulation. Exhibits showing powdery mildew will be eliminated from consideration for an award.
6. When preparing for an AVSA show event, there are a few things to remember.
 - a. A club can apply for an AVSA award package only once a year.
 - b. Application must be sent 2 months prior to the event, and 2 copies of the show schedule must be included in the request.
 - c. The show schedule is the "law of the show".
7. Only AVSA members in good standing (dues current) can be judges. Only AVSA members in good standing (dues current) can enter the AVSA collection class.
8. Plant must have been in your possession for three months prior to the show.
9. Awards: Violets are judged on merit. Points are deducted for spent blooms, baby leaves, blemishes, broken leaves, suckers, size of pot, centering in pot, etc.
 - a. A violet must get 90 points to receive a blue ribbon.
 - b. Only blue ribbon winners are eligible to be considered for AVSA awards or any other special award.
 - c. Best in Show is chosen from the Best in Class and Best Collection winners.
 - d. Judges cannot disqualify plants, but can "eliminate from consideration" for an award. Some of the reasons for elimination are pests, disease, wrong name, wrong size, flared top pot, etc.
 - e. Judges may ask for reclassification for plants that have been placed in the wrong class.
10. Judges' decisions are final unless they violate ASVA rules. If there is a question concerning a violation or judgment, the Show Chairman can recall the judges if they have not left the show. All three must be present to be recalled to reconsider a judgment. Otherwise, the original judgment is left standing.
11. A trailer must have at least three crowns to be considered. The are judged on form and not symmetry.
12. Species plants are not judged by the same standards as hybrids.
13. Judges may not pick plants up or handle in any manner.

Before the exam portion of the review, several plants were displayed for judging, and Mrs. Hall went over each plant with comments and pointed out what would be deducted for various problems.

It was a very educational experience.

From The Victoria (Texas) AVS Newsletter

Coming Events Deadlines

January/February AVM - November 1

March/April AVM - January 1

May/June AVM - March 1

July/August AVM - May 1

September/October AVM - July 1

November/December AVM - September 1

All events notices must be in writing.
Submit by Email <rrumsey@earthlink.net>.

Fax: 409.839.4329 or

US Postal Service: AVSA Coming Events
2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

PETIOLE ROT - OR A DISORDER BY ANY OTHER NAME

by Sue Haffner

(with help from Helen Van Pelt Wilson's "African Violet Book")

Most of us have seen this happen: some outer leaves of your violets turn brown and mushy where they droop over the edge of the pot. It's a discouraging sight. A closer look may show an orange/brown or rust-colored lesion at the point where the leaf petiole touches the pot rim or lies in contact with the soil. Some stalks may already have shriveled and collapsed. (This petiole rot should not be confused with the normal gradual aging and yellowing of mature leaves as the plant grows.)

This is generally considered to be a chemical injury, called "efflorescence disease." It is apparently caused by contact of the leaf stalks with fertilizer salts that collect on the surface of the soil and on the rim of the pot.

Get rid of the incrustation as quickly as possible. Remove any affected leaves, cutting as far down on the stem as you can. Flush the soil with heavy watering, about three times in an hour will do it. Stir the top soil slightly with a fork; then repot in a clean container of the same size. If you can, use cooled boiled water or distilled water for a couple of weeks after this.

Good culture will minimize this trouble by keeping petioles sturdy and helping keep the leaves above the pot rims. Top watering will also keep fertilizer salts flushed down into the soil.

Many of the problems we see with violets can be chalked up to problems of culture, not that of pests or diseases. If a plant under lights or in a window shows signs of being unhappy, move it to a different location. See if that helps. I have found that, especially in hot weather, some varieties react to excess heat and light by developing tight centers. These can usually be corrected by putting the plant in a north window or other lower-light situation.

"Crystal Power," an article by Pam Kennedy in the Jan/Feb 2000 AVM, discusses the crust of orange-brown crystals that sometimes form around the edges of pots, or even along the edges of violet leaves.

This is caused by fertilizer salt build-up. Left untreated, it can alter the pH of the potting mix, rendering it toxic for the plant. This imbalance can burn the delicate feeder roots. Petiole rot and tight centers can be symptoms of fertilizer imbalance.

Wash away any crystals with lukewarm water, leach the potting mix until water is clear. Dry leaves gently with tissue or towel and drain excess water before putting the plant back on its reservoir. Frequent repotting will help avoid this problem.

From the "AFRICAN VIO-LET-TER" publication of the Central California AVS, and the CA Council News



Fun Facts About Tucson

Did you know that -Tucson is the 30th largest city in the US and has a current population of 514,674 (June 2003)

- The median age in Tucson is 35 years.
- Tucson covers 226 square miles in land area.
- Tucson sits at an elevation of 2,389 feet above sea level.
- Tucson's average annual precipitation is 11.24 inches.
- Tucson has more sunshine than any other US city, approximately 350 days a year.
- The average maximum temperature in Tucson is 83.4 degrees, the average minimum temperature is 53.6 degrees.
- Tucson is the second most commonly mis-spelled city in the country after Pittsburgh.
- *Money Magazine* ranked Tucson as one of the top 6 places to retire in the country.

- Tucson placed 5th in MSN's list of "Best Places for Outdoor Activities."
- *Bicycling Magazine* ranked Tucson as the 3rd best bicycling city in the US.
- Tucson was ranked the number one city for spas and resorts by the Zagat Survey.
- *Birder's World Magazine* ranked Tucson and southeast Arizona as the top bird watching area in the country.



Showcase

Little Jayhawker

Exhibited by: Martha Dyson

Hybridized by: M. Gall

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Frozen In Time

Exhibited by: Olive Ma Robinson

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

**AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE
TUCSON, ARIZONA
2004
HORTICULTURE DIVISION-AMATEUR**

**SECTION I - COLLECTIONS
CLASS**

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.
2. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).
3. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.
4. Robinson Collection of three registered Rob's Violets plants, all of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers) or three standards.
5. Buckeye Collection of three registered standard Hancock (Buckeye series) plants.

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

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

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

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

SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

49. Seedlings
50. Sports or mutants

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

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

**SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

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

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

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

Class 61. **Fiesta of Violets** - It's party time! The show theme, "Fiesta of Violets", celebrates the beauty of violets with a Southwestern flair. Fiesta is a Spanish word that means "Party". There is lively music, tasty food, and dancing. Create your show theme interpretation in a white niche 28"H X 21 1/2" W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 62. **Old Tucson** - Built in 1939 for the epic western movie "Arizona". Old Tucson continues to preserve the frontier way of life of 100 years ago. It will take you back in time when the west was wild, complete with cowboys, horses, gunfights, dirt roads, wooden sidewalks, and hitching posts. If you want to create a western design, this is the one for you, and you can bet that those cowboys were at the fiestas too! Staged in white niches 28"H X 21 1/2"W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 63. **Desert Sun** - Hot, hot, hot! But it's a dry heat. The rays of the sun shine brightly onto the desert and the creatures that inhabit it. Everyone looks for a shade from the intense summer heat. To be staged in a white niche 28"H x 21-1/2"W x 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 64. **Spanish Trail** - For this design, use a trailing African violet, giving it a Spanish flair. Staged in white niches 28"H X 21 1/2"W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 65. **Spirit of the Southwest** - There is a special feeling in the Southwest, an aura of serenity, timelessness, an instinct of survival. This can be felt in the warm rays of the sun, heard in the call of the gray hawk circling above, found in the smell of creosote after a summer rain. It is seen in the clear blue sky and in the rugged majesty of mountains. It is the "Spirit of the Southwest!" Staged in white niches 28"H X 21 1/2"W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

SECTION XI - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

These designs will use fresh-cut African violet blossoms any color (except where specified). Fresh-cut, dried, treated, painted materials, and manmade materials are permitted. No artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, nor the American or other national flags are permitted. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by individual classes

Class 66. **Mariachi Melody** - Mariachi music plays a very important part in the Hispanic culture. The Mariachis are musicians, and they often stroll through the crowds playing guitars, trumpets, and violins. Their outfits are very colorful, accented by gleaming silver buttons and large-brimmed hats. Their music can be either upbeat or slow and sensual. This design is staged in a lighted white niche 10"H X 8"W X 5"D. Background material required. Limit 10 entries.

Class 67. **San Xavier Mission Del Bac** - This mission was founded by Father Kino in 1692, and is known as "The White Dove of the Desert". Built entirely of burned brick covered with lime plas-

ter, the structure is a series of domes and arches. A popular place for marriages and festivals, it is also a place of worship for Tohono O'ohdam Indians. Use white blossoms for this design. Staged in a white niche that is 24"H X 18 1/2"W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 68. **Desert Mirage** - As the intense desert sun beats down on the parched earth, heat currents quiver skyward. To the weary, thirsty, lost soul, it looks like water ahead. He continues onward to discover it was just an illusion. Make your own mirage with an underwater design. Staged for viewing from the front only. Containers must not exceed 12" in width. No backdrops or underlay permitted. Limit 6 entries.

Class 69. **Pinata Party** - No fiesta is complete without a pinata. Pinatas are generally animal shaped and made of papier-mache using bright colorful tissue paper. They are filled with candy and hung from a tree. The children are then blindfolded and try to hit the pinata with a long stick to break the pinata open so the candy falls to the ground for all to enjoy. This design is a mobile. It may be suspended from a dowel or similar object laid across the top of the niche. Dowels or rods are to be supplied by the exhibitor. Staged in white niches 24"H X 18 1/2"W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

Class 70. **Painted Desert** - The Painted Desert is a region in Arizona that is known for its geographic formations and beautiful colors. This is a challenge design and all materials, blossoms, will be provided. Just bring your design tools. Staged in white niches 24"H X 18 1/2 "W X 15"D. Limit 6 entries.

SMALL INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Class 71. **Los Pocos Locos** (the little crazies) After a couple of margaritas, you'll be in the mood to create something a little crazy with a Southwestern flair. Have fun with this one! A small arrangement staged in a white niche 8"H X 6 1/2"W X 4"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 72. **Rodeo Days** - Celebrated by one and all, everyone loves the cowboy. Watching the bareback bull riders is thrilling! Barrel racing and calf roping are also exciting events. The rodeo clown saves the cowboy from danger of the charging bulls. This is the time to celebrate the life of the rodeo wrangler. A small arrangement staged in white niches 8"H X 6 1/2"W X 4"D. Limit 8 entries.

Class 73. **Hot Salsa** - A Mexican sauce that tingles the taste buds with the flavors of jalapenos, tomatoes, onions, and cilantro. To interpret this hot, spicy design, use red or coral blossoms. A small arrangement staged in niches 8"H X 6 1/2"W X 4"D. Limit 8 entries.

SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

These designs are miniature gardens or landscapes with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plant specimens. All plants must be planted in the container. See Class for container size. No cut plant materials, artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, American or other national flags are permitted. Accessories are optional. No limit on number of entries in each class, but only one entry by each exhibitor in each class.

Class 74. **Mexican Adobe Patio** - In the Southwest, the patio is an outdoor extension of the home that is designed for living and entertaining. Adobe is a clay brick that is often used for walls and flooring. Trees, flower beds, and potted plants are used to create a comfortable and relaxing space. Depict the theme in a terrarium not to exceed 24" in length or width.

Class 75. **Sabino Canyon** - An oasis in the desert, Sabino Canyon is a favorite picnic, hiking, and swimming area for Tucsonians to get away from the desert heat. Steep canyon walls rise up from

the creek that is lined with cottonwood trees, leafy shrubs, and grasses. There are several rock bridges that go over the creek as it winds through the canyon. Create this miniature scene in a shallow dish garden not to exceed 18".

Class 76. **The Desert Blooms** - After the summer rains, the desert is full of color. The saguaro is the giant of the desert that towers over other plants, displaying beautiful white blossoms on top. Create a natural garden depicting the brilliant blooms of the desert flowers and shrubs that thrive among the cacti. Natural garden not to exceed 24" in any direction.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIII-Education Exhibit

77. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION XIV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

A. COLLECTIONS

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

C. NEW CULTIVARS (from seed or mutation)

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

E. SPECIMEN AFRICAN VIOLETS

85. Standards, plain green foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
86. Standards, plain green foliage, all other blossoms
87. Standards, variegated foliage
88. Miniatures, plain foliage
89. Miniatures, variegated foliage
90. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
91. Semiminiatures, plain green foliage, all other blossoms
92. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage
93. Trailers, (standard, miniature, semiminiature)
94. Saintpaulia species

G. GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

95. Fibrous-rooted gesneriads in bloom
96. All other gesneriads in bloom
97. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

SECTION XV-SPECIMEN PLANTS

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

HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR-RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.
2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag. Members ON TOUR ON WEDNESDAY ONLY, MUST turn in a list of their entries at the Convention registration desk on TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY and MUST receive a late pass to enter on WEDNESDAY, April 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.
3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.
4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.
5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.
6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 6 through 48.
7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 47, 48, 51, and 52 as those in classes 6 through 46.
8. All plants in classes 1 through 52 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon velutina, S. Amazon grottei, S. Sigi Falls, and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 47.
9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered, provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.
10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.
11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.
12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.
13. Any African violet entered in any of the collection classes, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, must be AVSA registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.
15. All African violets entered in the Robinson Collections, Class 4, and Buckeye Collections, Class 5, must be AVSA registered.
16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 2, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, Robinson Collection, Class 4, Buckeye Collection, Class 5.
17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
18. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, April 17. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

DESIGN DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.
2. Entries will be accepted on Wednesday, April 14 from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. and 1:00 to 6:00 P.M. Members ON TOUR WEDNESDAY ONLY MUST turn in a list of design entries at the Convention registration desk on TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY and MUST receive a late pass to enter on WEDNESDAY, April 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Design entries will be closed on WEDNESDAY, at 9:00 P.M., and all designs must be in place for classification. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class and is limited to a total of 8 entries in classes 61 through 73 (interpretive flower and plant arrangements) and one in each of the container garden classes.
3. All tables will be covered in white cloths and all niches are white.
4. A written subtitle defining the exhibitor's interpretation of any class may be written in black ink on a white 3" x 5" index card.
5. Advance written reservations are required for ALL design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a completed reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than February 3, 2004 or later than March 25, 2004 to: Betty Hazard, P.O. Box 309, Marana, AZ 85653.
6. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons wishing to cancel confirmed reservations or ask questions concerning schedule or staging of designs may call (520) 682-3154, e-mail NW8TucsonAVS@aol.com, or write to the above address.

Commercial Horticulture Division Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter this Division. A commercial exhibitor may enter EITHER a display table OR a commercial showcase, but not both. Exhibitors in a commercial showcase class may also enter specimen horticulture, Section XIV. All commercial exhibitors are eligible to enter the Design Division.
2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2

- under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.
3. All plants must be correctly named and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months prior to convention. All African violets must be in bloom and must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species.
 4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, classes 78 and 79 and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 80, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as they are for amateurs.
 5. Any African violet plant in Specimen Plant, Display Table, or Commercial Showcase sections may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards. Entries may be seedlings, sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or rights and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".
 6. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged as one unit.
 7. Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase Section will be allotted table space sufficient for their display. Table covers will be neutral. Exhibits in this section shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminature, standard, or trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Showcases must be predominantly (more than 50%) African violets or designs using African violets. Class 99, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only shall be a collection of 6-10 plants with NO embellishment. Class 100, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture plus must include a creative aspect, and may include designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating African violets. Each design will count as the equivalent of one entry. No merchandise will be allowed in this section.
 8. In Commercial Showcases each entry in the exhibit will be judged. Class 99 shall use standard plant name and entry tags supplied by Entries. In Class 100, the exhibitor has the option to use the standard plant name tag provided by Entries, or to provide his own tag or diagram. The entry book number of each plant or arrangement must appear on the tag or diagram. For class 100, no ribbon awards will be given, instead, each showcase with all blue ribbon exhibits will receive a rosette. A point score sheet shall be given to each exhibitor showing how awards were determined.
 9. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section. Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitor may provide their own covering. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.
 10. 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.

11. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables or commercial showcases.
12. 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.
13. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

14. Entries in the Display Table Section and the Commercial Showcase Section will not count toward Commercial Sweepstakes or Design Sweepstakes Awards.
15. Rosettes will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors receiving first, second, and third highest number of points in each Display Table and Commercial Showcase class. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.
16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
17. To reserve a display table, space for a commercial showcase, or for further information, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004. Phone (913)710-1388, e-mail, Patter257@aol.com. Reservations must be made no later than March 1, 2004.



African Violet Society of America, Inc. 2004 Tours – Tucson, Arizona

Tour #1 **NOGALES, MEXICO AND TUBAC, ARIZONA** **Monday, April 12, 2004** **8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

This is a chance to visit our neighbor, Mexico, 65 miles south of Tucson. We will stop in Nogales, Arizona, and walk across the border to Nogales, Sonora. A typical border town, Nogales has many shops and street vendors selling jewelry, pottery, textiles, leather goods, trinkets, low cost perfumes, and much more. Haggling used to be part of the shopping experience, but lately, most prices are fixed. Good shopping streets are Obregon and Ortega Streets. It's a good idea to walk in pairs or a group rather than singles.

American dollars are readily accepted and transactions are conducted in English. Change will usually be given in pesos. Foreign citizens need a passport to reenter USA. Americans should bring a passport or a valid driver's license.

Back on the bus, we will head for Tubac, a small arts and crafts village located at 3,200 feet elevation in a scenic high desert valley. Tubac was established in 1752 as a presidio, or fort, to protect the European settlers at the nearby Tumacacón Mission. During the 1940's it became a haven for arts and craftspeople, and is now a picturesque community with a population of 1,200. You will be able to browse the quaint shops and galleries looking for southwestern treasures, arts and crafts, unique jewelry and clothing, and beautiful house wares. Lunch is on your own at one of the peaceful patio restaurants. Wear comfortable shoes; bring a hat and sunscreen for this fun day of southwestern shopping.

Visit on the web at www.tubacaz.com

Cost: \$23.00

Tour #2 **SAN XAVIER MISSION AND THE** **ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM** **Monday, April 12, 2004** **8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

The first stop will be at the beautiful San Xavier Mission, located on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. The mission, known as "The White Dove of the Desert", was completed in 1797 by Franciscan monks and still offers daily mass. During the 1990's, a major preservation effort was begun and the mission was painstakingly cleaned and restored. Exquisite murals and carvings were revealed under centuries of collected dust and soot.

There will be time to explore the sanctuary and mission and browse the gift shop. Enjoy a treat of Indian fry bread and honey served up by Tohono O'odham vendors. The tour will continue on to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum situated 12 miles west of Tucson on the other side of the Tucson Mountains. The route to the museum is a scenic drive through

large stands of saguaros and other cacti. Part zoo, part museum, and part botanical garden, the museum strives to educate visitors about the desert ecosystem. Animals of the Sonoran Desert are housed in exhibits that carefully interpret their natural environment. The walkways through the grounds are beautifully landscaped with natural desert plants. Visit the walk-in aviary or mingle with the hummingbirds in the delightful hummingbird enclosure. Not to be missed is the Earth Sciences Center which houses a spectacular collection of regional gems and minerals. The museum includes two gift shops, as well as a restaurant, a cafe, and a snack bar *for* lunch on your own. The *New York Times* called the Desert Museum "one of a kind. . . not to be missed." Wear comfortable shoes, as there is a lot of walking to see the whole museum. Wheel chairs are available free of charge. Bring a hat and sunscreen to protect against the intense sun. Shade ramadas, benches, drinking fountains, and rest rooms are located throughout the grounds.

Visit on the web at www.desertmuseum.org

Cost: \$30.00

Tour #3 **TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA** **Tuesday, April 13, 2004** **8:30 am to 5:00 pm**

No visit to southern Arizona would be complete without a stop at Tombstone, "the town too tough to die". An hour southeast of Tucson, Tombstone was a silver mining boomtown in the late 1800's. It embodies the essence of the Wild West, and is a Registered National Historical Landmark. We will stop at Boot Hill, the final resting place of many infamous gunslingers, as well as the O. K. Corral, where we will watch the re-enactment of the historic gunfight that took place there. There will be plenty of time to browse the many interesting museums, unique shops, and bustling saloons in the center of town. Don't miss The World's Largest Living Rose Tree, an enormous Tombstone Rose. Lunch is on your own. Wear comfortable shoes, bring a hat and sunscreen.

Visit on the web at www.tombstone.org

Cost: \$32.00

Tour #4 **BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM STATE PARK** **Tuesday, April 13, 2004** **8:30 am to 5:00 pm.**

The Boyce Thompson Arboretum, located on the beautiful Queen Creek, features towering cliffs, panoramic vistas, a desert lake, a hidden canyon and natural wildlife in a setting of deserts, cacti, and forest streams. Its 323 acres contain over 3000 species of water-efficient plants collected from throughout the world with the goal of fostering an appreciation of arid land plants through educational, recreational, and research opportunities. It is a lovely spot.



The 2 hour drive to the Arboretum will give us a feeling of the Real Arizona. If Mother Nature gives us winter rain, April will bring beautiful wildflowers to the desert. We will spend the day at the park, stroll through the grounds, visit the greenhouses, browse the gift and plant shop, enjoy a picnic in the park, and return to Tucson in the middle of the afternoon. Bring a hat, comfortable shoes, and wear sunscreen.

Cost: \$45.00 (includes a box lunch)

Tour #5 SAN XAVIER MISSION AND THE ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM (Repeat of tour #2)

Wednesday, April 14, 2004 8:30 am to 4:30 pm



The first stop will be at the beautiful San Xavier Mission, located on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. The mission, known as "The White Dove of the Desert", was completed in 1797 by Franciscan monks and still offers daily mass. During the 1990's, a major preservation effort was begun and the mission was painstakingly cleaned and restored. Exquisite murals and carvings were revealed under centuries of collected dust and soot.

There will be time to explore the sanctuary and mission and browse the gift shop. Enjoy a treat of Indian fry bread and honey served up by Tohono O'odham vendors. The tour will continue on to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum situated 12 miles west of Tucson on the other side of the Tucson Mountains. The route to the museum is a scenic drive through large stands of saguaros and other cacti. Part zoo, part museum, and part botanical garden, the museum strives to educate visitors about the desert ecosystem. Animals of the Sonoran Desert are housed in exhibits that carefully interpret their natural environment. The walkways through the grounds are beautifully landscaped with natural desert plants. Visit the walk-in aviary or mingle with the hummingbirds in the delightful hummingbird enclosure. Not to be missed is the Earth Sciences Center which houses a spectacular collection of regional gems and minerals. The museum includes two gift shops, as well as a restaurant, a cafe, and a snack bar for lunch on your own. The *New York Times* called the Desert Museum "one of a kind. . . not to be missed." Wear comfortable shoes, as there is a lot of walking to see the whole museum. Wheel chairs are available free of charge. Bring a hat and sunscreen to protect against the intense sun. Shade ramadas, benches, drinking fountains, and rest rooms are located throughout the grounds.

Visit on the web at www.desertmuseum.org

Cost: \$31.00

Tour #6 KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK

Wednesday, April 14, 2004 8:30 to 4:30 pm



These recently discovered caves are truly impressive, rated as one of the top ten in the world! They contain magnificent colors and a wide variety of formations, some never seen in any other cave. Quoting from the internet, material supplied by the State Parks information website, "They are wet caves; moisture continues to percolate from the surface, and calcium carbonate formations continue to grow in the darkness. When you enter the two main galleries, you will see stalactites dripping down like icicles, and giant stalagmites reaching up from the ground, sometimes meeting to form a massive column. The caverns are a host to a wide variety of unique minerals and formations."

The caves are operated by the Arizona Park Service. Since these formations are very delicate and fragile, the park is carefully controlling access. Visitors are guided in groups of sixteen by a Park guide. The entire tour takes about 70 minutes. While one group is going through the tour, the others may browse in the extensive Discovery Room with interactive exhibits and a multi-screen video. Those interested in walking have either the short Hummingbird Trail, or the 2 mile, more strenuous, Guidani Trail.

We have secured 16 tickets each for the 12:00, 12:20, and 12:40 tours. We will bring picnic lunches with us, and eat individually. The Visitor Center, parking, restrooms, water fountains, Hummingbird Trail, and vending area are handicap accessible. The trails in the caverns are barrier free, meaning that there are no steps. No strollers or walkers are permitted in the cave. Visitors may bring their own wheelchairs, provided they are not wider than 30 inches from outer wheel to outer wheel. They may need assistance, as some of the grades may be difficult to maneuver. Temperature inside the caves is a steady 71 degrees, with humidity of 97%. A sweater might feel good in the cool, damp air.

This is a rare opportunity to see a real wonder of the world. The cave has shown a slight but worrisome warming trend since being opened to the public; further restrictions are being contemplated in the future.

Note: This tour will be limited to the first forty-seven persons registering for the tour. A waiting list will be taken in the event of cancellations. Get your reservation in early if you want to participate in this tour. This limitation was necessitated because we had to guarantee the number of persons one year in advance.

Cost: \$52.00 (includes a box lunch)

Tour #7 SABINO CANYON

Thursday, April 15, 2004 8:30 am - 12:00pm.



This lovely spot provides a quiet retreat from the desert of Tucson. Visitors will ride a tram along Sabino Creek, crossing and re-crossing it several times as it winds up through the canyon. Saguaro cacti replaced many of the trees about 8000 years ago as the climate became warmer and drier. The canyon is a rare oasis very close to the

city, fortunately surviving efforts to dam it full of water, mine it for gold, and build a grand resort lured by the presence of water. Apaches and the Great Depression kept the canyon in its natural state until the New Deal programs CCC, WPA, and NRA built the roads, bridges, campgrounds and picnic areas. In addition to the tram ride, ambitious conventioners can hike up the road, or ride part way and walk part way. The driver of the tram provides informative comments on what you are seeing. The top of the road is much cooler than town. You might like to have a sweater or light jacket along.

You will return to the hotel about noon, in time for the opening of Commercial Sales

Cost: \$22.00

Tour #8 BISBEE

Thursday, April 15, 2004 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.



Located in the mile - high Mule Mountains, 95 miles southeast of Tucson, Bisbee is an old mining town with lots of old world charm. With the mining of copper, zinc, lead, and silver at its peak in the early 1900's, Bisbee was home to 20,000 people and was the largest city between San Francisco and St. Louis. After the mines closed in the 1970's, Bisbee evolved into a unique artist community with many galleries, antique shops, and coffee houses lodged in the well-preserved turn-of-the-century Victorian buildings. Upon arrival in Bisbee, we will stop at the Queen Mine, where we will don hard hats, miner's lights, and yellow slickers before boarding a train that will take us deep into the underground mine. (There are 32 steps leading down to the train.) This fascinating tour is led by a retired miner and is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The mine can be chilly and damp with a temperature of 47 degrees year-round, so bring a sweater or light jacket. After leaving the mine, we will stop to view the Lavender Pit, a massive open pit copper mine. In the center of town, there will be time to browse the shops and galleries and have lunch on your own. Wear comfortable shoes. The sky is crystal clear in Bisbee so bring a hat and sunscreen to block the sun.

Visit on the web at www.bisbearizona.com

Cost: \$40.00

Tour #9 GASLIGHT THEATER

Friday, April 16, 2004 5:30 pm to 11:00 pm.



You're in for an evening of light-hearted fun at the Gaslight Theater! The clever melodramas and comedies there will give you a chance to cheer the hero, boo the villain, and laugh until your sides ache! We will leave the hotel at 5:30 and take in the early show. Casual food,

such as pizza, chimichangas, snacks, ice cream, and varied beverages, are available for purchase throughout the performance if you wish. Dress is casual and relaxed.

Visit the Gaslight on the internet: <http://www.grandmatonyspizzeria.com/>

Cost: \$35.00

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or **before March 11, 2004** will receive table assignments. **All reservations received after that date will have unreserved seating at meal functions.**

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

New for 2004!!!

On Friday and Saturday, there is a \$5.00 admission fee to the show and sales room for those not registered for the convention. You must have your name badge to avoid the fee.

One Day Registration – If you cannot join us for the entire convention, you may want to take advantage of the one-day registration which will allow you to enter the sales and show room, attend presentations and attend meal functions on the day that you are there.

Commuter Fee – It has become necessary to add a fee to those registrants who elect not to stay at the convention hotel. This fee does not apply to anyone staying at their principal residence. We are being forced to pay for more of our meeting space, tables, and other equipment which was at one time all complimentary. These charges increase when we don't meet the room block for the hotel. This commuter fee is the equivalent of one night's lodging.

Don't forget the
AVSA Auction
at the Friday
Luncheon!

“Meet the Board of Directors” Luncheon

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

Meet your officers and board members in an informal setting. Avoid the crowds at the restaurants. Relax and dine with your friends.

Come one, come all!!

58th Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday, April 11, 2004 to Sunday, April 18, 2004

"A Fiesta of Violets"

SUNDAY, April 11, 2004

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

MONDAY, April 12, 2004

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #1 - Nogales, Mexico and Tubac, AZ
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #2 - San Xavier Mission and the Sonora Desert Museum
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Information
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Information

TUESDAY, April 13, 2004

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. to Completion Executive Board Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour #3 - Tombstone, AZ
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour #4 - Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Information
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Information
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Convention Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 14, 2004

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Judging School
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. New Director's Orientation
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #5 - San Xavier Mission and the Sonora Desert Museum
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour #6 - Kartchner Caverns State Park
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Classification and Entries
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Board of Director's Meeting
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Information
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ways & Means Table, Cincinnati Promotional Table
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. "Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Classification and Entries
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Information
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Registration
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Awards Committee meeting
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classification and Entries -FOR THOSE ON TOURS ONLY
7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. 2003 Baton Rouge Convention and New Introduction Slides
7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Social Break
8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum
9:00 p.m. Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

THURSDAY, April 15, 2004

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Design Exhibitors will be permitted to "touch up" designs and replace blossoms *only*.
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Information
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Tour #7 - Sabino Canyon

Tour #8 – Bisbee

Judges and Clerks Instructions

Judging of Show

Hospitality Room Open

AVSA Information and Sales

Presentation #1 – “African Violet Boom in Russia” by Vladimer Kalgin

Ways & Means Table, Cincinnati Promotional Table

Commercial Sales Open

AVSA Information and Sales

Publications Committee Meeting

Hospitality Room Open

Information

Registration

Photography – Library and AVM

Membership & Promotions Committee meeting

Nominating Committee meeting

Future Conventions Meeting

Opening Reception (cash bar)

Opening Dinner – Show awards will be announced

Show opens to **AVSA Convention Registrants Only****FRIDAY, April 16, 2004**

Showroom open to photographers only

Teacher's Breakfast

Information

Registration

Affiliates Breakfast & Meeting

Hospitality Room Open

AVSA Information & Sales

Show Room Open

Commercial Sales Open

Presentation #2 – “Hands on Design, Interpretive Flower Arrangements”
by Florence Naylor and Ann Wang**Presentation #3** – “Advanced Judging Skills: Design” by Paul Kroll,
Jackie Jones and Pat Sutton

Ways & Means Table, Cincinnati Promotional Table

Luncheon and Auction

Information

Registration

AVSA Information & Sales

Hospitality Room Open

Presentation #4 – “Hands on Design, Interpretive Flower Arrangements”
by Florence Naylor and Ann Wang**Presentation #5** – “Growing to Show Panel Discussion” by Leonard Re, Moderator.
Panelists: Dorothy Kosowsky, Kent Stork, and Elmer Godeny

President's Reception for Board of Directors

Tour #9 – Gaslight Theater

Commercial Dinner

SATURDAY, April 17, 2004

Judges' Breakfast and Workshop

Registration

Information

Hospitality Room Open

AVSA Information & Sales

Show Room Open

Commercial Sales Open

Presentation #6 “Compatible Gesneriads!” by Dr. Bill Price**Presentation #7** “Growing African Violets in the Arid Southwest” by Ruth Loomis

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transportation into controlled countries and states (time and day subject to change)
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Ways & Means Table, Cincinnati Promotional Table
10:50 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Violets "On Line" Meeting
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Presentation #8 – "Fighting Bugs without Killing Yourself" by Dr. Carl A. Olson
1:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.	Presentation #9 – "The Joy of Growing Trailing African Violets" by Shirley Sanders
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (cash bar)
6:00 p.m. to Completion	Installation Banquet
8:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.	Commercial Display Tables Checkout
8:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n	Commercial Sales Breakdown
9:15 p.m.	Entry Checkout Begins
12:00 m/n	Show Room Closes

SUNDAY, April 18, 2004

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

DIRECTIONS TO THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

445 South Alvernon Way

Phone: (520) 881-4200

From the East on I-10:

Exit at Alvernon Way - North. Carefully follow the signs to remain on Alvernon Way North. The Doubletree Hotel will be on your right approximately 1/2 mile after crossing 22nd Street.

From Tucson International Airport:

After retrieving your baggage, use the "Courtesy Phone" for the Doubletree Hotel and request that you be picked up. It will take approximately 15-20 minutes for the limo to arrive. Please wait outside at the limousine pick-up area.

From the North on I-10:

Exit on 22nd Street (the last exit before construction) and travel east approximately 5 miles to Alvernon Way. Turn left (north) and the Doubletree Hotel will be on your right in approximately 1/2 mile.

Note: The reason the directions are via the Alvernon Exit, when traveling from the east, is because the Palo Verde exit will be closed for construction beginning in April. Otherwise the Palo Verde exit would be easier, since it winds around to become Alvernon Way as you drive north.

TUCSON, AZ AVSA CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

1. African Violet Boom in Russia

Thursday, April 15, 2004

9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

By Vladimir Kalgin, Moscow, Russia

Even African violets in Russia were victims of the Cold War. For many years, Russian growers and hybridizers did not have a chance to go to the other countries to visit violet shows or to acquire new hybrids developed by foreign hybridizers. There were few African violet clubs and shows in the country even three to five years ago. Today there are a number of growers, clubs, shows, and web sites which are booming. Russian hybridizers offer a lot of very interesting hybrids. Vladimir Kalgin is one of the Russian violet lovers who is enthusiastic about making Russia a better place for African violets. Vladimir will share what is happening there, identifying what growing methods are used, showing slides of the best Russian hybrids, and sharing information about clubs, shows, and magazines.

2. Hands On Design of Interpretive Flower Arrangements

Friday, April 16, 2004

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Florence Naylor, Ventura, California;

Ann Wang, Santa Paula, California

\$15 fee (collected at the door)

The art of Interpretive Flower arranging can be very challenging. Two top California designers, Florence Naylor and Ann Wang, will lead students in the step-by-step process of assembling a flower arrangement. Florence has been growing violets since 1976 and attended many workshops as she learned the art of design. She says she "practiced a lot, won a lot, and had a lot of fun in the meantime." Ann Wang has been a premier designer for more than 30 years, along with winning awards for her miniatures and semiminiatures. This is a fine opportunity for novices to learn the basics, and for experienced designers to learn new skills from these marvelous teachers. Students are encouraged to bring a knife (if possible), but all other materials and tools will be supplied. Limit of 30 students.

3. Advanced Judging Skills- Design

Friday, April 16, 2004

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Paul Kroll, East Aurora, New York;

Jackie Jones, Durant, Iowa; Pat Sutton, Tulsa, Oklahoma

How does a judge learn to make fair and objective decisions when assigned to the design division? How does a good design judge avoid the pitfall of making emotional rather than good decisions? One judge thinks the design is wonderful, and the next thinks it deserves a red ribbon. Our talented panel of AVSA Judging School Teachers from across the country will offer practical techniques for making consistent and defensible decisions when judging design entries. All three of these teachers regularly win blue ribbons with their own design entries, and they bring with them a total of seventy years of African violet design experience! This should be an outstanding class. This popular series is open to both accredited judges as well as non-judges who wish to be better educated about what the judges are seeking.

4. Hands On Design of Interpretive Flower Arrangements

(Repeat of Session 2)

Friday, April 16, 2004

2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

By Florence Naylor, Ventura, California;

Ann Wang, Santa Paula, California

\$15 fee (collected at the door)

The art of Interpretive Flower arranging can be very challenging. Two top California designers, Florence Naylor and Ann Wang, will lead students in the step-by-step process of assembling a flower arrangement. Florence has been growing violets since 1976 and attended many workshops as she learned the art of design. She says she "practiced a lot, won a lot, and had a lot of fun in the meantime." Ann Wang has been a premier designer for more than 30 years, along with winning awards for her miniatures and semiminiatures. This is a fine opportunity for novices to learn the basics, and for experienced designers to learn new skills from these marvelous teachers. Students are encouraged to bring a knife (if possible), but all other materials and tools will be supplied. Limit of 30 students.

5. Growing to Show Panel Discussion

Friday, April 16, 2004

2:50 to 4:00 p.m.

Moderator Leonard Re, Fountain Valley, California

Panelists: Dorothy Kosowsky, Whittier, California; Kent Stork, Fremont, Nebraska; Elmer Godeny, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Not just one champion grower, but three! They have a lot in common. All are columnists in the *African Violet Magazine*, regularly sharing tips for good growing. All are consistently careful growers who expect perfection in the plants they grow. All have won top national, regional, and local awards. Put those together with the charming Leonard Re as moderator (a businessman who has been successfully growing violets for thirty years himself), and you have a dynamite workshop, guaranteed to rouse the audience and to elicit the secrets that the rest of us seek.

6. Compatible Gesneriads!

Saturday, April 17, 2004

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Dr. Bill Price, West Vancouver, British Columbia

Do you have an indoor light garden filled with violets? Then you can easily grow other gesneriads with just a few adjustments! Learn what small changes need to be made in order to add some of these fascinating violet relatives into your collection. Bill, a child psychiatrist in his real life and a champion grower in the gesneriad world, will review the culture of several gesneriad genera that will grow successfully alongside your violets. The discussion will include the different root structures, soil mixes, fertilizer, potting and light needs, as well as tips to maximize blooming. This will be a good overview for those who are new to the other gesneriads and enjoyable for the more experienced growers.

7. Growing African Violets in the Arid Southwest

Saturday, April 17, 2004

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Ruth Loomis, Flagstaff, Arizona

It isn't easy growing violets in the arid Southwest! Born in New York City, Ruth Loomis has lived most of her life in Flagstaff. With five grown children, and a career as a mathematician for the U.S. Geological Survey, she also found time to master the art of growing African violets. She says, "Flagstaff is a tricky gardening climate, being both dry and, at 7000 feet elevation, cold. Nevertheless, I find it very rewarding to spend lots of my time growing and propagating large numbers of violets and enjoy sharing my growing skills." Sometimes called Dr. Ruth by local residents who seek her help with their violets, Ruth has also begun hybridizing and has six registered cultivars with more to come. Ruth will explain the special techniques of coping with the dry climate so that those who live in the Southwest can also enjoy the pleasures of growing beautiful African violets. This is a basic course on growing that is targeted especially for beginning growers, but will interest even the more experienced who live in more humid regions.

8. Fighting Bugs Without Killing Yourself

Saturday, April 18, 2004

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

By Dr. Carl A. Olson, Associate Curator,

Insects: Entomology, University of Arizona.

What grower doesn't need help fighting bugs occasionally? Dr. Olson is a favorite speaker of our hosting affiliate in Tucson, Arizona. He is an authority on insects and how to control pests in plant collections without damaging the environment or yourself. Just as he has helped the Tucson AVS members solve problems, he will teach us about the insects and mites that plague us, and give us many practical ways to handle those problems.

9. The Joy of Growing Trailing African Violets

Saturday, April 18, 2004

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Shirley Sanders, San Antonio, Texas

You've seen Shirley and Sandy in the Commercial Sales Room for years, and now you will get to hear the owner of Shirley's House of Violets talk about her favorite type of violets... trailers! Shirley has been growing for over 25 years, winning shows and classes at Dixie, Lone Star, Mid Atlantic, and National, as well as in her local club. She is often called on to do programs on trailers because of her success. Currently, she has over 40 varieties of trailers in her collection. She writes: "I have only been in trailers for 17 years, as I didn't like them much when I first started with African violets. They grew on me after a few years!" We think Shirley and her trailers will grow on you too.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.
58th Annual Convention and Show
April 11 - April 18, 2004 - Doubletree Hotel - Tucson, AZ

Call for 2004 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 17, 2004, at 2:45 p.m. at Doubletree Hotel, Tucson, AZ, for the purpose of **electing Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 2004 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, April 14, 2004, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Doubletree Hotel, Tucson AZ, and Sunday, April 18, 2004, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 2004 Open Forum Meeting

The 18th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 17, 2004 at Doubletree Hotel, Tucson, AZ. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School For Students & Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday, April 14, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's school and for judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am-12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Judging Status: Student (1st exam) _____ Student Renewal _____ Advanced _____ Auditing _____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make checks payable to AVSA in U.S dollars) to: Ruth Loomis, 603 N. San Francisco St., Flagstaff, AZ 86001. The test will be based on the latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, the 1998 printing plus any updates. **Registration for the judging school must be received by March 25, 2004.**

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2004.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **Do Not** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after March 15, 2004 will be filed and used in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge, you will be notified of your assignment.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Classes entered _____
Type of judge: _____ Advanced _____ Senior _____ Master _____ AGGS _____ Nat'l Council
Experience: _____ Minis/Semis _____ Trailers _____ Species _____ Standards _____ Design _____ Commercial

Attention Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled with AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any remaining positions will be filled by AVSA members in the order in which the applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2004.**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
____ Student Judge _____ Advanced Judge _____ AVSA Member

Design Division Reservations

(Please type or print)
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____

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

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

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

I would like to enter the following Container Garden Classes: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Entries will be accepted ONLY if postmarked February 3, 2003 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations, **no later than March 25, 2004** to: Betty K. Hazard, P.O. Box 309, Marana, AZ 85653-0309 (520)682-3154 email address is: NW8TucsonAVS@aol.com

AVSA's 58th Annual Convention & Show "Fiesta of Violets"

April 11 - April 18, 2004 - Doubletree Hotel - Tucson, AZ

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 Tucson Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office - 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by March 11, 2004. There will be a \$5.00 paperwork fee charged for cancellations. Registrations received after March 11, 2004 will be \$75.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

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

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

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Judging School Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Medal Winner | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member (guest) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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:		ACCOMMODATIONS:	
Personal Car _____	Plane _____	Doubletree _____	
Rental Car _____	Airline _____	Home _____	
Other _____		Other _____	
RV _____	If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____		
	If by plane, departure day/date and time _____		

Package Deal (includes registration, both banquets, and Auction Luncheon. \$144.00 \$ _____
Package not available after March 11, 2004)

After March 11, 2004, each registration will be \$75.00 or \$78.00 respectively.

REGISTRATION:

- | | | |
|---|---------|----------|
| AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount) | \$50.00 | \$ _____ |
| AVSA or Associate Member (after March 11, 2004) | \$75.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount) | \$53.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Member (Guest) (after March 11, 2004) | \$78.00 | \$ _____ |
| International Member (Early Bird Discount) | \$45.00 | \$ _____ |
| International Member (after March 11, 2004) | \$70.00 | \$ _____ |

NEW: Commuter fee - If you are not staying at the Doubletree Hotel or at your primary residence add this amount to your registration for the use of the hotel facilities. You MUST indicate your accommodations above, or the fee will be charged. \$92.00 \$ _____

NEW: One day registration (allows registrant to participate for one day of convention) Please indicate: Thurs _____ Fri _____ Sat _____ Total days marked _____ x \$25.00 \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ _____

Meals:

- | | | |
|---|---------|----------|
| _____ 1. Wed. "Meet the Board of Director's" Luncheon - Southwestern Sub | \$17.75 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 2. Thurs. Opening Dinner - Western Barbeque Buffet (Outdoors, weather permitting) | \$45.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 3. Fri. Teachers' Breakfast - Southern Eggs Benedict | \$16.50 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 4. Fri. Affiliates Breakfast - Classic Continental | \$15.50 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 5. Fri. Luncheon/Auction - Cobb Salad, Chicken and Soup | \$28.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 6. Fri. Commercial Dinner - Roast Pork Loin | \$52.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 7. Sat. Judges' Breakfast - Cinnamon French Toast | \$16.00 | \$ _____ |
| _____ 8. Sat. Installation Banquet - Prime Rib | \$44.00 | \$ _____ |

TOTAL MEALS \$ _____

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 8 PER TABLE) MUST MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, BEFORE March 11, 2004. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.

TOURS (meals are included in Tours 4 and 6)

___ 1.	Mon. Apr. 12 Nogales, Mexico and Tubac AZ\$23.00	\$ _____
___ 2.	Mon. Apr. 12 San Xavier Mission & Sonora Desert Museum\$30.00	\$ _____
___ 3.	Tues. Apr. 13 Tombstone, AZ\$32.00	\$ _____
___ 4.	Tues. Apr. 13 Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park\$45.00	\$ _____
___ 5.	Wed. Apr. 14 San Xavier Mission & Sonora Desert Museum\$31.00	\$ _____
___ 6.	Wed. Apr. 14 Kartschner Caverns (limited to 47 people)\$52.00	\$ _____
___ 7.	Thurs. Apr. 15 Sabino Canyon\$22.00	\$ _____
___ 8.	Thurs. Apr. 15 Bisbee\$40.00	\$ _____
___ 9.	Fri. Apr. 16 Gaslight Theater\$35.00	\$ _____
		TOTAL TOURS	\$ _____

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

- ___ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Social Hour, Slides of 57th Baton Rouge Convention and New Introductions
 - ___ 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum"
- Moderator: Jack Wilson
 Panelists: Dr. Ralph Robinson, Doris Brownlie, and Pat Hancock

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

Thursday April 15, 2004

- ___ 1. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. "African Violet Boom in Russia" by Vladimer Kalgin

Friday, April 16, 2004

- ___ 2. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Hands on Design, Interpretive Flower Arrangements" by Florence Naylor and Ann Wang
 - ___ 3. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Advanced Judging Skills: Design" by Paul Kroll, Jackie Jones and Pat Sutton
 - ___ 4. 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. "Hands on Design, Interpretive Flower Arrangements" by Florence Naylor and Ann Wang
 - ___ 5. 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. "Growing to Show Panel Discussion" by Leonard Re, Moderator
- Panelists: Dorothy Kosowsky, Kent Stork and Elmer Godeny

Saturday April 17, 2004

- ___ 6. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Compatible Gesneriads!" by Dr. Bill Price
- ___ 7. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Growing African Violets in the Arid Southwest" by Ruth Loomis
- ___ 8. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Fighting Bugs without Killing Yourself" by Dr. Carl A. Olson
- ___ 9. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "The Joy of Growing Trailing African Violets" by Shirley Sanders

PAYMENT:

Total Package	\$ _____
Total Registration (including commuter fee)	\$ _____
Total Meals	\$ _____
Total Tours	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____
PAYMENT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

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

- Visa # _____
 Expires _____
- MasterCard # _____
 Expires _____

Check or Money Order Enclosed

 Signature (If using card)

(409) 839-4725

NOTE: Cancellations must be received
 by March 11, 2004 to be entitled to a refund.
 There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

Send payment and completed registration form to:
Convention Registration

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

AVSA 2004 Tucson Convention Grower's Forum

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

Wednesday, April 14, 2004 8:15 p.m.
 Moderator Jack Wilson
 Panelists. Dr. Ralph Robinson, Doris Brownlie,
 and Pat Hancock

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

Hotel Reservation

2004 AVSA Convention Show and Annual Membership Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Please mail to:
Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park
 445 S. Alvernon Way
 Tucson, AZ 85711
 (520) 881-4200

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Sharing Room with _____

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

- One Night's Deposit Enclosed MasterCard
 American Express Visa

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone - **Doubletree Hotel**. Cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to check-in. Phone number: 1-520-881-4200 ask for Reservation Department. Identify that you are with the African Violet Society of America.

Room Rate: \$92.00 (up to 4 persons per room) + Tax of 11.5% Plus \$1.00

Accommodations requested:

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

_____ number of persons in room

Arrival Date _____
 (check in 3:00 pm)

Departure Date _____
 (check out by 12:00 noon)

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)
 Reservations **must** be received by: **March 11, 2004**
 The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

An early checkout fee of \$25.00 is charged to anyone leaving before their scheduled check out date.

The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to/from the Hotel and Airport.
Call hotel for pickup. Be sure to indicate flight arrival time on your registration form.

CAMPGROUNDS

If you are driving your RV to Tucson for the AVSA Convention and plan to stay at the convention hotel, you may park your RV on the south side of the hotel.

If you will staying in your RV, the recommended RV park is the Tucson Meadows Mobile Home Park, 2121 S. Pantano Rd. Phone: (520) 298-8021

Make your reservations ASAP. Tucson is a busy place for tourists in April.

America West Airlines
 has offered the convention a
 discount rate for the period
 April 3-23, 2004.
 Just mention CAMS Code 4104.



HOSTS – HOSTESSES Tucson and AVSA Need You!

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

If you would be willing to serve for a one hour shift, please complete the coupon below by March 11, 2004, and send it to: **Ester Hopkins, 2070 N. Camino Agreos, Tucson, AZ 85715 (520)722-0455, email: dhyannis@aol.com**

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Preferred time: Friday _____ or Saturday _____

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 _____

\$92.00

Plus Tax of 11.5% Plus \$1.00

Non-Smoker _____ Smoker _____ No Preference _____

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

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Any other considerations: _____

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

All requests must be made by March 7, 2004 so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is March 11, 2004.

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

WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 57th Baton Rouge, LA Convention. They will be shown at the Wednesday night social hour. Include any information about the slide (names, state, etc.).

Slides sent in from the 2003 Baton Rouge Convention will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by March 11, 2004 to:

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

ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Wednesday Night Social at the 2004 Convention in Tucson. This year's narrator will be Nancy Hayes. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a written description of each slide, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your slides before March 11, 2004, to:

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

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 33



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Saintpaulia grandifolia #237
Saintpaulia intermedia
Saintpaulia rupicola

2nd Best AVSA Collection
2003 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by: Janis Mink

2004 Convention Awards

Tucson, Arizona

Society Awards - Amateur Horticulture Division

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

Society Awards - Design Division (Amateur & Commercial)

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

Society Awards - Commercial Display Tables

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

Society Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

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

Specified Awards - Commercial Division

- Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300 & rosette
- 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette
- 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette
(Holtkamp Awards are courtesy of Holtkamp Greenhouses)
- Best New Introduction - \$100 in memory of Frank Tinari -
Mary & Art Boland (VA)

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

- Best Holtkamp Collection - \$300, rosette & Coin
- 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$200 & rosette
- 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - \$100 & rosette
(Holtkamp Awards are courtesy of Holtkamp Greenhouses)
- Best Robinson Collection - \$150 & rosette
- 2nd Best Robinson Collection - \$50
(Robinson Collection awards courtesy of The Violet Barn)
- Best Buckeye Collection - \$150 - Pat's Patch/
Pat Hancock (OH)
- 2nd Best Buckeye Collection - \$50 - Pat's Patch/
Pat Hancock (OH)
- Best African Violet in Show - Silver Memorial for Fannie &
Elmer Hall - Ovella Hall (AR)
- Best Semiminiature - \$25 - in memory of Fannie & Elmer
Hall - Ovella Hall (AR)
- Best Species in Show - \$50 - Cape Cod Violetry (MA)
- Best Species in Show - \$10 - Debra Mischel (TX)
- Best Miniature in Show - \$25 - St. Louis AV
Judges Council (MO)
- Best Standard Chimera - \$50 - Lyndon Lyon
Greenhouses (NY)
- Best Standard, green foliage edged blossom - \$25 -
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)
- Best Standard - Pink blossoms - \$25 - Lyndon Lyon
Greenhouses (NY)
- Best Vintage Violet - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)
- Best Other Gesneriad - \$25 - in memory of
Laura Shannon - Karyn Cichocki (NJ)
- Best Girl Foliage - \$25 - Sue Hoffmann (VA)
- Best Variegated Standard - \$25 - AV Club of
Morris County (NJ)
- Best Standard Fantasy - \$25 - Tucson AVS (AZ)
- Best Rhizomatous Gesneriad - \$10 - Linda Neumann (OH)
- Best Sinningia - \$25 - Ovella Hall (AR)

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Horticulture

- Best Blue Boy - \$10 - Nadine Tichy (TX)
- Best Lilian Jarrett Variegated (#2902) - \$50 - in memory of
Frank Tinari - Anne Tinari (PA)
- Best Mickey Mouse - \$20 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)
- Best Everdina - \$20 - Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)
- Best Maas' Mark - \$25 - in memory of Max Maas - Union
County Chapter AVS (NJ)
- Best Maas' Janet - \$25 - Chris Leppard (MI)
- Best Maas' Janet - \$25 - TriState AV Council (NJ)
- Best The King (Maas) - \$25 - Janet Riemer (NJ)
- Best Buckeye Candy Kisses - \$50 - Pat's Patch/
Pat Hancock (OH)
- Best Alps - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
- Best Concord - \$100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
- Best Nancy Hayes (trailer) - \$25 - Nancy Hayes (CT)

Best Ness' Candy Pink - \$15 in memory of Don Ness - AVS of Minnesota (MN)
Best Ness' Crinkle Blue - \$15 in memory of Don Ness - AVS of Minnesota (MN)
Best Ness' Crinkle Blue - rosette - Triangle AVS (NC)
Best Tulsa Boy - \$25 - AVS of Greater Tulsa (OK)
Best Precious Pink - \$50 - Hortense and Ray Pittman (TX)
Best Dean's Arctic Frost - \$25 - Shirley & Sandy Sanders (TX)
Best Irish Flirt - \$50 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses (NY)
Best Cutie (#7141) - \$20 - Rocky Mountain AV Council (CO)
Best Louisiana Lagniappe - \$100 - The Baton Rouge Convention group/Elmer Godeny

Specified Awards - Design Division

Best Container Garden - \$25 - Fran Russom (MO)

Other Awards -

Amateur Horticulture or Undesignated

\$100 donated by:

Ohio State AVS (OH)
William Sugg (TX)
Lone Star AV Council (TX)

\$50 donated by:

AV Council of Florida (FL)
Bill Price (BC, Canada)
First Austin AVS (TX)
North Star AV Council (MN)
Shirley's House of Violets (TX)

\$25 donated by:

Alpha AVS (TX)
Spring Branch AV Club (TX)
John & Doris Brownlie (ON, Canada)
Dorothy Bengé (LA)
Bill & Gerri Goins (TX)
Jan's Workshop/Janice Davidson (TX)
Mid Polk AVS (FL)
Dolores Gibbs (TX)
Upper Pinellas AVS (FL)
First AVS of Spartanburg (SC)
North Texas AV Judges Council (TX)
Bill & Paula Foster (TX)
First Nighter AVS (TX)
AVS of Rochester (NY)
New York State AVS (NY)
Jim & Linda Owens (OH)
Ruth & Will Loomis (AZ)
Unpredictables AVS (MO)
Mary Walbrick (TX)
Leonard & Elaine Re (CA)
Town & Country AVS (CA)
AV Judges Council of Southern California (CA)

Missouri Valley AV Council (MO)
Nancy Amelung (MO)
South Coast AVS (CA)
Vicki & Warren Ringer (CA)
AV Council of Southern California (CA)

\$20 donated by:

Long Island AVS (NY)
Thousand Oaks AVS (CA)
AVC of Greater Kansas City (MO)
Magic Knight AVS (TX)
Lynnhaven AVS (VA)

\$15 donated by:

Richmond AVS (VA)
Silvermine AVS (CT)
Meredith Hall (TX)

\$10 donated by:

Alice Easter (PA)
Sue Ramser (TX)
First AVS of Wichita Falls (TX)
J.T. & Sylvia Leeds (TX)
Ventura County AVS (CA)

Other donations:

\$10 gift certificate - Violet Venture - Fay Wagman (NY)

Other Awards - Design Division

\$25 donated by:

Albuquerque AVC (NM)
AVS of Greater Tulsa (OK)
First AVS of Spartanburg (SC)
Kathi Lahti (MN)
Janet Riemer (NJ)

\$15 donated by:

Charmion Woolfe (CA)
Union County Chapter AVS (NJ)

\$10 donated by:

Amethyst AVC (MO)

Thanks to all the individuals, clubs, and councils that have offered their generous award support for the 2004 show in Tucson. There is still time to add your name to this list with your contribution. To insure that you are listed in the convention souvenir book, please note the February 15, 2004 deadline. I look forward to hearing from you!

Send your check or money order payable in U.S. Funds and made out to "AVSA Awards" to: Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman, 2809 Forest Hills Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23454*. You can find a current list of all convention awards on our AVSA.org website.

* Note the new address

Showcase

Optimara Ontario II

Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman

AVS of Canada 2003 National Show

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Streptocarpus 'Stained Glass'

Exhibited by: Richard Nicholas

Judges' Special Award

2003 AVSA National Show



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rebel's Stormy Sky

Exhibited by: Nancy Ley

2003 AVS of Canada National Show

Hybridized by: R. Bann

Large

Shows and Judges



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

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a great holiday season and will have a great 2004. If you were fortunate to receive cash as a Christmas gift, that can be the start of your fund to attend the AVSA Convention in Tucson. Speaking of the AVSA Convention, be sure to read everything about it in this issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. Look over the classes, and then check your plant stand to see what possibilities you have for the show. You might also look over the awards that have been sent in. Maybe your entries can also earn some money to help pay for the trip, and you always need a little extra to take all those new varieties home with you. If you would like to judge or clerk, send those coupons in early.

Here are some questions that were received from the fall shows.

A natural garden was shown with a large accessory *outside* the container. This entry was given a special award even though the schedule stated that all accessories should be within the confines of the container. Should this have been given an award? NO! Clearly, this was an oversight by the judges. Accessories, if used in any container garden SHOULD ALWAYS BE WITHIN THE CONTAINER even if it is not stated in the schedule. This entry did not conform to the schedule and probably should not have been judged. Some judges will take off points for non-conformity rather than not judge it. Either way, it should not have received a special award.

The schedule stated that dish gardens in this class were to be 14 inches or larger, and the entry winning a special award was smaller than 14 inches. Furthermore, a succulent was used for ground cover in the *award winning* entry. How do you feel about this? I feel really bad for those exhibitors

who did conform to the schedule. About now I am feeling disappointed in the judges. If there was a class for smaller dish gardens, the entry could have been moved, but that would not help where the succulent was concerned. Were the other entries so bad that they had to award something that should probably not have been judged at all!

A class for hanging arrangements stated that niches were provided. All exhibitors except for the one that was given a special award used rods that were provided. Should the winning exhibit have also used the rod that was provided? Unless the schedule stated that the rod *must be used*, no rule was broken. The exhibitor would be free to use some other method of suspending the arrangement unless the schedule stated that the rod must be used.

The schedule called for the use of water in an interpretive flower arrangement. No water was visible in the winning arrangement. Is this another case of the exhibit not conforming to the schedule? If the schedule stated that *water must be used* in this arrangement, then the exhibit did not conform. If the schedule stated that *water may be used*, it would be the exhibitor's choice as to whether or not water was used.

These questions could have come from anywhere so wherever you live, if you recognize any of the above, as a judge or an exhibitor, you really need to be more thorough in reading the schedule. It is just not fair to the exhibitors who have adhered to the rules of the schedule to lose to an exhibitor who has not conformed to the schedule. Things like this should be brought up and discussed in your judges' councils. This is the purpose of having a judges' council!

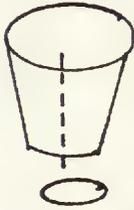
Take care of your plants, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Tucson.

Please make this correction on the judges list that was published in the September/October issue of the AVM. Susan Hoffmann is a Senior Judge (X). Also correct her address to 2809 Forest Hills Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Rerooting that Neck

by Sue Gardner

If you have an African violet with a long neck and you would prefer the neck to develop new roots before cutting off all the old roots, you may use the following method. Cut the bottom out of a polystyrene cup, then along the dotted line as shown below.



Plant with neck



Neck covered with Polystyrene wrap filled with potting mix

Wrap polystyrene section around neck of plant and fill with potting mix or moist sphagnum peat moss. When roots have developed, you may cut off old roots using new roots to form the new rootball.

In a few months when the new roots have developed, re-pot again without disturbing the roots too much. Just cut off part of the bottom and lower it in the pot so that more of

the bare neck is now covered with potting mix. By re-potting regularly, you avoid the problem of a long bare neck which can look unsightly. Why look at a scruffy looking old stem when you could be seeing a lovely head of flowers!

From the Newsletter of the
Early Morn AV Group, Australia



Liquid Lysol and Powdery Mildew

by Marie Montague

Powdery mildew was always a problem in my plant room. Since many of my stands are in the basement, against outside walls, every winter with the first snow, powdery mildew was anticipated. There never was a problem with set leaves and small plants on trays with covers.

Here are some solutions I tried to solve this annual problem:

- My plant stands were tented on three sides and on top with plastic (with four sides tented, it was difficult to reach the plants.) The plants were warmer, but powdery mildew was still present.
- A large, oscillating fan was kept running (not directly on the plants) for 24 hours a day. This kept the room cooler than I'd like when working near the fan. Did it spread the powdery mildew?
- At the first signs of powdery mildew, plants were washed with warm water and set away from light, where air circulated and there was less temperature fluctuation. At times, a wet tissue was used to wipe off minor powdery mildew. A few leaves were marred, no matter how care-

ful I was, and the plants eventually had to be placed back on plant stands.

- Cans of Lysol spray were used. This also resulted in some marred leaves.

Some, or all of these techniques might work for some growers, and all of them together did keep the powdery mildew at a reasonable level. None was a permanent solution.

Two years ago, a friend suggested using 1/4 tsp. of liquid Lysol without soap, in the brown-wrapped bottle, with 1/4 tsp. of dish detergent per gallon of water. This wasn't available in my area, so I used liquid Lysol with soap, 1/4 tsp., and skipped the detergent. All plants were treated in November with absolutely no problems. I expected to repeat this treatment throughout the winter, but it wasn't necessary. Perhaps outside New England, more frequent treatment would be necessary. One treatment in November, and my stands have been free of powdery mildew for two years.

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

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 39



Saintpaulia Mather 21



Flower of *S. Mather 21*

Mather No. 21 – A New Species Clone

Dr. Jeff Smith

Indiana Academy

Ball State University

Muncie, IN 47306

Jsmith4@bsu.edu

Growers who are interested in the species may have seen or obtained a relatively new clone known as Mather No. 21. This clone has been available for a few years and has started to make appearances in shows. The purpose of this article is to describe the clone and its history so that show entry committees can confirm the identity of plants they may be asked to classify.

Mrs. Sylva Mather of Nairobi, Kenya collected a large number of *Saintpaulia* species with the goal of conserving these plants against extinction. Some of the plants were collected by Mrs. Mather herself; others were obtained through trade with other growers. After Mrs. Mather's death in 1992, Mrs. S. A. Robertson of the National Museums of Kenya cataloged the plants. Specimens were sent to a variety of places, including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the National Museums of Kenya. Cuttings of some of the plants were sent in 1993 to Ms. P.L. VanderWiel, a graduate student at Iowa State University, for use in a possible DNA project with the *Saintpaulia* species. I obtained cuttings of Mather No. 21 from Iowa State University in 1996. The clone has since been shared with a number of growers and is now available from a few commercial growers.

Mrs. Robertson is responsible for giving the plant the "No. 21" label. In the process of recording the plants in the collection after Mrs. Mather's death, Mrs. Robertson gave some of the plants numbers. Hence, No. 21 was the twenty-first plant recorded. I use "Mather No. 21" as the label for this plant in order to show its origin and history.

Mrs. Mather's information on the collection of No. 21 is very sparse. The only thing given for the plant is that it was a "small trailer from Usambara Mountains". No other information was given. Mrs. Robertson gave the plant a number of R6666 in her specimen collection records.

Mather No. 21 is a semi-miniature trailer with an excellent trailing habit. The leaves are 3-4 cm long (about 1 to 1/2 inches) and are about the same in width. They are heart-shaped to oval and are slightly pointed on the tips. The leaves are coarsely toothed with the teeth being most prominent on the lower half of the leaves toward the tips. The leaves are alternately arranged on the stems and usually show a strong red leaf backing. The stems are usually reddish-green in color. Because of the red leaf backing and reddish stems, the overall color of the plant is dark green with olive overtones.

The flowers of Mather No. 21 are about 1 cm in diame-

ter and are usually found 2-5 per peduncle. The flowers are medium blue in color and are presented above the foliage. The plant is not especially floriferous, especially when compared to other *Saintpaulia* species such as *S. grandifolia* or *S. ionantha*. However, a mature, well grown specimen may have 20-30 open flowers at one time.

I have found Mather No. 21 to be an easy species to grow. Because of the strong red backing in the leaves, the plant is well adapted to low light conditions and will thrive on the ends of light stands or even on the floor besides the stand. However, stronger light is needed to promote flowering. I usually treat this plant as a "cool" species and grow it on the bottom plant shelves (where I have more space for trailers), but it may tolerate warmer temperatures too.

I have used Mather No. 21 in hybridizing, and it has been an excellent parent. One of my hybrids, 'Yesterday's Garland', is a F1 plant from Mather No. 21 X 'Ness' Freckle Face'. The trailing habit was present in the F1 plants, which is usually not the case when a trailer is crossed with a rosette plant. Mather No. 21 also contributes a good compact trailing form and dark green leaves to its offspring. I would highly recommend the use of this plant for further hybridization efforts, especially if crossed to miniatures to produce miniature and semi-miniature trailers.

I have tried to classify Mather No. 21 to one of the established *Saintpaulia* species using the leaf hair characteristics key developed by Dr. Bill Burt. Mather No. 21 has appressed hairs, which bend at right angles so that the hairs parallel the leaf surface, and are characteristic of only a few *Saintpaulia* species. Mather No. 21 also has both long hairs (9-11 cells) and short hairs (3 cells). Its leaf hair formula is LASA (Long Appressed, Short Appressed). According to Dr. Burt's key, the species that Mather No. 21 matches the closest is *S. grotei*. Another species that is similar is *S. magungensis* var. *magungensis*, but the number of short appressed is much higher per square cm in that species. Therefore, it appears that Mather No. 21 is likely a clone of *S. grotei*, or perhaps a natural hybrid out of *S. grotei*.

Mather No. 21 makes an excellent show plant and has already appeared in several National AVSA shows. I would encourage the label for this plant to read "Mather No. 21" so that the identity and origin of the plant can be maintained. As this plant and other new clones make their way into collections, it will be important to maintain the accuracy of their

labels. Conservation efforts must not only protect a species, but also different genetic individuals or clones of a species. Diligence in the correctness of plant labels will help in these efforts.

In conclusion, Mather No. 21 is an excellent species plant for your collection. It grows well in low light conditions, a cultural condition that is usually tough on growing African

violets. The plant has excellent show potential as it shapes easily and the blooms make a pleasant contrast of blue against the dark foliage. The first attempts with hybridizing have produced some excellent offspring, so it makes a good parent in breeding programs. I would highly recommend this species clone to anyone interested in growing the *Saintpaulia* species.

Coming Events



February 7 - ARIZONA

Desert Sun AVS Display/Sale
Spectrum Mall
19th Ave and Bethaby Home Rd
Phoenix, AZ
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Ann Stoetzer
(623) 872 - 9020

February 7 & 8 - FLORIDA

First Lakeland AVS Judged Show/Sale
Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
Lakeland, FL
Feb 7 - noon - 6pm
Feb 8 - 12:30pm - 5pm
Info: Kelly Patton
(863) 815 - 8595
Email: kpatton62@juno.com
Mary Jane DiLorenzo
(863) 647 - 1517
Email: mjhd922@webtv.net

February 13 & 14 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Sale
Barnwell Center
Shreveport, LA
Feb 13 - 9am - 4:30pm
Feb 14 - 1pm - 5pm
Info: Jackie Merritt
(318) 371 - 0183
Email: scrapphappy@wnonline.net

February 14 & 15 - MISSOURI

AVC of Greater Kansas City Judged Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Both Days: 10am - 3pm
Info: Fred Inbody
(816) 373 - 6915
Email: ksdk1@juno.com

February 14 - 16 FLORIDA

Upperpinellas AVS 44th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Sunken Gardens
1825 4th St. N.
St. Pete, FL
All Days: 10am - 4pm
Info: Phyllis King
(727) 398 - 7450
Dawn Reynolds (727) 846 - 0099
Email: ED@UPAVS.org

February 27 & 28 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVS 28th Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Farm Bureau
100 South Mulrennan Rd
Valrico, FL
Feb 27 - noon - 7pm
Feb 28 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Lynne Wilson
(813) 251 - 1581
Email: tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com

February 28 & 29 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK
Feb 28 - 10am - 4pm
Feb 29 - noon - 4pm
Info: Rose Howlett
(918) 627 - 7395

March 5 & 6 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Beardall Center
800 Delaney Ave.
Orlando, FL
Mar 5 - noon - 4pm
Mar 6 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Evie Blakley
(321) 269 - 3628
Email: eclendenning140@cs.com
Evelyn Briggs (407) 322 - 1409
Email: evbriggs@earthlink.net

March 6 & 7 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center
11375 Cortez Blvd.
Brooksville, FL
Mar 6 - 11am - 5pm
Mar 7 - noon - 3pm
Info: Ann Gramstorf
(352) 666 - 1207
Email: annherbgra@aol.com

March 13 - CALIFORNIA

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

April 24 & 25 - CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve
4601 Sherbrook Street
Est Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Both Days: 10am - 6pm
Info: Monique Beaucage
(514) 990 - 5701
Email:
monique_beaucage@hotmail.com



WHERE TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

African violets can be grown successfully in a number of locations as long as the plant's requirements are understood.

Space: African violets need ample space to mature. Crowding plants cuts off proper air circulation and encourages the spread of pests and diseases.

Temperature: Temperature is very important. A night, or dark, temperature of 60 to 70 degrees F and a day, or light, temperature 10 degrees higher is ideal. The difference in day and night temperature is important for good growth. Different varieties do better at different temperatures. Cooler temperatures intensify the amount of variegation in variegated varieties. When grown under lights, the variegated varieties are often grown on the lower shelves where the temperature is cooler.

Cold: If the temperature goes below 60 degrees for a period of time, the foliage will curl downward and the flowers will be discolored and deformed. If the temperature goes below 50 degrees for a period of time, the plants stop growing and will eventually die.

Heat: If the temperature goes above 85-90 degrees, plant growth also slows down (when plants are almost dormant they will require less fertilizer and light). Variegated plants will often lose their variegation and become green.

Light: Light is essential for plant growth. Since plants make their own food from water, air, and light through photosynthesis, light is more important than fertilizer. Cultivars differ in the amount of light they need. Plants with dark foliage generally need more light than plants with light or variegated foliage.

Natural light: African violets can be grown in any window with a strong, bright light. Northern and eastern windows may not provide enough light; southern and western windows may provide too much. Since light intensity varies at different times of the year, it may be necessary to try growing plants in different locations. Since window light is one-sided, plants should be turned on a regular basis. Many people give their window-grown plants a quarter turn every three days.

Artificial light: African violets grow well under artificial light. Growing under lights makes it easier to regulate the plants' needs and to produce beautiful plants. Because of the

heat of incandescent lights, African violets are generally grown under fluorescent lights. Cool white, cool white in combination with warm white, or special growing tubes can be used. Since the intensity of the light falls off with time, it is best to replace the tubes every 15 to 18 months for more even growing conditions. Since the light in the center of a fluorescent tube is stronger than that at the ends, plants that require more light are put in the center of the lights and plants that require less light are grown at the ends. Adjust the lights so they are 8 to 12 inches above the tops of the plants (miniature and semi-miniature varieties may have to be closer). Keep the lights on from 12 to 14 hours a day. If using wide spectrum lights, keep them on no more than 8 hours a day when new, and about 10 to 12 hours a day later. Watch plants to see if they need more or less light and if their growth is regular. Time clocks for automatically turning the lights on and off are a great convenience.

Too little light: Indications of insufficient light are lengthening of the petioles and lack of bloom. Since bud formation is governed by light intensity, the most frequent reason for lack of bloom in African violets is not enough light.

Too much light: Indications of too much light are shortening of the petioles, curling up of the center leaves, and bleaching or yellowing of the foliage.

One-sided light: If African violets are growing in a window, they will need help to develop and maintain good symmetry. A quarter turn every three days should keep plants symmetrical. Plants grown under artificial light may also have to be turned from time to time.

Humidity: Since many African violets originally grew by streams or waterfalls, humidity is a very important factor in producing beautiful African violets. Proper humidity promotes large blossoms and good growth. If buds drop unopened, the chances are that the air is too dry. The recommended relative humidity for growing African violets is between 40 to 70 percent. Since the average home is quite dry, humidity can be increased by using a humidifier and placing the plants on trays covered with wet sand, pebbles, or capillary mats.

*From the AVSA Handbook for
Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*



How to Assess a “Good” African Violet

by Margaret Taylor

We all would like to grow perfect African violets, and certainly, when we are preparing plants for show, we need to choose our show-hopefuls very carefully. Qualified judges seem to have an eye for a superior plant and will often be able to scan a whole table and immediately notice the best of the bunch. Sometimes in your own collection you will see a potential show specimen, which is asking to be given the time and effort to be something really special. It seems to say, “Look at me! Look at me!”

What to Look For

A variety you have grown for a while and have gotten to know any little quirks it might have is a good start. Some varieties do better in different seasons; therefore, be aware of the months running up to show time and select accordingly. Have you noticed that the varieties that top the list at show-time are often those which have proved winners in the past?

A young plant in a three-inch pot will often show its excellence very early. It should have a flat, symmetrical, sturdy leaf pattern that does not show any soil. Now you have the background you want. That is a start.

The All Important Flowers

What flowering traits are present? Fewer than five buds per stem? Not enough. Are they single, semi-double, or double? Be sure singles are not the drooping variety as they can be messy. Semi doubles are a good choice. Doubles may be good if the flower stems are strong enough to hold the heavier weight of the flowers without drooping.

Flowering patterns may be bouquets or halos. Both are attractive in their own way; however, since the flower stems only erupt from the axils of the second and third rows of leaves, bouquets may stand up very close to the center of the

plant and may look less than balanced over several rows of leaves. There is often another problem with bouquets in that the heavy flowering in the plant's center will block the light, thus inhibiting normal growth. These plants are very hard to re-establish when flowering ceases. Halo patterns may be the best choice, but here again the flower stems must be strong enough to hold up heavy flowering without languishing on their sides.

Long Lasting Blooms

Some varieties have very long-lasting blooms and appear to be ever-blooming. Some of the Rhapsodies and Optimaras have this trait. These make wonderful compact houseplants, but it may be hard to grow them to the large showy specimens that seem to do the best at shows. Some others do have a propensity to keep their flowers fresh for a very long time and are unlikely to wilt a day or two after first coming out.



Variegateds

These may be reliably stable or variable according to how they react to temperatures. This is interesting as far as growing is concerned. Heavily variegated varieties usually take a long time to grow and to come into bloom. It is perhaps better to grow these for your own interest and when they happen to be at peak performance, then show them off at one of the monthly meetings of your club.

If I have placed too much emphasis on perfection for showing purposes, be mindful that any plant, while being far from perfect, is worthy of growing if you like it for its own sake. African violets are as individual as we are. Love them for themselves and enjoy!

From African Violet News Official Journal of the
African Violet - Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.

More About Broad Mites Up Close and Personal!

by Allison R. Brigham
avconnectionn@yahoo.com

A question was asked whether or not the soil mix a grower began using about two years ago could be a source, or the source, of a recurring broad mite (*Polyphagotarsonemus latus*) infestation. I cannot imagine how it could be, or I should say it is strongly unlikely!

First, adult mites get about in several ways. Outdoors they can be blown here and there or hitchhike on another organism and indoors the males scurry about carrying a pharate female or wait for us to move them about the room or to others' homes from sales.

If you can forget for a minute that these organisms do a lot of agricultural damage and simply focus on an unusual aspect of their life history, this particular male behavior is awe-inspiring. Adult male broad mites emerge from their already-brief pupal stage a day or so earlier than the females. They grab a female who is ready-to-emerge, or "pharate".

In winged insects such as moths or butterflies, you can often see the ready-to-emerge adult insect through the pupal skin. If you look at the ventral side of the insect, the way in which the legs are folded across the body within the pupal skin and the visible eyes well, it reminded some early, sleep-deprived entomologist of Egyptian sarcophagi and pharaohs!

The male uses his long back two legs to hoist this female pupa upright onto his back, he heads for the upper (apical) regions of the plant, and he's ready to mate the instant she emerges.

The female lays her eggs (about 40 to 80) on the undersides of leaves and in flowers - not in soil. At plant-room temperatures of 25 degrees C (77 degrees F) and high humidity, the eggs hatch in about two days. The complete life cycle (egg to egg) takes about five days under these conditions. The female can keep cranking out eggs for one to two weeks.

So, broad mites do not have a soil-inhabiting portion of their life cycle, such as the pre-pupal and pupal stages of thrips.

The grower has several options:

1. Soil mix: Discontinue using the new mix or pasteurize it.
2. Confirm the identification of the current pest. During my years at a state-funded research agency in Illinois, the busiest taxonomists in our organization were the ones who identified species of mites, thrips, aphids, and caterpillars. Agricultural pests were job one! Adult mites are the realm of specialists, but there is an easy trick to confirm broad mites. The female lays a distinctive egg. If you see eggs on the undersides of leaves (10X magnification is sufficient) with what appears to you to be white spots or bumps, you're safe in assuming broad mites are present. In your home, it's reasonable that the mites are multivoltine (many generations per year) and that these are overlapping generations. So, there would always be some eggs present.

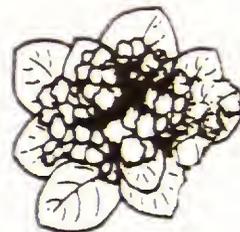
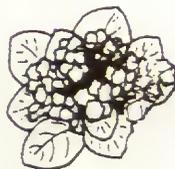
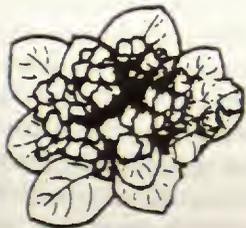
Be prepared to try several different management strategies to achieve control. The first critical step is accurate identification of the problem. This could possibly be something different. Then, review your options.

There is no substitute for doing your homework. If you choose to go the 'chemical' route, it is especially critical because not all acaricides (=miticides) are effective against all species. Review toxicological and LD-50 (dosage as milligrams per kilogram of body weight that kills 50 percent of the test organisms) information to see if you can use the compound safely in your home. A Google internet search using the name of the compound + MSDS (for Material Safety Data Sheet) should get you started.

Also, "broad mites" + miticides, or biocontrol, are good.

Biocontrol is an option. Typically, you apply predatory mites. There was a well-written article in AVM several years back that described one woman's battle with thrips and her ultimate victory using biocontrol.

Find this and more information at
<<http://www.avconnectionnyahogroups.com>>
From the Lone Star AVC Newsletter



REPOTTING A PLANT

by Sheila Walton

Why and when should you re-pot a plant?

A plant can look all right in its pot when you first acquire it, but do you really know what is in the pot? Plants grown commercially experience very different conditions in huge glass-houses, compared to the conditions in hobby growers individual homes. The commercially grown African violets often have a heavier, sandy mix than we use. This doesn't mean they don't know what they're doing! Far from it; they have found this potting medium suits their method of growing the plants in the quickest time so that they can be sold. Most hobby growers find a light African violet potting mix is best for their plants, as it does not seem to hold quite so much water. So changing the potting mix makes sense. Plants will always do better when they have had time to acclimate to your conditions. This may take a week or sometimes several months.

After plants have been in their pots for a number of months, the potting mix starts to deteriorate, peat moss starts to break down, fertilizer salts start to build up, and the plant may have developed a neck (i.e. a bare piece of stem where old leaves have been removed).

Most African violets will benefit from re-potting annually. If growing well, it may be necessary to do it every six months. Experience and practice will teach you what is best for your plants.

Having decided you need to re-pot your African violet, what is next?

It is easier to work with a plant that is a little on the dry side. Leaves do not snap so easily and old potting mix falls off more readily without damaging the roots. Your plant can be off water for a week or two. If it still feels very wet, let it drain on newspaper.

Next, assemble all the things you may require; newspaper to work on, different size pots, potting mix, a skewer or similar to lever your plant from the pot, wicks, brush to clean the plant when the job is done, something to remove old leaf stubs, such as an old knife, or a 'sucker-plucker' (actually a ceramic tool which we find very useful for our violets). You may need a sharp knife if part of the root ball needs to be cut off.

Action Stations.

Spread the newspaper on your work bench.



It is much easier to wrap up the mess in paper than to brush it all off the table. Insert your skewer through the hole in the bottom/side of the pot and wiggle it about to loosen the plant. It should then be able to be levered up and out. Have a good look at the potting mix and the root system. This is a time to check that the mix does not have any unwanted guests such as soil mealy bugs.

During one of the re-potting sessions in our club meeting, there was actually a live garden worm in one of the pots! If all looks all right, proceed to remove some of the old mix by gently crumbling with your fingers. Remove any existing flowers and flower buds! I know it's hard, but your plant will need all its energy to grow new roots to sustain its life - so give it a fair go! Remove any old leaves, marked leaves, or those that spoil the symmetry. This is a good opportunity to get your violet looking great. Scrape the stem to remove any scaly bits left from the leaves, and to promote root growth - new roots will come from the stem when it is covered with potting mix.

Now you need to assess the size of the pot you are going to use. It may be the same size as before, but it could well be larger or smaller. African violets do not like a lot of unused potting mix around their roots. They like to be a bit pot-bound. It may be that having removed a lot of leaves it will be necessary to cut off part of the bottom of the stem and roots. This will not hurt the plant and will improve its long term survival prospects. Next write the name of the plant on the side of the pot, together with the date. The date will help you to decide when it next needs re-potting or potting up to a larger size. Put a wick in your pot, even if you do not wick water at present as you may decide to in the future and the wick can be useful for draining as well as watering. Put a little African violet potting mix in the bottom of the pot. You will now have to assess how big the root ball is compared to your pot. If there is a reasonable size root ball, place your plant in the pot and fill in around the roots. If you have had to remove all the roots and only have a bare stem to plant in a smaller pot you will find it easier to fill the pot and then make a hole in the middle with a pencil or similar, and put your stem into the hole. Do not press the potting mix down. Simply tap the pot on the

bench. This will settle the mix. The bottom row of leaves should be level with the top of the pot. The next step is a matter of personal choice. You may either lightly water the plant from the top, or stand it in a saucer of water for 10-15 minutes to let it soak up some moisture. Most growers would only use plain water for the first week or so and when they feel the plant is settled, start using fertilizer. Some growers put newly re-potted plants into a plastic bag for a week or two especially if most of the root system had to be removed.

If you have an African violet that is very special to you - perhaps for sentimental reasons - and you feel a bit hesitant

about re-potting it for the first time, take out some insurance. Take one or two healthy leaves that are not too old and plant them. When the leaves have produced baby plants you know that if for any unforeseen reason your plant did not survive major surgery, you have the new offspring to take its place. Another way of being a little cautious with a plant with a very long neck is to re-pot it in stages, perhaps taking only 1" of 2" off the root-ball to start with and covering part of the bare neck.

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn Group, Australia



The Journey for Tally Time Winners

by Paris Merriam

Irvine, California • parisminirose@yahoo.com

I recently joined the African Violet Society of America, Inc. and I belong to the Tustana African Violet Society in Orange, California. I love to grow African violets, as this is my indoor plant of choice. Being a former rose grower and exhibitor in southern California, I research information on plants that do well at shows. Every year, the AVSA publishes the Tally Time Winners in their March/April issue of the *African Violet Magazine*. This format is quite similar to what the American Rose Society does with their publication, naming the top exhibition roses that have shown well during the year.

Therefore, in researching the 2001 and 2002 issues of the AVM, the quest was on to find these plants, buy them, and grow them in hopes of entering them in an African violet show someday. My focus was on the standard African violets, as I thought I would have my best luck in growing these first. Pauline Bartholomew appears to recommend standards as well in her book *Growing To Show*.

My adventure started in the spring of 2003 with a drive down to beautiful coastal Carlsbad, California, for the Carlsbad African Violet Society show and sale. Here I was able to see my first African violet show and have a chance to buy some of the Tally Time winners. I found 'Fisherman's Paradise', 'Picasso', and 'Ode to Beauty'. The excitement of bringing them home to grow and enjoy was worth the drive, let alone seeing many beautiful African violets displayed and for sale all in one place!

The next stop was West Covina, California, for the Foothill Valley AVS show and sale. Here I met Gini McCanne owner of Violet Perfection by Gini. I bought some beautiful African violets from Gini and others in this club that added to my Tally Time collection. These African violets included

'Windy Day', 'Powwow', and 'Lela Marie'. Upon viewing the winners on the show table at this venue, I noticed the Best of Show winner was 'Rising Tide'. The grower offered me a 'Rising Tide' for sale that looked just as good as the one that won Best of Show!

Descanso Gardens, nestled in the foothills of La Canada, California, was the next stop for the Montrose AVS show and sale. Here I was able to find 'Optimara Trinidad', which was offered in their silent auction. I was also able to purchase 'Harbor Blue'. This journey was worth the effort, as the grounds of Descanso Gardens are quite spectacular, and certainly worth visiting.

Off to the next show and sale in the high California desert, I met the friendly folks from the Happy Trails AVS in Apple Valley, California. I continued to add to my collection of African violets and bought an 'East Wind', which won the Best of Show at this event.

The last stop of this adventure was in Torrance, California, for the South Coast AVS show and sale. Here I found a 'Bertha' that Leonard Re had for sale. I found some other plants as well, and I knew I was on my way to having a nice collection of African violets.

I fell two short in getting all of the Tally Time winners for 2001 and 2002 at the various shows and sales here in southern California. I continued my search and I found two vendors in the back of the *African Violet Magazine*. Travis, of Travis' Violets sent me a plant of 'Smooch Me' and Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses will be sending me 'The Alps'.

Although my quest for the Tally Time winners of 2001 and 2002 is complete, the search may continue once the Tally Time winners are published for 2003!

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 47

Students' Artwork Exhibited at Violet Show

by Mary Ann Switzer • Chesterfield, Missouri



MSLAVC President Nancy Amelung (on right) presents an African Violet to teacher Mrs. Kathy Standley (on left)

The 2003 annual show of the Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council was enhanced with a display of children's artwork. The beautiful African violets were drawn by children in the second, third, fourth, and fifth grades at Crestwood Elementary School in suburban St. Louis, Missouri. Their art teacher is Mrs. Kathy Standley.

The wonderful drawings of African violets were bordered with mattes of many colors and tastefully displayed by Mrs. Standley on a folding screen. This was a great tie in to our show theme: "Violets Show Their Colors."

Many of the children came to the show with their parents and grandparents. They wanted to show off



Student John Schaefer exhibits his drawing

their artwork and see more violets. Some of the children who came didn't even have their art displayed. Mrs. Standley said that many of the pictures were given to their mothers and grandmothers as gifts for Mother's Day.

Mrs. Standley explained that she had purchased African violets and

had them on a table. Each student picked out a plant and carried it to their table. She was amazed that even the older boys, who sometimes have rather rough and tumble behavior, carried the plants so carefully. One of the children explained to me that the project actually took three art periods. The first day, the plants were drawn. Then, Mrs. Standley made photo copies of them. These copies were used in a lesson on watercolor one day and a lesson with colored pencils another day.

The display brought in a lot of people who had not previously attended our show. It was fun watching the children show their work to their families. They were so proud of their

artwork. Every picture had charm. Maybe some of them will want to grow their own plants one day.

Mrs. Standley and her husband spent a lot of time at the educational table, asking questions about wick watering, fertilizers, and growing under artificial light.

Mrs. Standley wants to keep her plants growing. Maybe they will be used again next year in art classes.

Perhaps these photos will inspire other art teachers to use African violets in their lesson plans. Maybe drawing African violets could be a program at a club meeting. If there is a computer savvy club member, the drawings could be scanned into the computer and custom stationery printed. Wouldn't it be fun to use note cards featuring your own African violet artwork? As you can see, even the most naive drawings are charming.



Student Chelsea Ashcraft is pleased with her artwork



Art by Chris Voelker



Art by Sabino Arnautovic



Art by Zlatan Strbac

AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

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

Applicants should be enrolled in a four year undergraduate program or in a graduate program of an accredited university or college.

Applicants should be majoring in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.

Applicants should have a minimum "B" average and have completed at least 24 semester or quarter hour

credits by the beginning of the spring, 2004 semester.

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

Applications can be downloaded from the AVSA web site, www.avsa.org, or may be ordered from the AVSA office: AVSA Scholarship Application, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

Application deadline is March 1, 2004. All completed applications should be sent to Dr. Elmer Godeny, 7004 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

JOIN US IN TUCSON, ARIZONA FOR THE 58th ANNUAL AVSA CONVENTION AND SHOW APRIL 11-18, 2004

Tips From the Potter's Corner

Here is a summary of wicking cord material:

- 1) Nylon strings, fishing/sporting dept., discount stores
- 2) Carpenter twine, discount stores
- 3) Nylon yarn
- 4) Nylon stockings, cut to 0.5" x 6"
- 5) Acrylic yarn
- 6) Nylon cord, fabric stores
- 7) Nylon cord, chains & ropes dept., home supply stores
- 8) Mason's twine
- 9) Seine line, fishing supply stores.

Did you know that Yoplait brand yogurt cups make awesome reservoirs for 2 inch wicked pots? They are not prone to tipping over since the bases are a bit wider than the tops.



Did you know that turkey "brown in" bags work great for sterilizing potting mix in your oven with less mess? And they are often on sale this time of year!

A small, inexpensive soldering iron (under \$10) works wonderfully for melting holes in Solo-type plastic cups or for converting regular pots to Texas style potting ones. Just be careful not to burn yourself and use in a well-ventilated area or outdoors.

Courtesy of the Ventura County AVS Newsletter, Georgetta Brickley, Editor

Variegated African Violets

by Pat Hancock • West Chester, OH

How did we get variegated plants from the solid leaves of the species violets?

African violets appear to be very fickle creatures and have the ability to sport, or mutate, in both foliage and flower. Hybridizers have made very good use of the violet's ability to sport. The first double flower was a sport called 'Duchess', and the first white flower was another sport called 'White Lady'.

Three types of variegated foliage came from sports: "Crown" variegation, "Mosaic" variegation, and "Tommie Lou" variegation.

"Tommie Lou" variegation is the type that I have been working with in my Buckeye series of varieties. Tommie Lou Oden planted a leaf of a plant called 'White Pride'. When the baby plants came up, she noticed that one had a different type of foliage than that of the green-leaved parent. Fortunately, she had the insight to consider that it was a sport rather than a 'sick baby'. After putting down leaves for about nine generations, she introduced the new plant as 'Tommie Lou'.

The ideal for this type of foliage had always been about 70% green and 30% cream.

My idea of the ideal foliage is about 70% very dark green, 20% pink, and 10% cream. To achieve this, the pollen parent must have very dark, almost black foliage, and the leaves must be red backed.

Chlorophyll

Variegated plants can often be a bit more difficult to grow than solid green plants. Solid green plants have chlorophyll in all of their plant cells. Variegated plants contain less chlorophyll, as the pink or cream areas do not produce very much.

Chlorophyll is very important as it absorbs light and converts it into plant energy through photosynthesis. In order to produce chlorophyll, plants need nitrogen, which they get from the air and from fertilizers. Plants need air in the soil, as well as bacteria. Bacteria help break down the nitrogen from fertilizers into nitrates that can be absorbed by the roots.

The amount of bloom in an African violet is directly related to the amount of chlorophyll in the plant. Variegated violets with more than 30% variegation produce less bloom. There is a fine line to keeping the amount of variegation to be pleasing to the violet grower, but not so much that you lose the main purpose of blooming freely.

African violets with leaves that become too white need a 20/20/20 fertilizer, or a misting with fish emulsion. Those violets that become too green will need a fertilizer in which the middle number is higher.

Light and pH

Other components for successful growing of variegated African violets are light and the correct pH.

Variegated plants need ten to twelve hours of light per day. For my plants, I use two fluorescent tubes, one daylight white and one grow light, or one daylight white and one warm white.

I have found that variegated African violets are affected a bit more by improper pH. The pH level in both water and soil should be close to 6.7.

Temperature

Temperature is also capable of affecting African violets. Bacteria are more active in warm temperatures and less active in cooler temperatures. A temperature of about 71°F is considered best for variegated African violets. The lower shelves of a light stand are best for temperatures above 71°F, while the higher shelves are best for temperatures below 71°F.

Repotting

Extra care is needed when repotting variegated African violets. Mold potting is best, as less roots are disturbed, and you lessen the chance of having spots appear in the cream areas of your leaves after repotting.

Plants with necks can either be repotted into a deeper pot with as little abuse to the roots as possible or may be taken back to a crown and started over. Variegated plants are much more intolerant of roots being disturbed or cut off than solid green leaved plants. Also, more care must be taken not to overwater after repotting, as this can cause dark spots on variegated leaves.

If you feel that you have overstressed your plant, enclose it in a plastic bag for a week.

Putting Down Leaves

When putting leaves down, choose those with as much green as possible and very little cream or pink. Prepare a cup of water containing two drops of Superthrive. Cut the end of the petiole from 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch long. Soak the petiole in the Superthrive solution for about ten minutes. Fill half of a Solo cup with soil and the top half with extra course vermiculite. I have found that the baby plants will have better green color if soil is in the bottom of the cup. Make a hole in the vermiculite and insert the leaf at a slight slant toward the back. Cover with a plastic sandwich bag or place in a domed tray.

Keep a close eye on variegated leaves for the first two weeks after planting. Cream areas on the leaves sometimes develop dark spots that could spread to the entire leaf. Opening the bag and cutting off the areas that have started to rot will usually save the leaf.

After about one month, the leaf should be rooted. Open the bag and cut off the top half of the leaf. Water with fish emulsion water or a 20/20/20 fertilizer, using a weak solution of about half the strength you would use on adult plants. Place in a tray with a dome.

Taking Care of the Babies

Continue watering with fish emulsion water or weakened 20/20/20 water to keep them as green as possible. When the plants have four leaves, it is time to pot them into Solo cups. Don't worry about the variegation at this point. Variegation will return as they mature.

Never take babies that are too white off of the mother leaf until you have misted them and the green color has improved. They will die if transplanted when they are too white.

Misting

To mist the variegated violet plants that become too white, use 1/4 teaspoon fish emulsion to one gallon of HOT water. You may mist the babies completely, but cover the crown on adult plants with a Kleenex or a used dryer sheet. I use a "used," and cleaned, pump hair spray bottle, and mist once a week until they green up.

Things I Would Have a Hard Time Living Without

- Plastic Bags: Sandwich and gallon sizes. I use gallon bags to isolate new additions, separate plants that just don't look right, and newly potted plants that have had a lot done to them. Sandwich bags are used to hold leaves and suckers.
- Lava Rock and charcoal: Both of these help provide air spaces in the soil, thus providing nitrogen.
- Dehydrated cow manure: Adds shine to leaves and promotes faster growth.
- Powders of Sulphur: Rub on exposed necks when repotting to prevent fungus and crown rot.
- Baccto potting soil, or some type of Humus: Add to the soil to promote beneficial bacteria.
- GOOD WATER: This is so important. Rain water, dehumidifier water, reverse osmosis water. Always a pH of 6.6 - 6.7.

By paying a bit more attention to how your variegated plants are growing, it is possible to correct any problem that might be present. The reward of a plant that not only blooms well, but has beautiful foliage is well worth the extra effort.



ALL EARTHLINGS TAKE NOTE!

The next Dixie AVS Convention and Show will be held at the Hilton Houston – NASA Hotel located next to Johnson Space Center at 3000 NASA Road One in Nassau Bay, State of Texas, and Country of America on Planet Earth. The theme of this spectacular event is "MARS – the Red-Violet Planet." The extraterrestrial occurrence will happen only on March 17-20, 2004. Space is saved for travelers to this beautiful resort facility with a breathtaking view of Clear Lake and a panoramic view of the large marina. Jet-skis, fishing boats, or para-sail rides are awaiting the adventurous. Enjoy the outdoor pool or hot tub even in early spring.

Be prepared to enjoy **Elmer Godeny**, Ph.D, from Baton Rouge, LA. His excellent presentation is entitled "Deep Space Violet Winners." He will interpret successful selecting, growing, and showing beautiful horticulture.

Plan to have fun with **Jane Rexilius** from New Braunfels, Texas. She is going to present "Red Rock Gardens of Mars", sharing how to create a dish garden design that is immediately ready for judging with the remarkable appearance of being well established.

Listen carefully to special **NASA speakers** who will reveal endeavors for travelers to Mars. Just for your pleasure, the convention halls will be awash with colorful NASA displays of interplanetary excursions, space travel adventures, and lunar activities.

Learn more about violets from **Peg Phythyon**, who is going to provide an AVSA Judging School.

Far-out tours are available. These include a space journey to the Martian Orbiter at the Space Center Houston. Or take rides along the popular Kemah Boardwalk with its specialty shops and arcades. And enjoy a leisurely stroll through an exquisite rainforest at Moody Gardens that can include rides on the Colonel Paddleboat that departs from a white sandy beach.

All who sign up for sustenance at this event will have one delightfully RED edible item available in the menu of each meal served. All earthlings are invited to bring their red outfits, exotic plants, and special designs to be displayed in rare splendor during this celestial occasion. Earth contact data: 281-488-0267 or jasstenger@aol.com.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

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

Moon in Taurus

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

Moon in Gemini

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

Moon in Cancer

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

Moon in Leo

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

Moon in Virgo

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

Moon in Libra

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

Moon in Scorpio

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

Moon in Sagittarius

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

Moon in Capricorn

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

Moon in Aquarius

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

Moon in Pisces

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

January Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu. 12:02 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
2 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
3 Sat. 12:58 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
4 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
5 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
6 Tue. 1:58 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
7 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	Full 10:40 am
8 Thu. 12:38 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
10 Sat. 9:37 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
11 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
12 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
13 Tue. 4:38 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
14 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th 11:46 pm
15 Thu. 9:35 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
16 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 Sat. 12:18 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
18 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
19 Mon. 1:24 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
20 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
21 Wed. 2:11 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	New 4:05 pm
22 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
23 Fri. 4:29 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
24 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 Sun. 10:06 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
26 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
27 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
28 Wed 7:46 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
29 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
30 Fri. 8:18 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd 1:03 am
31 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd

February Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
2 Mon. 9:03 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
3 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
4 Wed. 7:50 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
5 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
6 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	Full 5:47 am
7 Sat. 4:03 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
8 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
9 Mon. 10:12 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
10 Tue.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
11 Wed. 2:58 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
12 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 Fri. 6:35 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th 8:59 am
14 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
15 Sun. 9:14 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
16 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
17 Tue. 11:27pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
18 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
19 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
20 Fri. 2:27 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	New 4:18 am
21 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
22 Sun. 7:45 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
23 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
24 Tue. 4:30 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
25 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
26 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
27 Fri. 4:22 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd 10:24 pm
28 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
29 Sun. 5:12 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2003 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0070-3

THOSE (*&A%\$#@) MEALIES

by Sharon Holtzman



After probably two years, it was just brought to my attention by a third person that I passed along a *Streptocarpus* plant with Soil Mealy Bugs to another grower. The recipient was a grower that I have always admired because she is so conscientious, and I was mortified. I have sprayed plants, I have drenched plants, I have added chemicals to my growing medium, I have pitched plants, I've sworn, and I've cried, and even now I still find the occasional mealy bug.

I thought being more selective about from whom I acquired plant material would help. Nope. I have found mealy bugs in every darn plant that I have added to my inventory, and every one had to be thrown away. I thought that just buying leaves would do the trick. Nope, they showed up in babies that came up from the leaves.

The straw that broke this camel's back came when I found some mealy bugs in a "seedling". The only conclusion that I could draw was that the mealies came in my ProMix BX. I have pasteurized small amounts of peat in the oven from time to time but with no regularity because I couldn't stand the smell. So there was no way for me to prove to myself that the ProMix was the culprit. Well, I'm going to find out once and for all...read on.

First thing I did was to sow seed on top of the New Zealand Pellet Moss that was reconstituted using boiling water (and then cooled of course). These are germinating in a covered container that was also sterilized with boiling water.

I bought an electric Soil Pasteurizer/Sterilizer and have started to pasteurize my ProMix. It is steam pasteurized, held at 160 degrees for 30 minutes. If I completely sterilize my mix, I am limited to what fertilizers I can use. If there are no live microbes in my mix at all, I'm afraid that fertilizers with urea may not be as effective, and I do occasionally like to use an Orchid fertilizer that does contain some urea. I'm also washing all of my perlite so that I do not confuse the dust-like particles with patches of mealy bugs.

My seedlings will go from the moss to the pasteurized mix, each on its own reservoir to maturity, well isolated from all other plant material, and I will keep notes all along the way.

I was very excited when my sterilizer arrived and couldn't wait to get started on cooking this peat. Imagine my disappointment to find that the contraption had no bottom. Included in the instruction sheet was the suggestion to have a customized metal tray made, and it gave the dimensions. Being the packrat that I am, I just happened to have a custom welded plant tray that was given to me by a friend years ago and was collecting dust. Because it was larger than the

dimensions suggested, I thought it would be just perfect.

I lined the tray with a heavy-duty aluminum foil, filled the sterilizer, turned it on at the desired temperature, and waited. After one half hour had passed and there was no detectable odor, I thought "this is going to be great". My three cats circled the sterilizer like a feline wagon train through the entire operation.

The pilot light turned off, and my anticipation was building as I lifted the lid. "Holy cow, Vesuvius revisited"!!! That stinky steam just billowed out, knocking me back on my heels and sending the cats retreating to the far corners of the basement. I am so grateful that my grandchildren were not within earshot because the litany of expletives that flew from my lips would have caused me to lose my babysitting rights.

I thought if I could hurry up and cool this stuff, the steam would stop, so I lifted the contraption to shake out the contents. Well did you ever watch a scrambled egg cooking in a microwave? It just grows and grows and grows. That is just what happened to this peat moss, and the tray that I was using could not contain all of it. With heavy rubber gloves, I began to scoop it out, portion by portion, and run it out to the patio. By the time I finished, the house reeked of this stinky stuff, and I was exhausted.

The first obvious conclusion to be drawn was you never cook this much peat moss indoors. The second was that a much larger tray would have to be used. My husband is a pretty smart guy in many areas, and when it comes to coming up with ideas that totally eliminate the need for any physical activity, he's a blooming' genius. After he offered to build a large wooden box for me, this idea was quickly replaced with the suggestion that I just sit the sterilizer in the wheelbarrow... BINGO!! I have since cooked a second batch outdoors, and using the wheelbarrow does work beautifully. It has enough room to stir the mix, cooling it in no time at all. I then dump it all onto an old tablecloth that I can pick up and dump into a large plastic container. Over a two day period, it is poured back and forth several times a day to aerate, before being mixed with the washed perlite and vermiculite for the finished growing medium. So now that I have the bugs worked out for the use of my 'bug cooker', I just love it.

The PRO-GRO Company makes the electric soil sterilizer. It is built of heavy-gauge aluminized steel and has a capacity of one cubic foot of soil. The heating elements are sheathed for protection and sealed against moisture. Thermostat range: 100-200 degrees F. It is pre-wired with a 6 ft. grounded power cord. Rated: 500 watts, 4-1/2 amps. Weight: 27 pounds. Instructions included.

Dive into Design

by Madaline Whittaker

Submerge yourself with a new challenge by considering a design in underwater flower arrangement. My first thought was how difficult this category would be. After reading two excellent articles in the African Violet Magazine, one by Cathy Cornibe, May 1988, and another by Julie Adams, November 1988, I could visualize several good reasons for trying a design underwater.

You can keep this type of arrangement simple. Therefore, you can concentrate on emphasizing the line and choosing color to set the mood or design style. The container serves as the niche. Your arrangement size will be based on this space, and points will be deducted if any plant material is touching the top or sides of the container. Above all, keep everything clear and uncluttered.

You need a minimal amount of design material because everything you put into a container will be magnified considerably. The thickness of the glass and the shape of the container determines how much magnification will occur when water is added. A round bowl will magnify more than straight sided glass. Any pattern or design in the glass will be distracting to the design. Try different shaped containers to get the effect you want to achieve.

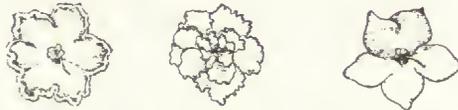
The biggest problem I could think of was keeping everything stable and not floating away. I think Cathy Cornibe came up with a magnificent solution - magnets! She suggests making a metal base and paint it with an enamel

paint so it won't rust. Then use stick-em on the base to anchor it down to the bottom of your bubble bowl. Next, glue small magnets to the bottoms of all of your accessories, pin frogs etc., with clear silicone sealer. Let the sealer dry completely. After partially filling your bubble bowl with distilled water, simply lower your materials onto the base and move them around as often as necessary. How easy it will now be for you to make adjustments to your design as well as to feel confident your arrangement will stay on the bottom.

Now all you need to be concerned about is what design material to use. Points will be deducted if the water is cloudy or murky. Make sure everything that is put in your design container has been thoroughly rinsed to remove any dust or residues. Remove any damaged foliage and other imperfections as well. For an easy test to see which materials hold up best, put different types of plant material that you might want to use in your design into separate glasses of water. Check the glasses daily for several days.

Read your show schedule carefully to be sure you understand the information. Choose one or more possible containers. Look around for interesting items on which to base your design. Then start practicing.

CA Council News



Anything Can Go Wrong

Does the old saying, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong at the worst possible moment" become your motto just before a show? One year, the thrips decide to take up residence in your collection, and the next mites decide to drop in for a snack. With our show rapidly approaching, it's time to keep an extra keen eye on your plants.

One problem that can and usually does present itself around show time is fertilizer buildup. Generally, fertilizer buildup occurs in plants with immature root systems (e.g., recently potted plantlets); however, mature plants are not immune.

What are the causes? Obviously, overfeeding, especially with a high nitrogen fertilizer, is the primary cause, but a high alkaline content in your water and/or plants kept too wet can trigger a buildup.

What should you look for? Look for a reddish crystal substance in the crowns of your plants. Often, crowns will

take on a "wet" looking appearance just prior to the formation of the crystals.

What should you do? First, rinse the crowns and flush the soil with clear lukewarm water. Second, dab the center dry with a soft tissue or paper towel. Third, remove plants from their water source (if wick watering) or discontinue watering if you are hand watering. Keep the affected plant(s) on the dry side (not bone dry) for the next few weeks. I have found that plants immediately returned to their water source are likely to have a relapse of the same problem.

How can you prevent fertilizer buildup? Avoid over-fertilizing (more isn't better). Also, I have found that plants that are kept too wet are perfect targets. If you think your plants are too wet, they probably are. If you wick water, try using a thinner wicking material. If you hand water or mat water, try lightening up your soil mix by adding perlite.

TRAILERS

by Joan Halford

From her book "*Growing African Violets in Southern Africa*"

Nothing is easier than the propagation of a trailer. I see no difference in the beauty of trailers grown in natural light from that of trailers grown under fluorescent lighting.

They can be grown in exactly the same way as standard specimens, when you root leaves in a rooting medium of your choice. However, a far quicker way of multiplying trailers is to remove a whole tip cutting, cut off the lower leaves, leaving a 1" stub and then planting this stub into a rooting medium. Cover the plant and pot with a plastic bag as before, and in no time at all the tip cutting will root - voila! A new plant.

If propagation is done by leaf, the plantlets are removed from the mother leaf when about 2" tall and potted into small pots. Care must be taken to prevent drying out at this crucial stage. Tip cuttings given extra humidity by being encased in plastic bags root very easily. As soon as the center crown elongates and produces about six leaves, pinch out the top four crown leaves.

THIS IS THE ONLY TIME THAT ONE WOULD PINCH OUT CROWN GROWTH.

The pinching out encourages new side-shoots, which in time become new crowns. A trailer should have a minimum of three crowns, but there must only be one original plant in the pot. More crowns produce more flowers, so this is the aim when growing trailers: to encourage more crowns to develop. Try to get emerging crowns to lie evenly around the pot, all crowns emanating from the original plant. The whole plant, no matter how many crowns it has, must look rounded and balanced. The trailing branches may start to hang over the pot's edge, but provided no bare stems are showing and they are neat and evenly spaced, leave them. If bare trailing

stems start showing, cut them back. They will sprout again, and new growth will emerge at the stem nodules. The aim must be to achieve full foliage, with form being a most important consideration.

Trailers are judged on form, not symmetry.

Sometimes very little pinching back or pruning is necessary; varieties differ! Move crowns, stake them in position, and after a time they will stay where you want them. Use plastic drinking straws for staking.

GROOMING A TRAILER

If there is a gap, pinch out the crown nearest to the gap and it will produce new growth which will then fill in. Groom as you would for a standard plant, by removing marred or yellowed leaves. Wash foliage, dry off, and remove all old, spent blooms.

It needs patience to groom a trailer, and there is a lot to do, but when it is done, it is so worthwhile - it looks magnificent. When doing this grooming of a trailer, it is a good idea to remove the leaves that are too large or too small, since trying to keep all leaves the same size is the object of growing a good trailer. Often a whole crown will develop larger than normal leaves. Remove the entire crown if you can, as long as the removal of this larger than normal crown does not destroy the rounded, balanced form of your plant.

If you have your trailers as hanging plants, and find it difficult to remove them to water them every time, do try this simple method. Buy a few cheap shower caps and when it's time to water your trailers, pull the shower cap over the bottom of the pot. The shower cap will prevent the drips and mess and save your floor from fertilizer marks. Try it, it works.

TIPS FOR GROWING UNDER LIGHTS

by Sue Gardner

1. Place plants so that the top leaves are 10 -12" from the light tubes.
2. Miniature violets need to be placed closer to lights, between 8 to 4" from tubes.
3. Operate the lights for 12-14 hours per day. (Reduce this if two new tubes are used).
4. Clean tubes with a damp sponge (when cold), or dust as necessary. This will ensure you get the best out of your tubes.
5. Replace only one tube at a time to avoid trauma to plants.
6. Replace tubes when ends are blackened as their efficiency is low. For good results, replace one tube 10 weeks before show.
7. Plants whose leaves reach up need more light, so place the plant either directly under the tubes or even closer to tubes.
8. Plants with tight centers are receiving too much light - move to reduce intensity or reduce hours.
9. Variegated plants need more light - place directly under tubes.
10. Usually, plants with lighter green foliage need more light than those with dark green leaves. You will find exceptions, so adapt where necessary.
11. To avoid mildew, make sure there is good air circulation around the plants.
12. Keep plants on wick watering systems to ensure good humidity and fertilizer levels as plants under lights are actively growing all year round.
13. Plants on outside edges of light stand shelves should be turned weekly to ensure even growth.
14. Make sure to re-pot at regular intervals.

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AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 55



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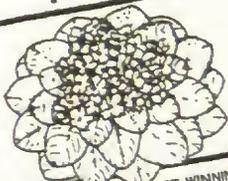
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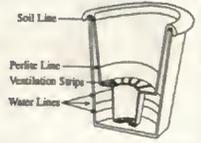
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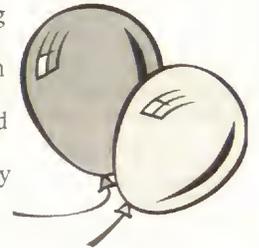
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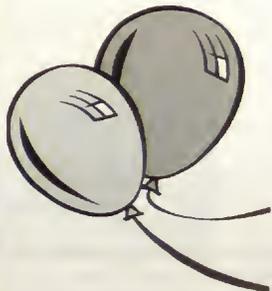
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2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-3/8"	Wt. or TC	Rd. Tub	1.10	2.25	4.25	8.00	38.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.00	55.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.25	13.50	59.40
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

MICRO MINI POTS

1-1/2"	Terracotta	1.20	2.75	4.80	9.00	39.50
Snap-On Saucer	Terracotta	1.20	2.75	4.80	9.00	39.50

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 WICK WATER RESERVOIRS (Recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)

Size	Height	Diameter	Holds Pot Up To	10	25	50	100	500
8 oz	1-3/4"	4-1/2"	5"	3.50	8.00	15.00	29.00	140.00
16 oz	3"	4-1/2"	5"	4.00	9.50	17.00	32.00	150.00
32 oz	3-1/4"	6"	7"	6.00	14.00	27.00	53.00	250.00

Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.10	5.25	8.00
5" White, Lavender	1.40	6.25	11.00
4 1/2" White only	1.65	7.50	14.50
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMA-NEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.00	5.50	10.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.60	9.00	16.80
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.75	9.90	18.60
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	5.50	31.50	60.00

CLEAR DOME

Fits 11" x 22" trays \$2.25 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$7.25 each

Elisa's African Violet Rings

6" (Mini)	Gr. only	Fits up to 3" pot	1	6	12	25	50
9"	Gr. only	Fits 3" to 5" pot	1.00	5.25	9.75	20.00	34.50
13"	Gr. only	Fits 5" to 8" pot	1.15	6.00	11.00	23.00	39.00
			1.40	7.15	13.25	24.00	42.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle

Each \$3.25, 3 for \$9.50, 6 for \$18.00, 12 for \$34.00

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

48 STATES

East of the Mississippi - \$5.25; West of Mississippi - \$5.75

West of the Rockies - \$6.25; Rural Areas please add \$1.50

All Others - Actual Cost

Massachusetts Residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price		
		1/2 pt.	1 pt.	1 qt.
7-9-5	Plant Food	\$4.95	\$7.95	\$12.00
3-12-6	Bloom	4.95	7.95	12.00
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	4.95		11.00
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	4.95		10.00
Concentrate	K-L-N	10.00		
Neem Oil		7.50		24.50
Dolomite Limestone				2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal		20 oz.		40 oz.
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.85		3.50
		4 qts.	8 qts.	16 qts.
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.75	3.00	5.75
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	3.00	5.75
Canadian Peat Moss		\$1.75	3.00	\$5.50
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide				
\$4.00 per running yard - whole yard lengths				

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
 WHOLESALE
 DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
 SEND FOR PRICE LIST

J F INDUSTRIES

AFRICAN VIOLET
 LEAF SUPPORTS
 5 SIZES

6" fits up to 3" pot
 9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
 15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

J F INDUSTRIES

28 Minot St.
 Falmouth St.
 Falmouth, MA 02540
 (508) 548-2798

PHYSAN 20

8 oz. - \$4.95
 16 oz. - \$7.25
 32 oz. - \$13.50
 1 gal. - \$35.00

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$3.00
 1 oz. - \$4.25
 2 oz. - \$6.00
 4 oz. - \$9.25

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3-1/2"
 4"-5"-6"

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50