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# African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets

March - April 2004

Volume 57

Number 2



# AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

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

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugeau, 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

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

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

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

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

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

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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

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

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

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# African Violet

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

March • April

Volume 57

Number 2

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### COVER

Chicago Flair

Best Standard

Best Variegated Standard

2003 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **William Sugg**

Hybridized by: **D. Hoover**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretzky

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

# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

Spring is around the corner and with it comes the flower show season. Many AVSA affiliates began planning their upcoming shows and exhibits during the winter. If you have the chance to assist in the preparation of a show, or to attend one in your local area, don't miss the wonderful opportunity. It lifts the spirit after a dark, bleak winter season to see a gorgeous array of African violets with their vibrant colored blooms above neat and interesting foliage.

The AVSA convention is almost here as well. Only several weeks from now, violet enthusiasts will converge on Tucson, Arizona, to exhibit their latest beauties, visit with friends seen only once a year, and attend presentations that are interesting and educational. If you haven't yet sent in your registration, don't delay. Mail it in to the AVSA office in Beaumont as soon as possible so you don't miss out on the wonderful fun. The back cover of the January issue of the *African Violet Magazine* is a registration form you can use without disturbing the pages of the issue itself. Or you can download a form from the AVSA website, [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org). Join us for a "Fiesta of Violets."



Another flower show will be taking place shortly in Hong Kong, China. AVSA received an invitation for one or two representatives to attend and present seminars to members of the African Violet Association of Hong Kong at the 2004 Hong Kong Flower Show. Joyce and Kent Stork have agreed to represent us at this event and hope to take new cultivars from several hybridizers along with them to share. They plan to take pictures, and hopefully we'll see them in a future article in the *AVM*. Their willingness to serve as AVSA representatives is greatly appreciated.

For many years, Joyce and Kent have co-authored the "For Beginners" column in the *African Violet Magazine*. They have asked to be relieved of this responsibility, and Sharon Holtzman of Ohio has agreed to take it on. After consultation with Ruth Rumsey, Editor, and Barbara Pershing, Chairman of the Publication Committee, Sharon has been appointed to this important columnist's position. Her first column will be in the July issue of the *AVM*.

A telephone call was received on New Year's Eve Day from Pauline Bartholomew with news that a letter of transfer of the rights to her book, *Growing To Show*, was about to be mailed. The letter was received shortly thereafter, and arrangements to handle the remaining copies of the current print run are being worked out. There should be copies available for sale at the convention in Tucson and through the office later.

I hope you were able to give a membership to AVSA to a friend, colleague, or neighbor this year. The six issues of the *African Violet Magazine* that go along with membership will give pleasure when it arrives in the mail and will provide helpful information to be used when needed later. Let's see how many others we can interest in this beautiful plant we love so much. I hope to see you in Tucson.

Janet Riemer  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



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

In just a few weeks, we'll be in beautiful Tucson, AZ, for the AVSA convention. If you have not registered for the convention, please do so right away. This is the first time we've convened in the great southwestern United States, and from the amount of early registrations we've received, the membership is excited about the convention. I look forward to seeing you there!

This issue features the last "For Beginners" column written by **Kent and Joyce Stork**. We certainly appreciate all of the time they've contributed to the AVM, providing sound advice for growers of African violets. Replacing the Storks will be **Sharon Holtzman** of Ohio. Look for Sharon's first column in the July/August issue.

We are so thankful for the support of our regular advertisers and wish that all of our commercial members would support this publication through advertising. A new advertiser in this issue is **Gladys Tison** of Yulee, Florida. Gladys' business, **Annie's Violet Supplies**, opened recently. See her ad on page 64 in this issue, and visit her web site [www.anniesvioletsupplies.com](http://www.anniesvioletsupplies.com) on the Internet.

Also in this issue you'll find the complete listing of the vintage violets that are currently being sought by our members - AVSA Most Wanted (page 12). This list is compiled by **Barbara Elkin**, our Vintage Violet columnist. If you are currently growing any of these classics, please let Barbara know.

**Pat Richards**, our Thinking Small (page 18) columnist, interviewed my good friend, Texas hybridizer **Shirley Sanders**, for her column in this issue. Shirley and husband **Sandy** operate **Shirley's House of Violets** in San Antonio, TX. For more information about the plants Shirley is offering this spring, turn to her ad on page 60.

On page 26, you'll find Tally Time 2003. **Anna Jean Landgren** summarizes the varieties receiving the greatest number of awards in the past year. Many members use this list as a guide to the plants that perform best when selecting new varieties to grow for show entries.

We are very excited that **Pauline Bartholomew** has given AVSA the rights to her popular book, *Growing to Show*. Thanks to Pauline, all the profits from future sales will go to AVSA. We will be offering the book for sale at the convention in Tucson, so please come by the AVSA Sales Table and get your copy. This book will then be available through the AVSA office. For sales in the US and Canada, the price is \$14.50, postage paid. Texans add 8.25% sales tax, and overseas orders add \$7.50 for air mail. (See ad on page 59.)

The listing of your spring shows are on pages 42 - 44, the largest listing of the year. I would like to thank the local club publicity chairmen for making such an effort to get the notices in to me on time. It makes a big difference in compiling all of this information.

## In Memory

### Billie Golla

Billie Golla of New Braunfels, Texas, passed away on October 3, 2003. Billie was an AVSA Master Judge, a Teacher, member of the AVSA Shows and Judges Committee, and served as the AVSA Show Schedule Approver. Billie was active in the First Austin AVS, Central Texas Judges Council, and the Lone Star African Violet Council. While living in Houston, she was a longtime member of the Spring Branch AVS, and the Gesneriad Study Club, where she served as President. In the past she was also a member of the Corpus Christi AVS and clubs in Denver, Co.

Billie also hybridized African violets, and two of her crosses

were 'El Paso' and 'Houston'.

She is missed greatly in the Texas African violet world.

### Lillian C. Scott

Lillian C. Scott of Fort Myers, Florida, passed away on October 5, 2003. A cherished friend, Lillian was also an AVSA Judge, founder and President of the AVS of South West Florida, co-founder of the Gulf AVC, and a cat fancier. Lillian had an enthusiasm for life and looked forward to new interests and challenges. She will be missed by all who knew her.

# Tips From the Experts

*From the AVSA Web Site*

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **Pasteurizing Your Potting Mix**

by Carolee Carter

This process is called pasteurization, not sterilization. If the potting mix were to be sterilized, you would destroy every bit of life in the soil, which means that any beneficial microorganisms would be killed as well, leaving your mix worthless to your plants.

Here's what you do: if you are using your oven for the procedure, place the pre-moistened potting mixture (which includes everything you use in your recipe) in a covered container. You can use an old turkey roasting pan, or one of the disposable turkey aluminum pans and cover it with foil, which works nicely because you can insert a meat thermometer through the foil into the mix.

Place it in a preheated oven and bake until the temperature in the center of the mix reaches 180 degrees. I can't tell you how long this will take because every oven is different. You'll just have to keep checking. Your oven temperature should be set somewhere near the 180° mark. Once the mix reaches 180°, bake it for an additional 30 minutes. Then, turn off the oven and let the mix cool down slowly. This will probably take two or three hours. Remove the mix from the oven and carefully remove the foil. Let the mixture sit for several days, stirring occasionally, and it's ready to use.

If you prefer to use a microwave, you can put the pre-moistened mix in a glass baking dish, cover it with plastic wrap, microwave on high for 8-10 minutes, depending upon the depth of the mix, size of the bowl, etc. You'll have to stop the microwave and check it with the meat thermometer from time to time because you can't use the thermometer in the microwave as you could in the oven. Remove it from the microwave, carefully lift the plastic wrap (accumulated steam can really burn you, so be careful) and let it sit for two days, stirring occasionally, and you're all set to repot.

### **Drooping Leaves**

by Elmer Godeny

Drooping leaves may or may not be a problem. First, some plants have foliage that stands out straight while other plant genetics encode droopy leaves. If the leaves are droopy but otherwise look fine (shiny, bright colored), then it may be the genetics of the plant.

Also, as a plant gets older, the outer row of leaves begin to die off; they will begin to droop, turn lighter, and eventually become brown and crusty. Old leaves should be removed from the plant by pinching them off at the main stem of the plant.

However, if all the leaves on your plant are drooping, you may have a problem with watering. If the plant is too dry or wet, the leaves will droop and wilt. If the plant stays too dry for extended periods of time, the leaves will permanently droop. Is the surface of the soil moist? Pick up your plant. Does it feel too light or heavy? If it feels light, it is too dry; water the plant more often.

If the plant is too heavy, it may be retaining too much water, i.e. poor drainage, rotting, or root problems. You may just have to water your plant less often. Place some paper towels under your plant to absorb some of the excess water from the soil as an immediate cure. Remember: NEVER let your plant SIT in WATER for more than 30 minutes. Discard any remaining water after that time.

Take the plant out of its pot and look at the roots. If the roots are dark and mushy, you have root rot. Cut off the dead roots and repot your plant using a lighter soil mix (commercial mix cut with an equal amount of perlite). If you find the roots are covered with beads or knots, it may be nematodes. White rice-like grains in the soil and between the soil ball and the pot is a sign of soil mealy bugs. Either is more difficult to treat than watering problems, and unless this plant is very important to you, I would throw the plant out if you see these latter symptoms.

# In Search of New Violets



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

For those of you who were interested in the possible hybridization of *Saintpaulia* with its apparent genetic ancestor *Streptocarpella*, I have some important news. I recently found a 1981 masters thesis by Penelope Rousos on work done at George Mason University. Ms. Rousos attempted to cross 14 species of *Saintpaulia* with three species of *Streptocarpella*. She made at least 1000 attempts. In some of the crosses, a seed pod started to form. However, the seed pods never made it to maturation nor did they produce viable seed. Examinations of the ovules (developing seeds) found that the embryo failed to develop in the hybrids. The endosperm, a nutritive tissue that feeds the growing embryo, was observed to form, suggesting that hybridization had occurred. However, the endosperm failed to divide and grow. Although it might still be possible to rescue the embryo and grow them under tissue culture conditions, it appears that *Saintpaulia* and *Streptocarpella* will not hybridize with each other in spite of the DNA similarities. This evidence, combined with the failed attempts that have been reported by members of the AVSA, should be enough to keep *Saintpaulia* as a separate plant genus.

**Q:** *What is the inheritance of the ivory trait in flowers?*

**A:** Based on a limited amount of work, I believe that the flower color is a recessive to the other colors. I recently had hybrids flower that were bred from 'Hawaiian Pearl' crossed on to *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter. This plant has blue flowers on leaves that have an attractive saw-toothed edging. The F1 offspring were all blue or mauve. There wasn't a trace of ivory color in any of them. I'm trying to cross to the F2 generation to see if some of the ivory color will show up in the next generation.

On a side note, the saw-toothed leaf edge character is present in many, if not all, of the offspring suggesting a dominant form of inheritance for this trait from the species plant. Unfortunately, the very long bloom stalks of the species plant

were also inherited by all of the offspring. Some of the flowers are double and cannot be supported by the long bloom stalks. The flowers in these plants lie on the foliage, a definite undesirable trait. Producing F2 plants might conserve the leaf edges and get back the shorter flower stalks and ivory flower color in 'Hawaiian Pearl'. There are some interesting possibilities in this cross if we can get the traits together in a more desirable combination.

**Q:** *What is the inheritance of the green flower edge?*

**A:** Edging in African violet flowers is usually a dominant trait. Although I don't have hard evidence to support this in green edges, I suspect it works in a similar fashion.

**Q:** *Can African violet seed be frozen? If so, for how long? How is the seed best prepared for freezing?*

**A:** I am not aware of any studies that have looked at freezing African violet seed. However, you might attempt to freeze the seed by freezing it quickly and protecting the frozen seed from freezer burn. If you find that this works, please share the information with the rest of us.

I do know that African violet seed can be stored in the refrigerator for several years. The seed should be left in the seed pod if possible and stored in a small container with a small packet of silica gel. The silica gel protects the seed from excessive moisture. Fresh seed stored in this way should be viable for 3-4 years.

**Q:** *Can generations be turned over faster with miniatures than standards?*

**A:** Yes, hybridizing with miniatures can produce generations of plants more quickly. However, the time saving seems to be the growing of the plants from seed to flowering. Miniatures reach flowering size quicker than standards. Once pollinated, it appears that both miniatures and standards take about the same amount of time to ripen the seed. Miniatures

might be slightly faster in seed maturation due to the smaller number of seeds in the pod. In some cases, this might cut down the generation time by a few days. This more rapid turnover of generation time is one of factors that made miniatures popular with hybridizers.

**Q:** *The earlier literature on African violets mentions the occurrence of tetraploid plants. I know that tetraploids are very popular in day lilies and other plants. What happened to them in African violets?*

**A:** Tetraploids have double the chromosome number as compared to regular African violets. The species plants and most other African violets have a chromosome number of 2N=30. Tetraploids have 4N=60. The higher number of chromosomes often results in larger leaves and flowers. This was true in African violets such as in the Supreme or DuPont series. These plants produced large flowers that were enjoyed by many growers of the time. However, the extra chromo-

somes also caused the plants to be slow growing and have brittle foliage. Over time, the preference of growers for size gave way to plants that grew faster and produced flowers more quickly. There are very few tetraploid violets available these days. The ones I know best are in the species plants. *S. velutina* Amazon and *S. grotei* Amazon are tetraploids. There used to be a tetraploid cultivar of *S. ionantha*, but this plant hasn't been seen for many years. Most hybridizers are not producing tetraploids given the problem with slow growth and brittle foliage. Perhaps someone will experiment with this violet type in the future and produce some improved cultivars.

One of the problems in working with tetraploid plants is that with 4 copies of the chromosomes, it will be difficult to get recessive traits expressed. The trait would have to be recessive in all 4 copies. This could make getting some of the recessive traits such as pink flowers or star-shaped flowers hard to express. This difficulty would likely discourage a number of hybridizers.

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

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

email: MWalbrick@aol.com

### Donations Received

#### November 10, 2003

California State Convention . . . . .	\$50.00
<i>In lieu of Judging Expenses: Leonard Re</i>	
Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ . . . . .	25.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee: Bob Kurzynski</i>	
Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX . . . . .	25.00
Missouri Valley AV Council, Carl Junction, MO . . . . .	25.00
Ohio State AV Society, Yellow Springs, OH . . . . .	100.00
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Ralph Mancusi, Orange Park, FL . . . . .	5.00

Kim A. Massar, Newmanstown, PA . . . . .	\$25.00
Dr. Ronald M. Patterson, New York, NY . . . . .	10.00
Sandy Shaughnessy, Keystone, SD . . . . .	10.00
Tamie Tachikawa, Tokyo, Japan . . . . .	5.00
Barbara D. Taswell-Miller, Raleigh, NC . . . . .	25.00
Harriet Upton, Jacksonville, FL . . . . .	5.00
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$375.00</b>

Lone Star AV Council, San Marcos, TX . . . . .	\$20.00
<i>In memory of Mel Garlick, Billie Golla, Linda Ray, Glennis Crouch, and Trish Wright</i>	
Orange County AVS, Anaheim, CA . . . . .	100.00
The AVS of Philadelphia, Hatfield, PA . . . . .	5.00
<i>In lieu of Judging Expenses, Fred Hill</i>	
Union County Chapter AVS, Pennington, NJ . . . . .	25.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee, Fred Hill</i>	
Dolores Gibbs, San Marcos, TX . . . . .	20.00
<i>In memory of Mel Garlick</i>	
Victoria J. Hartmann, San Mateo, CA . . . . .	2.00
Mildred Ockey, Long Beach, NY . . . . .	10.00
Jack Record, North Bay, NY . . . . .	10.00
George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX . . . . .	5.00
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$307.00</b>

#### December 5, 2003

Crosstown AV Club, Monona, WI . . . . .	\$10.00
Desert Sun AVS of Phoenix AZ, Glendale, AZ . . . . .	25.00
Dogwood Garden Club of Princeton, Princeton, NJ . . . . .	50.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee, Fred Hill</i>	
Garden State AV Club, Allentown, NJ . . . . .	25.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee, Dave Tooker</i>	

## AVSA BOOSTER FUND

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

CONTRIBUTIONS: October 1, 2003 - November 30, 2003

Dolores Gibbs, San Marcos, TX . . . . .	\$50.00
<i>In memory of dear friend Billie Golla</i>	
Nelly Levine, Arvada, CO . . . . .	20.00
<i>In memory of Billie Golla, a dear friend</i>	
AVS of Denver, Chapter 1, Denver, CO . . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of former member Billie Golla</i>	
Ohio State AVS, Yellow Springs, OH . . . . .	100.00
<i>In memory of Doris Palm, who graciously shared her knowledge and passion for African violets</i>	
Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ . . . . .	20.00
<i>In memory of Elizabeth Wasche, member, friend, and hybridizer of beautiful African violets</i>	
Janeen Dougherty, Morristown, NJ . . . . .	10.00

Union County Chapter AVSA, Pennington, NJ . . . . .	\$20.00
<i>In memory of Vincent Gross, member, photographer, and grower of beautiful African violets</i>	
Claude Morrissette, Brookfield, CT . . . . .	5.00
Sandy Shaughnessy, Keystone, SD . . . . .	10.00
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Missouri Valley AV Council, Carl Junction, MO . . . . .	25.00
Harriet Upton, Jacksonville, FL . . . . .	5.00
Desert Sun AVS, Glendale, AZ . . . . .	25.00

Mid-Atlantic AVS, Catonsville, MD . . . . .	\$500.00
Ventura County AVS, Ojai, CA . . . . .	20.00
<i>In lieu of speaker's fee for Carol Gealy</i>	
Lone Star AV Council, San Marcos, TX . . . . .	20.00
<i>In loving memory of Mel Garlick, Billie Golla, Linda Ray, Trish Wright, Glennis Crouch</i>	
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs,	
Menomonee Falls, WI . . . . .	25.00
Crosstown AV Club of Madison, WI . . . . .	10.00
AV Club of Southwest Florida, Cape Coral, FL . . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Club President Lillian Scott</i>	
<b>TOTAL: . . . . .</b>	<b>\$995.00</b>



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## Not All Violets Are the Same

The first violet for most people is usually a standard size plant. That is the kind of violet most commonly found for sale at grocery and discount stores. But there are a number of other violet types out there, including miniatures and semiminiatures, trailing types, and species. They have lots in common when it comes to basic culture, but there are some differences.

### In Some Ways All Violets Are the Same

Regardless of type, all African violets need **adequate light**. Some types need more and some need less, but the amount of light is closely related to a violet's ability to bloom.

All violets also need **evenly moist conditions**. Extremely dry conditions will limit the ability to bloom, while extremely wet conditions will almost certainly lead to rot. Any method of watering may be used, regardless of type. This would include top or bottom watering, wick watering, and using any of the specialized self-watering pots.

All violets need **light porous potting mix**. The mix should provide lots of air circulation around the roots and still retain moisture. Potting mix should never be packed, as this eliminates necessary air. A **pH of 6.8** is recommended in order to absorb the nutrients properly. Many growers choose a mix that is similar to a 1-1-1 mix, which is one part Canadian sphagnum peat moss, one part perlite, and one part vermiculite. The addition of dolomite lime will help to buffer (prevent wide variations in) the pH.

All violets need **shallow pots**, since their roots do not grow deep. In most cases, all violets will bloom best when their roots completely fill the pot, so using a pot with a small diameter is usually best.

All violets need **fertilizer**. Nutrients will improve plant growth and the quality and quantity of bloom. The fertilizer should be applied according to directions, usually on a weekly

basis. Avoid over fertilizing, which can lead to burning. Balanced formulations (e.g. 20-20-20) or formulas with higher phosphorous (e.g. 15-30-15) are both commonly used by top growers.

All violets also need some **humidity** in order to allow tender flower buds to develop without drying out. In most cases, 40 to 60% humidity is optimum.

All violets can be **propagated by leaf cuttings** or by suckers. All can be pollinated by any type of African violet and will produce seed.

In all violets, **new leaves appear in the center of the crown**. Older leaves will gradually die and be shed. Over time, this will always result in a neck which is often unsightly. All violets will need maintenance repotting in order to bury the neck and to freshen the potting mix.

### SINGLE CROWN VIOLETS

There are three types of violets which are grown as single crown plants: miniatures, semiminiatures, and standards. Ideally, these should have a flat shape with all leaves growing in a horizontal rosette from the one central point of growth.

### Special Needs of Miniatures

Miniature violets, by definition, must be no larger than 6 inches in diameter when at full maturity. These little gems have some special needs, most especially the size of the pot. The pot must be no deeper than about 2 inches and up to 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Growers have discovered that miniatures potted into tiny "thumb pots" may bloom when the plant is only two or three inches in diameter.

In order to avoid drying out in such small pots, miniatures need to be watered more frequently if they are not on a

constant water system. They seem to do especially well on capillary matting.

Miniatuers also need to be repotted very frequently. Most top growers find that miniatuers do best when repotted three or four times a year, or whenever a neck becomes visible below the bottom row of leaves. Repotting often triggers a showy bloom cycle.

Miniatuers do well on bright window shelves with frequent rotating to maintain an even shape. They also do very well under fluorescent lights. When grown in artificial light, they need to be only six to eight inches from the light tube for ten to twelve hours daily.

They need to be watched closely for the development of suckers (side shoot growth between the leaves). Suckers should be removed promptly to prevent distortion of symmetry.

### **Specials Needs of Semiminiatures**

Semiminiature violets, those that grow no larger than 8 inches in diameter, are remarkably similar to the minis, except that they may be grown in slightly larger pots. While many growers put semiminis in the same size pots they use for minis, semiminiatures can be grown in pots up to 3 inches in diameter.

Some semiminiature violets have a genetic tendency to grow slightly larger than allowed. These can be kept smaller by confining them to smaller pots.

### **Special Needs of Standards**

Standards are those that grow larger than eight inches in diameter and may be as large as thirty inches (according to variety) when grown for competition. Here it is recommended that the pot be about one-third the overall diameter of the foliage. Most standards do well in four or five inch pots that are not deeper than three to four inches.

Standards will grow well on window sills but often do not fit as neatly as the miniatuers or semiminiatures. They thrive under fluorescent lights, but need to be about ten to twelve inches (from foliage to tube) below the light unit with lights on for ten to twelve hours daily.

It is best to transplant standards at least once a year to bury the neck that developed as lower leaves were removed. As with miniatuers and semiminiatures, suckers must be removed promptly in order to keep a single crown of growth.

### **TRAILING AFRICAN VIOLETS**

Trailers can be classified as miniature, semiminiature, or standard size according to the size of the individual leaves. The miniature size may actually be micro-miniature with tiny leaves that are only a quarter of an inch wide and a half inch long. The overall size of a mature trailer, regardless of its size classification, can be quite large or quite small. For example, it is not difficult to grow a miniature trailer to fill a shallow twelve inch tray. Similarly, a standard trailer can be fully mature in a four inch pot.

Trailing violets are expected to have many centers of growth, so that they form a pretty mound of leaves and flow-ers. Trailing is a genetic trait, and should not be confused with a plant that should have only one crown but has been allowed to sucker without discipline. True trailers often have the word "trail" as a part of their name and tend to have more space between leaves on the main stems. This space allows them to have multiple crowns that are not so tightly packed as to be unattractive.

They may be grown either at windows or under fluorescent lights. They are especially charming when grown in natural light, and the more open growth that occurs in that situation can actually enhance a trailer's appearance.

Trailers may be grown in two ways. One method keeps a trailing violet in a pot that is approximately one third the overall diameter of the plant. This allows the plant to grow out over the sides of the pot in an attractive way as the various crowns of the plant develop. In this method, the main stems of the trailing growth are not allowed to come into contact with the potting mix. Growers often pinch out the crowns to encourage secondary growth between leaves so that a pretty form develops. Plants tend to bloom when the foliage has begun to trail well over the edges.

A second method of growing a trailer is to place the plant into a broad, shallow pot or tray. As crowns develop, the centers are pinched out, and leaves that are closest to the soil are removed to allow the bare stem to touch the potting mix and root. This ultimately results in a mound that extends just to the edge of the pot when it begins to bloom freely. It will often appear to be many violets planted together in the same dish, but all crowns should be connected by stems to the original crown.

With either method, grooming off older leaves is important to keeping the plants attractive. The older leaves will often be a faded green color and usually larger. Leaves that are inside the mound (and not receiving light) may dry up and need to be removed. Since the plant may have hundreds of flowers when it is at peak, grooming off old flowers is important to keep the plant attractive.

### **SPECIES**

The species African violets are the ones that were found in nature. There are over twenty genera (unique African violet species) that have been described. Depending on the individual species, they may have a rosette form or a multiple-stemmed trailing form. They may also have a small or larger size.

With so much variety of type in this group of violets, one would expect to have a variety of special growing needs. That is true. Each of the species came from a unique area in Africa, and as such, has a preference for temperature and light. Anyone who attempts to grow these should study the individual genus's inclinations. Those who choose to grow species successfully must approach them scientifically.

Generally, they need less light than the hybrids and thrive when grown in or near windows rather than under artificial light. They may need lighter fertilizing. They also need to be allowed to be wild, growing as they please. That

means that they might have multiple crowns or long spaces between leaves. They may vary in color, have pale green foliage, or have flowers which hide below the foliage and still be considered well-grown.

Species plants prefer to be grown in relatively small pots, but the rule here is often simply that the pot should be just large enough to avoid tipping over. Growers shouldn't be discouraged if they wish to experiment, attempting to find the perfect growing situation, even if it is unconventional by modern standards. Growing species is much like caring for wild animals in the zoo... the goal is always to make the wild creature feel most at home while still in captivity.

### Variety is the Spice of Life

While beginners often begin with standards, it is fun to branch out and grow the other types of African violets. A grower may find that miniatures and semiminiatures fit better into limited space. It may be that trailers will grow well in a situation where single-crown plants never do. For those who love nature and science, the species offer a challenge that is very satisfying.

We have always loved the drama of the big standards, but we love every plant in the African violet family. With a few adjustments, and attention to details, they can all live under one roof successfully!



## Boyce Edens Research Fund

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

Donations received from October 1, 2003 - November 30, 2003

Montrose AVS, Glendale, CA .....	\$20.00	Sandy Shaughnessy, Keystone, SD .....	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Nadine Parsons, a longtime member of Montrose AVS</i>		Florence S. Roberts, Volcan Chiriqui, Panama .....	10.00
Ruth Goeke, Brenham, TX .....	15.00	Linden Burzell, San Diego, CA .....	10.00
<i>In memory of Linda Ray</i>		Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX .....	50.00
Long Island AVS, Hempstead, NY .....	10.00	Tamie Tachikawa, Tokyo, Japan .....	12.50
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Richard & Anne Nicholas, Denton, TX .....	20.00	Lone Star African Violet Council, San Marcos, TX .....	20.00
<i>In memory of Glennis Crouch, a Charter member of First AVS of Denton, TX</i>		<i>In loving memory of Mel Garlick, Billie Golla, Linda Ray, Trish Wright and Glennis Crouch</i>	
African Violet Council of Florida, Lakeland, FL .....	50.00	Crosstown African Violet Club, Madison, WI .....	10.00
<i>In loving memory of Margaret Ritchie, a charter member AVCF</i>		Desert Sun African Violet Society, Phoenix, AZ .....	25.00
Tampa AVS, Tampa FL .....	25.00	Mark Twain African Violet Society, Elmira, NY .....	134.48
<i>In memory of Margaret Ritchie, a longtime member of our club</i>		<i>With sadness our 26 year old chapter is disbanding. This is the balance of our treasury to be used to advance the knowledge of growing and showing these wonderful plants we all love.</i>	
Loveland Sweetheart Violettes Society, Longmont, CO .....	15.00	Loveland Sweetheart Violettes, Longmont, CO .....	15.00
<i>In loving memory of Nancy M. Shopnitz, Melissa Shopnitz's mother-in-law</i>		<i>In memory of Robert Cureton, Sr., Nancy Nygren's father</i>	
African Violet Society of Northern Illinois .....	25.00	Martha Hart, Rochester, NY .....	10.00
<i>In memory of Mildred Schroeder, our longtime member and tireless worker</i>		Georgia AV Growers Club, Warner Robins, GA .....	3.00
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Central Texas Judges council, Houston, TX .....	25.00	Missouri Valley AV Council, Carl Junction, MO .....	25.00
<i>In memory of Billie Golla</i>		Howard Ray, Niskayuna, NY .....	5.00
Ventura County AVS, Ojai, CA .....	10.00	Harriet Upton, Jacksonville, FL .....	5.00
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# AVOCD

## *A Spouse's Guide*

by Amy Cash-Allison

While AVOCD (African Violet Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder) is a growing and incurable ailment among individuals all over the world, it fortunately is not fatal. Victims of AVOCD will exhibit a wide range of symptoms, typified by the seemingly harmless onset of growing and collecting increasing numbers of African violets, sometimes more than he/she can adequately care for. The plants will first begin to appear on tables as decorations, but will soon engulf entire shelves in the home. In a short period of time, spouses may be asked to build or buy plant stands to house the growing collection. The subject will happily continue acquiring more violets, whether through any one of the numerous mail-order catalogs which begin to plague the mailbox or from on-line trading friends.

Simultaneously, the sufferer may begin engaging in odd behaviors such as collecting deli containers, saving condiment cups from the restaurant, speaking highly and excitably about "babies," leaching, show schedules, or conventions (of which spouses know nothing about.) Those with AVOCD appear loving toward their plants, sometimes speaking to them, playing music for them, or skipping important engagements to "repot." Frequently, the AVOCD patient will insist upon visiting African violet vendors on family vacations, thus further enabling the disorder.

It is important for AVOCD spouses to familiarize themselves with this disorder to avoid serious marital discord, since patients usually seem highly sensitive to criticism regarding any aspect of their passion. Since AVOCD is not physically harmful, it is the unbiased opinion of the author to allow your spouse to indulge in his/her hobby, regardless of how many cubic square feet remain in your home to actually live in, or how many hours per week your partner spends tending the violets. The advantages of allowing this illness to continue can benefit everyone in the family, even the pets. Since pet hair can accumulate on violet leaves, the patient is more likely to brush the family dog than if there were no plants in the home. Even children benefit, since time spent completely ignored can lead to tremendous independence in life. And since the AVOCD subject will spend much time tending their violets, their spouse is then free to do whatever he/she wishes, engaging in all types of new and interesting hobbies. All of this leads to a harmonious way of life for the entire family.

While it may be the spouse's desire to "cure" the victim of this disorder, it is unnecessary and inadvisable since there are many ways of coping with the effects. Below, you will find a recommended list of rules to adopt, ensuring a happy home life.

- + **Always** listen intently when your spouse speaks of his/her violets. (Pretend if you must, since you should always strive to share in the joys of your partner.)
- + **Never** question your spouse on the number of African violets in the home. (Besides, what's *really* the difference between two and three hundred?)
- + **Never** help your spouse with watering or repotting chores unless strictly supervised.
- + **Never, ever** reach across a shelf of African violets. (You *do* want to live, right?)
- + **Never** complain about the cost of utilities as it relates to the fluorescent lights. (Remember that fluorescent is very cost and energy efficient, so you should really be thanking your spouse for being so conservative.)
- + **Never** complain about any spilled "dirt." (Feel free to vacuum if it bothers you, but don't let the cord knock over any trays or plants on the floor.)
- + "Adopt" at least one violet your spouse grows and comment on its loveliness regularly. (Even if you really don't care, it gives the impression that what he/she does is noticed and appreciated, which is always desirable for a happy union.)
- + Study books from the library concerning basic carpentry, reverse osmosis, humidity, pH, plant pests (with their corresponding insecticides,) and fluorescent lighting. (Occasional trips to the home supply store will be beneficial, but while you are there you should at least check to see if there are any sales on violets or growing supplies.)
- + Gladly give your spouse gift certificates for and/or books about African violets. (Even if you are not happy about that, you should pretend, since it's important for him/her to feel your loving support.)
- + Offer to baby-sit while your spouse attends African violet meetings, conventions, and/or sales. (This is important since you would never want there to be any resentment toward other family members.)
- + Begin to recognize the usefulness of ordinary objects and how they might improve the quality of your spouse's hobby. (One package of Solo cups or a couple extra deli containers can have long-lasting effects in a healthy marriage.)
- + "Feel" your spouse's pain when a beloved plant suddenly wilts and dies. Offer to replace it at any cost. (This is much better than your spouse going on a painful binge.)
- + Without being asked, clear out all of your clutter and unused furniture. (If you have to ask why, you should begin reading this article again from the beginning.)

# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
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I had the opportunity to do some more traveling, so I took the lap-top. Getting caught up on my Vintage Violets was my solution to boredom with days at sea.

All old things are not necessarily bad. After all, I have kept the same husband for going on 55 years.

Vintage Violets are not considered old at all, just aged like

fine wine. They get better every year. I was able to give out a source for 'Purple Crest'. 'Purple Crest' was on the list for years, and then, suddenly, it was available. I would like everyone to pay attention to the AVSA Most Wanted List in this month's issue. Someone out there has a plant that's on that list.

I'm looking forward to Tucson. See you there.

## AVSA Most Wanted

- |                       |                        |                        |                         |                      |                          |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Abe Lincoln           | Baker's Hot Lips       | Blue Warrior           | Cherubini               | Crimsunny            | Double Mini Orchid       |
| Ace of Cedar Rapids   | Ballet Carla           | Blue Wren              | Chicopee                | Crown of Jewels      | Double Orchid Girl       |
| Adeline Krogman       | Ballet Eva             | Bobby                  | Chiffon Wasp            | Crown of Red         | Double Orchid Splendor   |
| Admiral Amazon        | Ballet Grace           | Bonnie Lassy           | Chipper                 | Crusade Trail        | Double Pink Cameo        |
| Aladdin's Lamp        | Ballet Helga           | Brilliant Lady         | Cinderella (Flower Pot) | Crystal Rose         | Double Pink Cloud        |
| Albert The Second     | Ballet Inga            | Bryte Angel            | Cinderella's Slipper    | Curley Q             | Double Seafoam           |
| Albino Blue Eyes      | Ballet Meta            | Bryte Bells            | Cindy Miller            | Daddy's Girl         | Double Take              |
| Aliane                | Bambino (Richter's)    | Bryte Glitter          | Circus Circus (Mendoza) | Dagmar               | Double Uncle Bob         |
| Alice Blue Gown       | Bashful Beauty         | Bryte Tips             | Circus Clown            | Dainty Doll          | Double Velvet Girl       |
| Alice Marie           | Bavaria                | Bryte Sensation        | Clementine              | Dainty Maid          | Double Wild Rosa         |
| Alice's Cochise       | Beautiful Dreamer      | Bubblin' Over          | Clackamus Surprise      | Daisy Doll           | Dresden China            |
| Alice's White Xmas    | Beautiful Vintage      | Bud's Strike Me Pink   | Clammer                 | Dallas Pride         | Dress Blues              |
| Amazon Pink Delite    | Becky's Gypsy Trail    | Bulls Eye              | Clipper Trail           | Dalliance            | Dupont Purple            |
| Amazon Pink Luster    | Bee Lee Tee            | Bunny Hop              | CoCo (Arndt)            | Danseuse             | Dutchman                 |
| America               | Belle's Spring Song    | Burgundy Bliss         | Coconut Fluff           | Daphne (High Hill)   | Dwarf ionantha           |
| American              | Behneke Boy            | Buttercup              | Colonial Pink           | Dark Angel           | Easter Bonnet            |
| American Beauty       | Bergen Strawberry      | Butterflies            | Colorama                | Dark Crystal         | Easter Egg               |
| Amethyst Sparks       | Sherbet                | Button Trinket         | Colibre                 | Dark Eyes            | Edna Haugh               |
| Anafair               | Bernice                | Buttons and Bows       | Color Splash            | Darth Vader          | Edith's Toy              |
| Andy Griffiths        | Billy "Crash" Craddock | Cafe Au Lait           | Columbella              | Dates Fanfare        | Edna's Joy               |
| Anna Therese          | Bing Cherry            | Calico Kitten          | Comanche Maid           | Dates Jubilee        | Eileen                   |
| Anne's Favorite Sport | Black Gold             | California Cascade     | Comet Trail             | Dates Masterson Wasp | Eleanor                  |
| Antique Bliss         | Black Sabbath          | California Giant       | Conchita                | Dave Masterson       | Elizabethan Ruffles      |
| Antique Elegance      | Black Velvet           | Camellia               | Confessions             | Dean's Velvet One    | Elsie                    |
| Antique Mahogany      | Black Waves            | Campanile              | Constance Hansen        | Deborah's Oh My      | Elsted's Oakleaf Cluster |
| Apache Campfire       | Blazing                | CandleLight            | Constance Hansen        | Deep Sea Treasure    | El Toro Supreme          |
| Apple Valley          | Blizzard               | Candy Dandy            | Supreme                 | Deleon Pixie         | Emma Lahr                |
| Apricot Frost         | Blue Albino Girl       | Caravan Autumn Blaze   | Copy Cat                | Deleon Posie         | Emperor Wilhelm          |
| Arabesque             | Blueberry Ruffles      | Caravan Emerald Ripple | Coral Cascade           | Desiree              | Eternal Snow             |
| Arpege                | Blue Bonnet            | Caravan Masterpiece    | Coral Cove              | Diane                | Etna                     |
| Artic Blizzard        | Blue Bouquet           | Caravan Pageant        | Coral Radiance          | Diana Ross           | Etude                    |
| Athens                | Blue Buttercup         | Care Deeply            | Coral Reef              | Dib's Thrill         | Eyeful                   |
| Atlantic City         | Blue Boutonniere       | Caribbean              | Coral Satin             | Dingbat              | Fairy Image              |
| Audrey                | Blue Dart              | Carillion              | Coral Tips              | Dippity Do           | Fairy Prince             |
| Aunt Clara            | Blue Fandango          | Carnival Queen         | Cordarama               | Disco Babe           | Fancy Pants              |
| Autumn Glow           | Blue Fling             | Carousel Lady          | Cordelia                | Dixie Jewel          | Fantasy Double Ann       |
| Autumn Halo           | Blue Heiress           | Casus Small            | Cornucopia              | Dolly Dimples        | Fantasy Lou              |
| Autumn Russet         | Blue Le Fleur          | Catherine              | Cotton Balls            | Dominion Rose        | Fantasy Wasp             |
| Azure Beauty          | Blue Morning Glory     | Cat's Meow             | Cotton Bowl             | Dominique            | Fashion Frenzy           |
| Azure Trinket         | Blue Nymph (Standard)  | Celestial Butterfly    | Country Lilacs          | Donna Lee            | Festival                 |
| Baby Girl Spoon       | Blue Parade            | Cecile Ambler          | Cranberry Ice           | Donna Lynn           | Fire Bugg                |
| Baby Helen            | Blue Peak              | Cerise                 | Creekside Moonbeams     | Dorothy Gray         | Fire Dance               |
| Baby Pink             | Blue Rosette           | Chapel Boy             | Crème de Menthe         | Do's Jean            | First Recital            |
| Baby's Lace           | Blue Skies             | Cherokee Fire          | Crested Jewel           | Double Cherry Soda   | Fisher's Anne Marie      |
| Bagdad                | Blue Velvet            | Cherokee Rose          | Crimson Glo             | Double Duchess       | Flamingo Girl            |

Flash Back	Inca Maid	Little Maroon	Optimara Louisiana	Red Velvet	Sweet Paula
Fleur De Mais	Indian Girl	Little Miss Texas	Optimara Missouri	Reed's Pink Lemonade	Swiftly Lace
Floral Fantasy	Indian Summer	Little Rascal	Optimara Nevada	Regina	Taffy Pull
Ford's Pinwheel	Irene	Little Red Wagon	Optimara North Dakota	Renee	Tangier
Fox Run	Ivory Fashion	Little Ruddy	Optimara Oregon	Renee Edmondson	Targeteer
Frathe's Debbie	Ivory Venus	Little Seabird	Orchid Beauty	Rhapsodie Evelyn	Tassy
Frathe's Most Precious	Jade	Lola	Orchid Ripples	Rhapsodie Maria	Teddy Bear
Fredette's Blue Jeans	Jasmini	Lorna	Oregon Trail	Rhapsodie Venus	Teen Princess
Fredette's Elita	Jazzy	Lucky Song	Oui Love	Rhapsody	Teen Wonder
Fredette's Sugar Blues	Jeanmarie	Lucky Duck	Pagan Fire	Rhinestone Cowboy	Tennessee Apple Blossom
Fredette's Twilight	Jeanne Cotton	Lucky Stripe	Pam's Potpourri	Richter's Pearly Shells	The Bride
Fantasy	Jeff's Jewel	Lulu Belle	Pansy Trail	Richter's Step Up	The Parson
Friendship	Jillian (Fredette)	Luxury	Paragon	Rippled Romance	The Parson's Nadine
Friiled Blue	Jimmy Crack Corn	Lyndy Lou	Parisienne Sport	Risque	The Parson's Ruffles
Friiled Orchid Rosette	Joanne Cora	Lynn	Park Avenue	Rob's Hocus Crocus	The Parson's Wife
Fringed Charm	Jo's Velvetreen	Lyon's Whisper Blue	Patriot	Robyn Lynn	Tidewater's Sweetheart
Frosty	Jovanny	Madison's Whisper Blue	Paul Bunyon	Rosalynn Carter	Tie Dyed (Dates)
Fudge Marble	Josie	Madison's Whisper Blue	Paul's Pizzazz	Rosebud Trail	Timber Top
Galt Grape	Joy Pink	Mammy	Peach Frost	Rose Embroidery	Tinari's Blue Eyes
Gay Confetti	Juline	Manhattan	Peach Jubilee	Rosie Lou	Tinari's Wild Girl
Gay Coquette	Just Beautiful	Marcella	Peach Ruffles	Rowena	Tinted Snow
Gay Miss	Kansas City Chiefs	Mardi Gras	Peak of Pink	Royal Elegance	Tiny Pink
Gay Patee	Kansas City Royals	Marie's Pacific Sunrise	Peepers	Royal Heart	Top Notch
Geane Marie	Karen Linda	Marine	Peggy Staat	Royal Hussy	Toyland Sport
Genesee Silhouette	Karla Lou	Maroon Frost	Pennsylvania	Royal Ruby	Tra LaLa
Geneva Rose	Katja	Martha Martha	Peppermint Candy	Ruthies Bell	Tribute
Geneva Trail	Kay Russell	Marvin's Silver Girl	Peppermint Fog	Sabrina Marie	Triple Threat
GiGi (not Rhapsodie)	King Richard	Mary Lou	Peppermint Frost	Sailor's Delight	Twinkle
Gilded Strawberry	Kiss't	Mary Louise	Peter Pan	Sailor's Dream	Twist of Lime
Ginger	Knee High	Maverick's Young Love	Pilgrim Maid	Sailor Girl	Ulery's Azure Beauty
Glacier Point	Kramer's Easterling	May Dance	Pigmy or Pygmy	Sancoucy	Ultra Violet Twinkle
Glow Baby	Krista Lynn	Megan	Pink Beauty	Scarlet Macaw	Unpredictable (Swift)
Goddess of Love	Krisie	Melby	Pink Dresden	Scooby Do	Valera
Gorgeous Bicolor	Kuhl's Parnassus	Melodie Frances	Pink Fingers	Sea Grape	Victorian Pink
Gorgeous One	Kuhl's Pink Treasure	Melodie Heather	Pink Frosting	Sea Gull	Violets N' Gold
Granger Gardens	Kuhl's Roundelay	Melodie Kristen	Pink Geneva	Sea Queen	Viva
Angel Lace	Kuhl's Tralie Rose	Merida Wasp	Pink Girl	Sensational	Vulcan's Treasure
Granger Gardens	Lacy Girl	Merry Christmas	Pink Mink	Shannon Renee	Waltztime
Blue Empress	Lacy Laser	(Kramer)	Pink Reverie	Shasta	Wedgwood
Granger Gardens	Lacy Red	Michele	Pink Ruffled	Shery Love	Wee Mischief
Fuchsia Bride	Lady Alura	Midnight Magic	Pink Velvet	Sheryl's Renee	Wee Stevie
Granger Gardens	Lady Catherine	Midnight Radiation	Pistachio	Show Off	Westdale Purple
White Gold	Lady Constant	Midnight Star	Plum Passion	Show Stopper	Mountain
Granger's Blue	Lady Luck	Mighty Mini	Plum Tip	Silver Anniversary	What Now
Fashionaire	Laredo Lad	Mimi's Stars	Pom Pom Delight	Silver Champion	Whirlaway
Granger's Calais	Last Snow	Mind's Tears	Pony Tail	Silver Crest	Whirlaway Sport
Granger's Candyland	Laurinda	Mine Alone	Poodle Top	Silver Flute	Whisper Valley
Granger's Cotillion	Lavender Blue	Ming Rose	Popsicle	Silver Token	White Bloomin' Fool
Granger's Eternal Snow	Lavender Elfin Girl	Ming White	Pretty in Blue	Sixpence	White Delaware
Granger's Fashionaire	Lavender Lady	Miss Liberty	Pretty Please	Skagit Ambassador	White Girl
Granger's Festival	Lavender Love	Miss Wisconsin	Princess Leia	Skagit Royalty	White Pride Supreme
Granger's Jim Dandy	Lavender Swirls	Mohawk Trail	Priscilla	Skagit Toy Asset	White Wedgwood
Granger's Peppermint	Leawalla	Monaco	Puerto Vallarta	Skybird	White Whisper
Granger's Rio Rita	LeBaron	Moonfire	Pure Innocence	Sky Magic	Wine and Roses
Granger's Rose Ember	Legacy	Moonlight and Roses	Purple Enchantment	Smile	Witchcraft
Granger's Rosemarie	LeHeur Bleu	Moon Moths	Purple Nautilus	Snow Drops (Elkin)	Wizard of Oz
Granger's Venetian Lace	Leprechaun Trail	Moon Silver	Purple Rocket	Snow Flake	Wonder Surprise
Great Find	Levittown	Morea Surf	Purple Star	Snow Flurrie (Arndt)	Wrangler's Campfire
Great White Way	Liberty Bell	Mountain Blue Boy	Push Over	Snow Queen	Wrangler's Double
Green Glo	Lilac Lassie	Mountain Wildflowers	Pussycat	So Rosy	Pleasure
Green Hornet	Lilac Puff	Mount Fuji	Quiet Enough	Southern Comfort	Wrangler's High Country
Grenadier	Lilac Time Behneke	Ms Frizz	Quiet Laughter	Spangles	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Gypsy Charm	Lilac Time Behneke	My Darling	Quiet Melody	Spiced Peach	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Half and Half	Lilac Time Behneke	My Lady Sue	Quiet Reflection	Sport of Crimson Frost	Wrangler's Lavender
Handkerchief	Lilac Time Behneke	My Spoon	Radiant Star	Spring Deb	Lasso
Hawaiian Eye	Limelight	Mysterium	Rainbow's Bantam	Star of David	Wrangler's Moon Dance
Heather Mist	Lime Ricky	Nadine	Neon Glo	Star of India	Wrangler's Moonshine
Heavenly Halo	Lime Taffy	Nancy Ann	Rainbow's Showboat	Star Trailer	Wrangler's Pardner
Helen VanPelt Wilson	Lime Taffy	Neon Rainbow	Rainmaker (Blansit)	Staliner	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Hobnail Pink	Linda's Love	Niagara's Pink Beacon	Rainblin' Rascal	Stormy Night	Wrangler's Ricochet
Holly Dolly	Little By Blue	Nona Weber	Raspberry Charm Stripe	Sugar Plum Fairy	Romance
Holly Go Lightly	Little Busy Bee	Nortex's Holiday Haven	Raspberry Frills	Summer Lightening	Wrangler's Rough Rider
Holly Peach	Little Dee	Nosy Bouquet	Raspberry Glo Stripe	Summer Silk	Wrangler's Roundup
Hortenses Zapata	Little Doe	Odyssey	Raspberry Sundae	Summer Spice	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Hot Cargo	Little Geneva Princess	Old Blue Eyes (Mendoza)	Ravenscrest	Suncoast Pink Giant	Wrangler's Twilight Trail
Hot Line	Little Joan	On Edge	Ravishing Ruffles	Sunday Morning	Wrangler's Yankee Yodler
Hot Touch	Little Lois	Ontario Sport	Razzle Dazzle	Swan Lake	Zippy (Baker)
Iceberg	Little Lou	Optimara Angelica	Red and White	Sweet Honesty	Zuri
Illini Deb	Little Louie	Optimara Annie	Red Carnation	Sweet Lady	
Illini Gem	Little Love	Optimara Crater Lake	Red Rocket	Sweet Mary	
	Little Lulu	Optimara Little Cherokee			

# Question Box



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This is being written during the holidays, and this is my only excuse for feeling nostalgic about my personal experiences with African violets. About 8 or 9 years before I "got hooked" on African violets, a couple who were patients of my husband came into the office bearing a small box with about 6 or 7 African violet blossoms resting on damp facial tissue. The blooms were all different varieties and colors like gems of various hues. They had brought them in to share their beautiful treasure with someone else. I've never forgotten their joy or sense of accomplishment at having been able to show off these wonderful products of their efforts. Perhaps this was so important because the personal sharing is one of the great rewards we receive from growing African violets. It should be a big selling point when we are recruiting new members. Pointing out their ability to show off the product of their labors and sharing of varieties among the membership is of paramount importance to anyone serious about having a well balanced collection.

In our club, we have a blossom contest at every meeting, and everyone loves to show off a new variety or an especially nice specimen of a particularly beautiful favorite. If you haven't tried this adjunct to the meetings, you might find that it is also a neat way to see (in the raw so to speak) a plant you might like to include in your collection.

**QUESTION:** *All my violets are producing flowers that do not last long. They fade quickly and the stems are very long. However, the leaves look healthy and the plants are large. They start drying out at the edges and then become unsightly and I cut off those stalks. Please help.*

**ANSWER:** Without seeing the plants or the conditions in which they are being grown, I must guess as to what problem is plaguing your collection. First, are you a new grower, and is your collection new? From the question, I have my doubts, but if so, check to be sure you do not have gas damage. It sounds more like you do not have adequate humidity. Even with many plants in one growing area, if the air becomes very dry, the blossoms can be damaged. Most of the growers in my area use

some type of matting which is kept constantly damp in order to increase the humidity. Many use indoor-outdoor carpeting, but this must be the type that isn't backed by a rubberized material and can be put in the washing machine. This is placed in the bottom of your main trays. The problem with this is you can also develop a mildew problem, so you need to strike a balance. If you have good air circulation, fine, but you may need to use some well placed fans to prevent stagnant air. The other thing that comes to mind is you may be seeing thrips damage. Do be sure to check for those nasty little critters by blowing on a bloom, and if no bug runs across it, check that there are no pollen spills anywhere. If you have thrips, you will need to take extreme measures to rid your collection of this scourge. Spraying will require a number of spray sessions in 5 to 7 day intervals. The other choice is disbudding for a three or four month interval. If you are able, get all the tiny buds in the center of the plant, as thrips seem to be able to hide in all the tiniest areas of the plant as well as in the soil. I use a double pointed sock knitting needle to do this, as you can go down into very small places without harming the surrounding area. Use the blunted point to gently push the small bud off to the side. Since I'm living in an area noted for thrips, it's easy to pick them up at a show, either coming or going, or because someone has thrips that weren't spotted by Classification and Entries. They travel from plant to plant very rapidly.

**QUESTION:** *Due to a failed air conditioner, I lost a number of my favorite plants. Unfortunately, I was in the middle of a trade with an AV friend in Sweden. I checked all the commercial vendors and cannot find one, any where, that carries 'San Mateo Blues'. Can you help me locate a source so that I can replace my plant and send a couple of leaves to my friend in Sweden?*

**ANSWER:** If you contact Cathy Cornibe at [cathycornibe@aol.com](mailto:cathycornibe@aol.com), I'm sure she can direct you to the commercial that is handling her hybrids. This is a very pretty plant and seems to be doing it's share of winning. The other source

might be Barbara Elkin at [bjabar@earthlink.net](mailto:bjabar@earthlink.net) and ask if she knows of a commercial in Northern California that carries Cathy's hybrids. Good luck.

**QUESTION:** *I have been growing since 1969, and for the first time I'm having brown roots on all my plants. I use a mix by a vendor, water with spring water, use Optimara and Peters with Physan in the fertilizer water. Do I need a fungicide?*

**ANSWER:** All of the things you are doing sound like the ideal condition for growing. I'm assuming the plants have not dried out or been like a bog for a period of time. Is this a new

mix? I'm finding more and more people are dissatisfied with the mix they have used for years (at least the peat moss) and are looking around for something that works better, and that includes me. For some reason, we are not getting the same quality of peat moss these days, and that's where I think the problem starts. One of the nurseries was going to find a better quality, but due to distance, I was unable to return and ask what they had found. At the moment, the only advice I can offer is to repot more often. This peat seems to die in four months or so.

**Name of columnist replying is in bold print**



## Some Implied Rules for Judging

by Greta Durand, Master Judge  
Pointe-Claire, QC, Canada

Aside from the duties of Judges Chairman outlined in the AVSA Handbook for Judges & Exhibitors in which there are rules stated, there are also rules implied. My takes on these are as follows:

No judge should be in the showroom before the judging begins. To aid in their objectivity, those persons working on committees such as Classification, Entries, and Placement should not be judging the show since they will know to whom certain exhibits belong. Non-exhibitors can handle the work of those committees, and the Judges Chairman will be more free to make up the panels while considering what areas the club's own judges might not be entering: i.e., Collections, Gesneriads, Design, Standards, Miniatures, etc.

It is best to avoid having members of the host club as judges on the Special Awards panel since it is possible that some of their own exhibits will be in contention.

It is definitely wrong to have a judge from the host club on the Standard Show Award (SSA) panel since this is a critique of the entire show, and members of this panel must feel free to speak frankly and criticize without fear of sounding insensitive or causing animosity.

The Judges Chairman cannot judge the show since he/she

will be occupied with timing and, if necessary, reassigning panels to speed up the exercise as well as being available throughout to answer any queries from judges or clerks.

When the basic judging is finished, the Show Chairman fills out the top section of the SSA form so that panel can go to work while the other panel for Special Awards chooses the big winners.

It is time consuming and unfair to use the same individuals on both of these panels since there should be enough judges to complete the total job in 2 to 2-1/2 hours. (AVSA Handbook, p.40)

The Judges Chairman, when passing out assignments to the various panels, does not instruct them how to judge. Example: "Be extra easy because we have a lot of first time exhibitors." or "We were victims of a power failure." or "Some of our best exhibitors are no longer with us". Some will ignore these instructions, while others may be overly generous out of sympathy and give awards that are not merited. Then the show would not be evenly judged, causing confusion to both exhibitors and visitors who are trying to learn more.

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada

# A Family Portrait



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*Chirita* 'Moonlight'

*Chirita* 'Moonlight' (chih-REE-tah) has outstanding blooms of deep to light white lavender lobes and dark gold hood and stripes in the throat. The hoods are raised, and that makes me wonder where the name came from. Maybe that refers to the gold in the deepest "harvest" tones of gold ever. When the bloom first opens, it is bright yellow and white-lavender, then opens to deeper shades. The bright green leaves have that crystalline sparkle as it reflects the afternoon October sunlight at my kitchen window.

Each peduncle has four blooms that open alternately. They are held high above the plant. Guess if I was limited to one *Chirita*, it would be 'Moonlight'. The flowers last a long time too. They bloom during the fall and winter months but sulk in the heat of summer.

The peduncles have two leaves that covered the emerging blooms. I guess one could call them sheaths. They turn a dry brown color and shrivel as the blooms mature.

This *Chirita* was grown in a soil mix that has extra vermiculite added because the roots like lots of air and not a lot of moisture. They grow best on the cooler, bottom shelves of my light garden. In September I give them some high-phosphorus (10-20-10) fertilizer to set blooms as the temperature falls. Haven't as yet grown them outside in the summer shade, but the foliage would be smashing in a container garden.

## NEW LITTLE ONE

Seed was sown on July 26th and today, November 28th, my first flower opened on the new micro miniature *Sinningia* sp. 'Rio das Pedras' (sin-NIN-jee-ah). They were collected by Mauro Peixoto on a Biological Reserve called Rio das Pedras in Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil. If you want to see a color photo and great story, look at the second quarter 2003 issue of "The Gloxinian" published by AGGS. This *Sinningia* is on the cover.

I am just delighted with the first bloom as I've never had a micro-mini bloom like this. The article said that the blooms were variable, and this one is very special. It is about half the size of *Sinningia pusilla* and does not have the usual spur at the base of the bloom. The bloom is just delightful, having a pale lavender color base and dark splotches of lavender in the center lobes. The throat is white. Some of the "brush stroke" markings on the petals are almost purple. Reminds me of a chimera look.

This is so exciting. The leaves are so different, more lance shaped and they have dark red-black veins in the mid-rib. Some leaves are darker than others. I placed four plants in different locations in my light garden, and the ones at the very darkest end of a shelf were the first to bloom. The ones under the bright center of the tubes are bleached.

There is so much seed available that it must be extremely fertile. Look for me to feature this little wonder in my next column.

I do grow all my micro-miniatures in containers because I am so neglectful of watering consistently. This also keeps thrips and other infestations away from my little ones, too. Ron, from my violet club, gave me these wonderful clear plastic containers from ice cream at Bruster's. They are just fabulous for growing these little *Sinningia* and my *Petrocosmeas* (pet-roh-KAHS-mee-ahs) are content as kittens. Thanks, Ron.

### SCALE

Most of you know that I grow orchids outside in summer and inside during winter. Well, my beautiful hanging basket of *Nematanthus* 'Rio' (neh-mah-TAN-thus) became infested with something called scale. It was hanging beside a *Cattleya* orchid which developed the scale last July before I realized. What a task getting rid of this one.

Scale is related to our enemy, the horrid mealybug. In fact, if you lift the brown "hump" of a mature scale, you will see white powdery stuff like the mealy bugs have. I have been told these are the young ones and that I should be careful not to drop them all over other plants. My most successful way of getting rid of them is to put a strong dose of Safer's Insecticidal

soap on a wet paper towel and rub the son-of-a-guns to smithereens. Now you can imagine what a job this is on the stems of a huge basket of *Nematanthus*. One must wash the Safer's off with plain water because it will accumulate and suffocate the plant cells.

### PATIENCE

At the Washington, D. C. convention, Betty Niece's daughter brought me cuttings of *Trichantha teuscheri* (trigh-KAN-thah too-SHARE-eye) and a beautiful variegated *Columnnea*. Finally, I can say that I have grown them well enough for long enough to put together a column about it. I am sorry that I do not write about certain gesneriads, but I just have not had time to enjoy doing so. I do not have a greenhouse either, and that makes for some problems with the high-light members of this family. These two are thriving, but they have not bloomed for me yet. I AM RETIRING. I plan to have time to grow all these challenging varieties that have eluded me so far.

Have a great spring. If you have been successful with a gesneriad that I do not write about, gosh, we would love to put it in this column. It is time to think about planting those *Achimenes* (ah-KIM-meh-neeze) rhizomes.

**ALL COMING EVENT NOTICES MUST  
REACH THE EDITOR BY THE DEADLINES  
PRINTED IN THE INSIDE FRONT COVER  
AND MUST BE IN WRITING.**

## Bird Watching in Tucson

by Susan Polleys

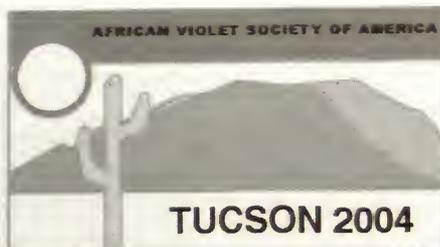
Southeastern Arizona is nationally recognized as an outstanding area for bird watching, especially in early April with the annual migration of tropical birds from Mexico. If you are

interested in bird watching, the Tucson AVSA Convention would like to help you enjoy this rare opportunity. More than 250 species have been spotted here including the Elegant Trogon, Green Kingfisher, and the very rare Gray Hawk. Habitats here include upland wooded areas and moist lowlands along a creek. The local field trip coordinator of the Tucson

Audubon Society is enthusiastic about helping to coordinate Audubon guides for a group of birders from the Tucson AVSA Convention, April 12-16, 2004. There are several excellent

birding areas within an hour's drive from the hotel. It would be necessary to leave very early, 6:30 am at the latest. Birders understand! Both birds and experienced birders get up early! If you are interested in doing some bird watching while in Tucson, please contact Susan Polleys at 520-298-1457 or by email, putting "AVSA

Birding" in the subject line.



# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**

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Today we have the much awaited interview with Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets in San Antonio, Texas. The reason this is so special is because just last year Shirley began releasing her own series of minis and semis, and the field needs hybridizers so desperately. I hope you enjoy this interview with this very interesting lady who devoted her time to me shortly out of the hospital and just a few days before Christmas.

## A LADY WITH STANDARDS

The first thing you must understand about Shirley is she has high standards. She has grown and sold violets for a long time, and even while trying to sell a plant is honest and fair about evaluating its performance. She is an exceptional show grower: at convention, her sales table often contains plants which, if she didn't have a better one, is so well grown and loaded with blooms it should be in the show! She doesn't hang on to bad plants. Poor performers don't linger on her list. The bar is set very high for Shirley. Needless to say, she takes this same attitude into hybridizing.

Her hybridizing roots are from the best. Legendary Hortense Pittman has provided her with much guidance. Shirley also credits Gwen Goodship (Hope) from England as being an invaluable inspiration. According to Shirley, Goodship wrote a book with a chapter on hybridizing. It proved invaluable in helping Shirley wade through the "technical mish-mash" of hybridizing. And there's Shirley's brother, Harold Dean Hobbs, who hybridized some of the most exquisitely beautiful and unique variegated minis and semis: 'Dean's Aquarius', 'Dean's Arctic Frost', 'Dean's Legacy', 'Dean's Plum Peacock', 'Dean's Bunny Blue', 'Dean's Peach Fros', and 'Dean's Ivory Lace' to name just a few.

She says she was fascinated by the results of her first cross. She used two very reliable, good plants as the parent plants and was amazed at the results: she had plants ranging from 4" in diameter to 9". When this variance in size popped up, she entertained the thought of this being an accident, of something wrong in her technique. Instead, the

results were true and provided Shirley with an excellent learning experience. As she puts it, "Size *is* important here".

Her criteria are simple: her hybrids must have loads of blossoms on each bloom stem. They are immediately tossed if they drop their blooms. They must be symmetrical. They are exclusively variegated. It is very important that they be stable, and they *must* stay in size. Most important, she grows them through a solid three generations. She is in no rush to market anything not worthy of introduction. These are basic criteria, but as a hybridizer, Shirley understands if she wants to establish legitimacy and maintain a good and loyal following she must do this.

## SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Shirley was kind enough to send me photographs of her most promising cultivars. Bear in mind, those I describe may never be sold. Some are available now, some will wait until summer or fall, and others may not make the cut. Here is a listing of those plants she's currently considering:

'Shirl's First Baby' - I hope someday to get the chance to grow this one! The first thing you see are loads, and I mean loads, of beautiful light blue/purple two tone single blooms. The lightly ruffled blooms are carried on red stems which add an interesting note. Once you can bear to take your eye away from the beauty of the blooms, you become aware of the perfect foliage of green and yellow variegation, which is nicely pointed and quilted. Shirley's high standards give her reason to hesitate on this one, as she says it has a tendency to grow big. Looks perfect to me, though!

'Shirl's Cream Puff' - Those standards are getting in the way of this one, too. From the photograph, it appears this plant is destined to be a show-stopper, but Shirley says the blossoms don't come true white, tending to show a little pink. From my standpoint though, I'll take the "little pink" along with all the perfection I see in this plant. It has lovely rounded, nicely compact foliage of medium green tipped with white. It's crowned with a snow-cone of creamy white semidouble to double blooms. They are nicely closed over the crown, creating perfect presentation for show!

'Shirl's Happy Tears' – This one will be introduced! Pure white pansy blooms of good size and quantity are formed above green/white and pink variegated foliage. The bloom stems on this one are also red which provides a wonderful accent. Shirley sent a photograph of three of these plants, all loaded with blooms, well grown and nicely symmetrical, and very attractive. Definitely the type of plant you want to grow!

'Shirl's Grape Lollipop' – This one has grape-purple pansy blooms atop green/pink and white variegated foliage. It looks to be easy forming and very attractive with the pink coloration in the foliage.

'Shirl's Senior Moment' – Shirley chuckles as she talks about this cultivar, hoping it will be remembered for its attributes and not its name! It has foliage of medium to dark green with bright white variegation, and is topped by large, deep, saturated purple pansy blooms with light, almost white reverses. The contrast is very nice!

'Shirl's Cranberry Smoothie' – Very appropriately named...just try to describe the color on this one! It is a red, but not purple-red or orange-red. It's also prettier than fuchsia. You'll just have to see it for yourself. These single pansies show off prominent pollen sacks above nice forming, very compact, rounded, pointed green and white Tommie-Lou foliage. Quite a delectable little plant.

#### ON THE HORIZON

As indicated, Shirley is discriminating. Her standards are high. She is holding on to several plants which, in her mind, need thorough testing to see if they remain stable. These include several white, dark pink, and fuchsia micro minis! Currently being grown in solo pots, the tiny foliage on these plants barely clears the edge of the pot! How exciting! Two others which look promising are:

'Shirl's Hawaiian Lei' – It made a splash at the Texas state convention show with its deep purple/white thumbprint blooms. The contrast of the color and the

margins almost make this look chimera-like. The blooms are very large and fill the plant and nicely accent the white and green rounded foliage.

'Shirl's "Hawaiian Dreams' – Just the opposite of the above. This one is a lesson in pastels instead of contrast. It too, has thumbprint blooms, but they are shadings of dark purple from the mere suggestion on top petals to a clear stroke on the bottom. The petals are full and rounded on this pansy single, and the striking blooms cover the plant of light green with faint variegation. Dainty and sweet...something to dream about!

Two others mentioned by Shirley, but I don't have photograph access to, include her first miniature, 'Shirl's Mini Mama' with pink blossoms and 'Shirl's Ruffled Petticoats' which is a delectable sounding double light blue with ruffled white edge.

#### IN AN ACQUISITION MODE?

Shirley will begin preparing her catalog right after Christmas. Any plants which aren't ready for the catalog may appear in summer and fall ads, so watch for them there! Here's how to reach Shirley:

#### Shirley's House of Violets

1034 Rayburn Drive

San Antonio, Texas 78221

(210) 923-1093

#### TUCSON BOUND

In a little over a month, AVSA will convene in exciting Tucson, Arizona, for its annual convention. I hope you have plans to attend, to see the show, buy a few (?????) plants to add to your collection, and to enjoy the friendship and comradery which is so typical of conventions. As usual, my July column will feature a convention report for those of you unable to attend. Take care and happy growing to you!

**Editor's Note:** I received this officer installation program, and thought it was a unique idea that other clubs might like to use. During the presentation, Shelby presented each of the officers with a symbolic key.

### Keys of Life

by Shelby Dixon • Stockbridge, GA

Our key chains hold the keys to the important things in our lives. Our house, our car, our neighbor's house, our safety deposit box, etc. To arrive here this evening, you had to use some of these keys; your house, your car, and maybe even your trunk key. Our club meeting room has important keys also: the alarm key and the door key.

Therefore, it stands to reason that our club itself should have important keys.

The first of these keys is the Secretary. You hold the key to the past, present, and future of our club by recording and guarding the minutes of our meetings.

The second key belongs to the Treasurer. You hold the key to the lifeblood of our club, our finances. You are to receive, payout, and record all funds for the history of our club.

The third key belongs to the Vice President, who assists the President and in her absence, takes charge of the meeting.

The Master key belongs to the President. She carries on the meetings and keeps every member informed of old and new business.

All of these keys together form the key chain of our club. I therefore proclaim each of you duly installed officers and key holders of the Tars African Violet Club, for the year 2003.



**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Kelly Patton – Lakeland, FL**

\***Glitter Surprise** (9280) 10/20/03 (K. Patton) Single chimera white stickite star/bright pink stripe, fuchsia edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Ruth Bann – Fridley, MN**

\***Rebel's Amy** (9281) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy. Dark green, quilted, glossy, scalloped girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

\***Rebel's Blueberry Ice** (9282) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double dark blue filled pansy. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Cherie** (9283) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Double dark pink two-tone large star/cerise eye. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**

\***Rebel's Coral Jewel** (9284) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double coral-pink large ruffled star. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Crazy Quilt** (9285) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double ruffled pink pansy/purple fantasy, white edge. **Variiegated** medium green, ivory and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Hyacinth** (9286) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Semidouble purple large fluted star. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

\***Rebel's Kelsey Taylor** (9287) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble light pink large star/white edge. **Variiegated** dark green and ivory, pointed, cupped, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Rose Bud** (9288) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Double light pink two-tone star/ruffled fuchsia edge. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, pointed, quilted/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Scotty** (9289) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double magenta two-tone large ruffled star. **Variiegated** dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**

\***Rebel's Star Song** (9290) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Semidouble white frilled star. Medium green, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Wild Wings** (9291) 11/12/03 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble purple pansy/variable pink fantasy; white edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, heart-shaped, glossy. **Large**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Ralph Robinson – Naples, NY**

\***Rob's Bahama Mama** (9292) 11/21/03 (R. Robinson) Semidouble hot pink pansy/rose overlay, variable ivory eye. **Crown variegated** dark green and light yellow, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

\***Rob's Lucky Charm** (9293) 11/21/03 (R. Robinson) Semidouble orchid-mauve pansy. **Variiegated** dark green and gold, plain; sucker propagation. **Miniature**

\***Rob's Gundaroo** (9294) 11/21/03 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium blue pansy. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer.**

\***Rob's Sailor Bill** (9295) 11/21/03 (R. Robinson) Semidouble-double light rose-pink pansy/darker eye. Medium green, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**

\***Rob's Vanilla Trail** (9296) 11/21/03 (R. Robinson) Double cream to blush white pansy. Dark green, quilted, serrated, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Olive Ma Robinson – Naples, NY**

\***Ma's Turncoat** (9297) 11/21/03 (O. Robinson) Semidouble chimera cream-white to blush pink star/blue-purple stripe. **Variiegated** Dark green and white, plain, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

\***Ma's Wicked Witch** (9298) 11/21/03 (O. Robinson) Semidouble cream-white to blush pink pansy/blue stripe, white fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green and white, plain, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

# Why You Should Isolate New Plants

by Zelda Owens

After being a member of local clubs for over fifteen years and rarely having problems with plants harboring bugs or disease, I began to take for granted that newly-purchased African violets would be healthy. I had not been isolating them for at least two months, as everyone should. **BIG MISTAKE.**

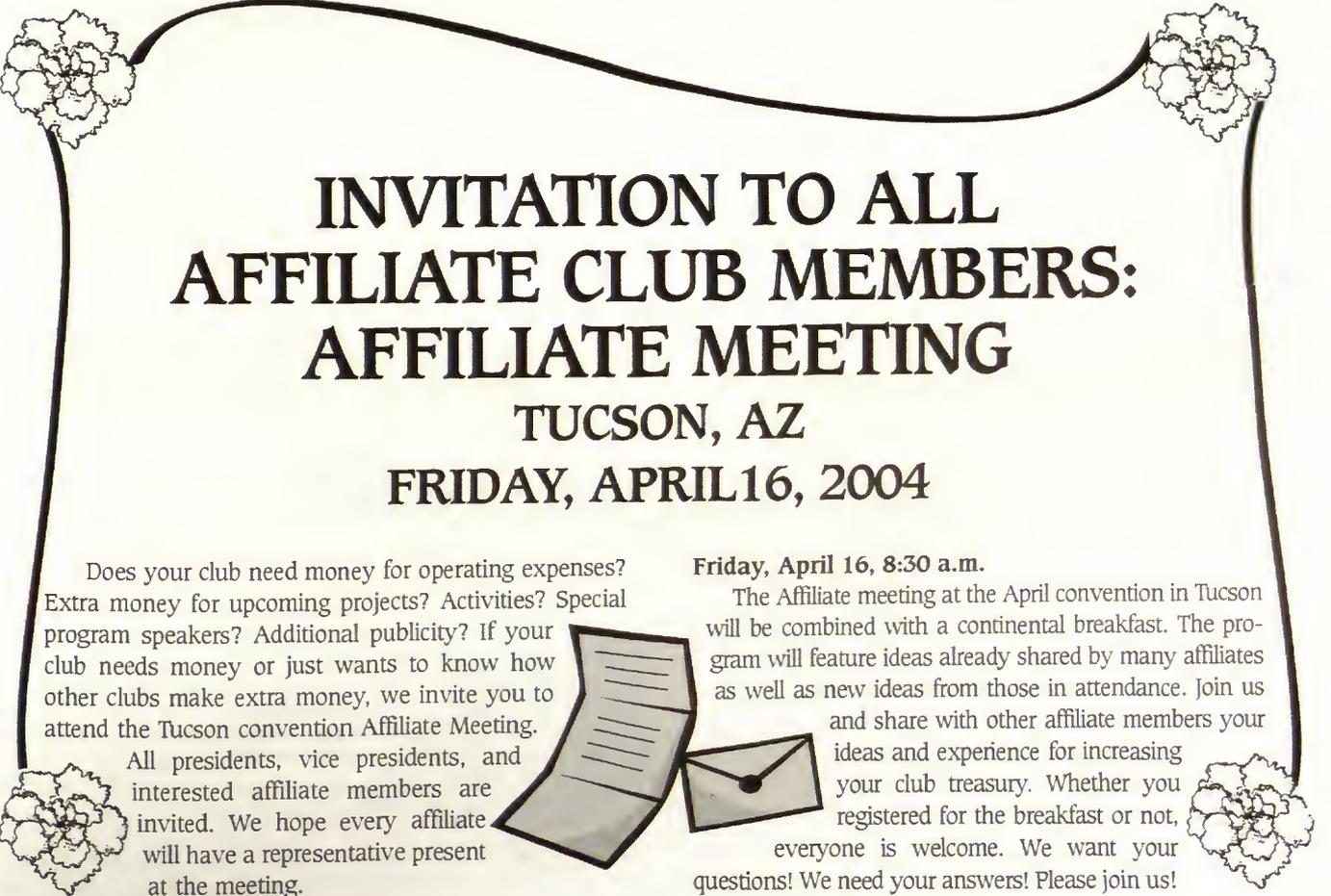
As usual, I bought new plants at a spring show as well as some offered at club meetings. I placed most of these new violets in with my own plants. A few died, starting with the crowns, and on others, some leaves started looking strange. It is now a certainty that some plants I purchased were infested with broad mites. It's most likely that several collections harbored them. I want to emphasize that having an infestation in your collection shouldn't be an embarrassment. If you know that your plants have had a problem, whether you've begun to treat or not, isn't it better for all of us who share plants to be told? If I had an infestation and didn't say anything for fear of having my feelings hurt or being embarrassed, I think I would be doing a gross injustice to the club members.

Whatever the source of broad mites in those plants, the sales plants were crowded together on the tables for several

days, and the plants not sold either went home again or to local club meetings, for sale there. Broad mites travel from plant to plant when leaves touch or fingers carry them (wash your hands between plants!). Some of my baby plants that I started from leaves ended up with broad mites too. As of this writing, I have just finished dipping all of my plants three times, once weekly, in Kelthane mixed with water and a little dishwashing liquid as a wetting agent. A future maintenance plan will be done monthly. That's a lot of work for anyone, especially a senior citizen such as myself.

I also ended up throwing away many plants. But I've got experience and know that mites and meales, etc., are going to happen if you grow any plants long enough. It's the new growers that I worry about being turned off by an infestation. This will be very sad indeed. In closing, remember "Pride Goeth Before The Fall" and don't be afraid to inform your club members of any plant problems you may have, whatever they are. From now on, I will always remember to isolate any new plants for at least two months!

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



## INVITATION TO ALL AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS: AFFILIATE MEETING TUCSON, AZ FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2004

Does your club need money for operating expenses? Extra money for upcoming projects? Activities? Special program speakers? Additional publicity? If your club needs money or just wants to know how other clubs make extra money, we invite you to attend the Tucson convention Affiliate Meeting.

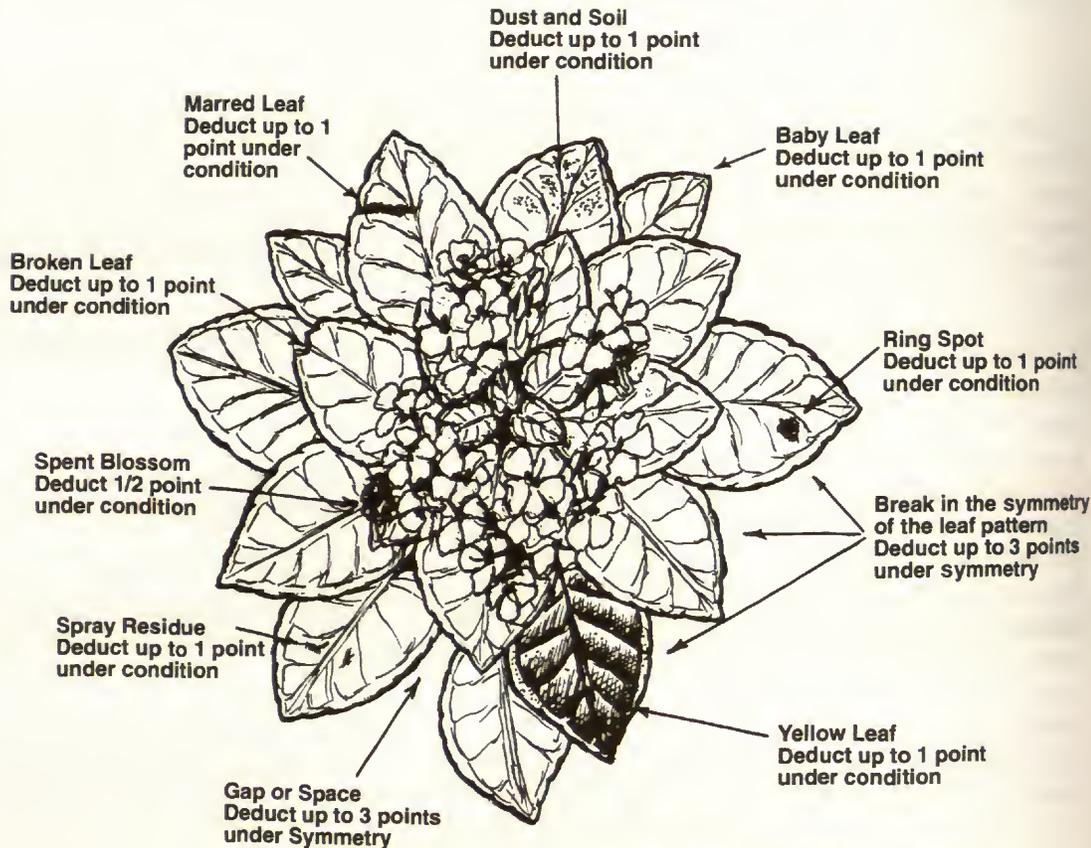
All presidents, vice presidents, and interested affiliate members are invited. We hope every affiliate will have a representative present at the meeting.

**Friday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.**

The Affiliate meeting at the April convention in Tucson will be combined with a continental breakfast. The program will feature ideas already shared by many affiliates as well as new ideas from those in attendance. Join us and share with other affiliate members your ideas and experience for increasing your club treasury. Whether you registered for the breakfast or not, everyone is welcome. We want your questions! We need your answers! Please join us!

# JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT

Compiled by Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan



**Symmetry** - the shape of the plant  
**Condition** - cultural aspect of the plant at the time it is judged



Plant not centered in pot  
Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Neck  
Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Over potted  
Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Under potted  
Deduct up to 3 points under condition

# “And the winners are ...”



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

**AVS OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Elizabeth, Maggie Lee, Sedona, **Nancy Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Faded Rose, Rob's Whippoorwill, Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Miniature: Gleeful Elf; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Norton**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Rhubarb Frost, **Robert Albro**. Best Semiminiature: Mac's Cloud Chaser, **Charles Ridings**. Best Trailer: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Suzie', **Kathy Spissman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mel Landry**.

**CALIFORNIA COUNCILS' STATE CONVENTION, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle; Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Calypso Beat; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Standard: Mikado Red; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Design, **Cathy Cornibe**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cathy's Fireworks, Little James, School Bells, **Al Cornibe**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Mary Welch**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diffcilis*, **Madeline Taube**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Ruby Red Dress', **Harriette Poss**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Tory Hartmann**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

**CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Graffiti, Patchwork, Decelles' Defi; Best Standard: Graffiti; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Thompson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Carol Tjaden**. Best Miniature: Gleeful Elf; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard**. Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Gesneriad: *Achimenes* 'Glory', **David Thompson**.

**LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: East Wind, B-Man's Caltanissetta, Chicago Flair; Best Standard: East Wind, **William Sugg**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Definitely Darryl, Red Bandito, **Anne Nicholas**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Red Bandito; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Richard Nicholas**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ken Froboese**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Gloria', **Debra Mischel**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman**.

**MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, NE – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Cora, Smooch Me, Graffiti; Best in Show/Best Standard: Graffiti; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Gemini, Optimara Indiana, Sapphire Halo, **C.A. Cromer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Ness Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose, **Carol Tjaden**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Texas Space Dust, Optimara Little Azurite, Rob's Squeeze Toy; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Azurite, **Judy Carter**. Best Trailer: Chantaspring, **Joyce Stork**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* hybrid, **Beatrice Neall**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**.

**NEW YORK STATE AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Irish Maiden, B-Man's Delia, **Bruno Curcuruto**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best in Show/Best Standard: Neptune; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosema bagonifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kross**. Best Semiminiature: Lakeshore Silver, **Doris Brownlie**. Best Miniature: Precious Pixie, **Fay Wagman**. Best Trailer: Rob's Jindalee, **Mary Ryan**. Best Design, **Karyn Cichocki**.

**OHIO STATE AVS, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Chocolate, Definitely Darryl, Orchard's Night Light; Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl, **Sharon Kemp**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Love Bite, Rob's June Bug, Rob's Jitterbug, **Ralph Robinson**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Kathe Denise; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Martin**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, **Doris Brownlie**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Canterbury Surprise', **Jan Carr**. Best Design, **Janice Beaty**. Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Everling**.

**THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Grape Fizz, Rob's Cool Fruit, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sno Fun; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carroll Gealy**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Petite Jewel, Rob's Ice Ripples, Rob's Loose Noodle, **Ann Wang**. Best Standard: The Griffen, **Marcia Shaver**. Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Cinnibarina'; Design Sweepstakes, **Leslie Cox**. Best Design, **Judy Anderson**.

**TRISTATE AV COUNCIL, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Tiger, Ness' Candy Pink; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Lollipop Kid; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **David Tooker**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara EverGrace, Optimara EverPraise, Frozen in Time; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Aca's Sizzle, Rob's Kid Wheezy, Cool Blue; Best Miniature: Jazz Baby; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Jee Jim, **Ronald Ennis**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus kentaniensis*, **Betsy Sherwin**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Paris, Splendiferous, Lady Baltimore; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Argyle Socks, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lynn's Ruby Red', **Betty Schreiber**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Robert Mayer; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Betsy Fox**. Best Trailer: Yesterday's Garland; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Nancy Braun**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Mengsol**.

# What Does It All Mean?

**Miniature and Semi-miniature** African violets are characterized by their small size, less than six inches across in the case of miniatures, and less than eight inches across in the case of semi-miniatures. However, small size does not by itself a miniature make. Potentially standard size African violets that are immature or poorly grown may be miniature in size but cannot be shown as such.

To show a plant successfully as a miniature or semiminia-  
ture, you must choose varieties which have been classified so  
by their hybridizers.

**Trailers:** Trailing African violets are those which produce multiple crowns which elongate into branches that branch again and again, making a bunch of flowers and leaves which may flow down over the sides of the pot, even covering it completely. A normal rosette growing plant with a lot of side shoots does not qualify as a trailer. Once again, only those which are characterized as such by their hybridizers may be exhibited as trailers.

Trailers come in standard, semi-miniature, and miniature. Examples of popular trailers are 'Happy Trails', 'Driftwood Trail', 'Milky Way Trail'.

**Species:** A species plant, whether it be an African violet or another type of plant altogether, is one which is genetically the same as a plant found in the wild. Species African violets were first collected in 1892, and although for many years growers have been more interested in the large number of spectacular and colorful hybrids which have been derived from them, we are now seeing more and more growers trying to grow some species plants.

Examples are: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia confusa*, *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia pendula*. All have fairly small flowers, of various colors from dark blue/purple to almost white, and are single flowers (five petals only) which fall from the stems as they age. Despite the fact that some of these characteristics may seem like disadvantages, most are easy and rewarding to grow.

**Stolon:** This is a word which applies more to some of the

other gesneriads than to African violets, although some trailing violets do seem to produce stolon-like growth from time to time. A stolon is an extra small rosette plant produced on the end of an extra stem coming from one of the leaf axils of the plant. Each stolon may itself give rise to further stolons, producing a ground covering or cascading cover. Types of gesneriad plants which produce this type of growth include episcias and alsobias. It is reminiscent of the growth habit of strawberry plants and native violet.

**Hybrid:** A hybrid is a plant produced by cross-pollination of two differing parents. Hybrids may be produced by crossing two different species plants, or by crossing two plants which are themselves hybrids. Plants produced by fertilizing the flower with pollen from the same plant will also be a hybrid.

**Botrytis:** This is a grey mold (a fungus) which may attack any damaged or weakened part of a plant if the humidity is very high, especially if such a plant is growing in a terrarium.

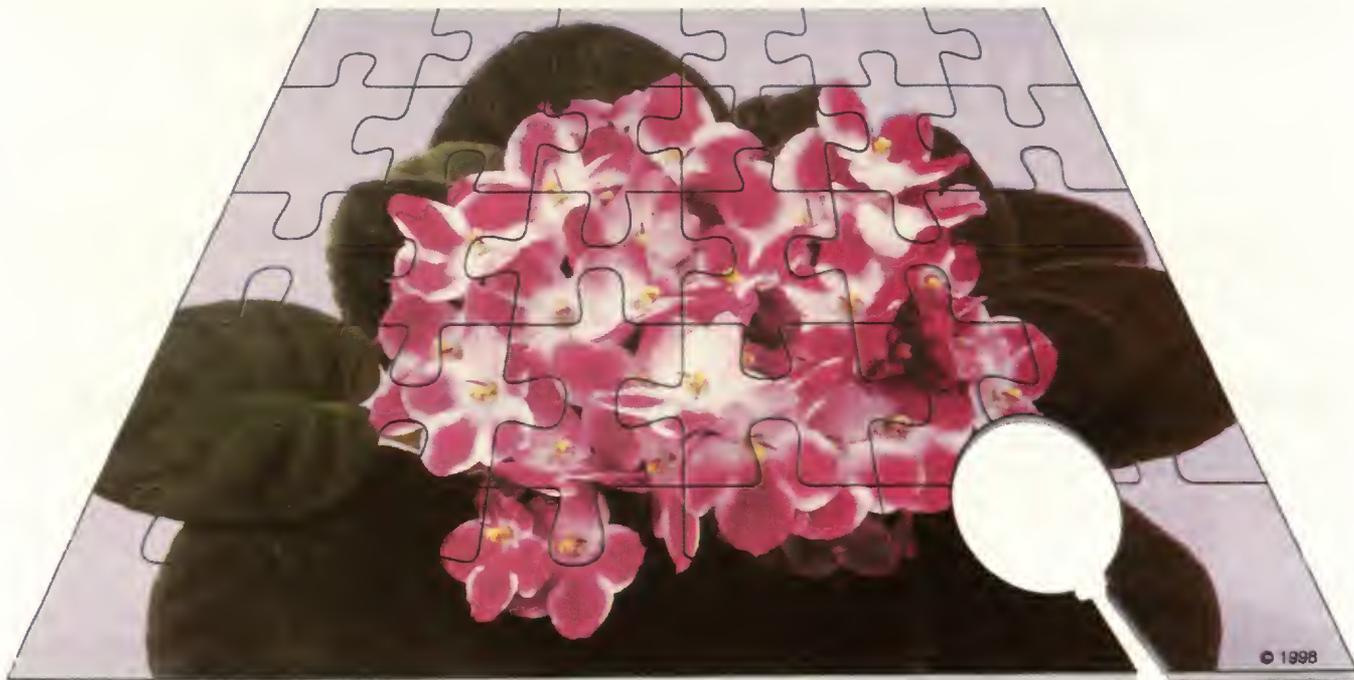
It is characterized by the appearance of a long fur-like growth on the diseased parts of the plant. Dead flowers are particularly prone to the disease if left lying on the plant. Petiole and peduncle stubs left on the plant, as well as damaged leaves, may also allow it entry. Affected parts will finally go mushy and rot right away, and parts of the plant upon which they have been lying will next be attacked.

While it can be treated with fungicide, it is more effective to improve the air circulation, reducing the humidity if possible. Remove all damaged leaves, dead flowers, leaf stubs, etc. from the plant at the earliest possible opportunity so that there is nothing which will attract this fungus.

**Stars:** Star flowers are those which have evenly sized and shaped petals, rather than the distinct "two at the top and three at the bottom" look of the ordinary flower. The effect is most obvious in single, or single looking flowers where the five or six petals produce a most convincing star shape.

From *The African Violet*, Official Journal of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.





## 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>.



# Tally Time 2003

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren  
20 Calvin Circle • Evanston, Illinois 60201

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 2003. This year it is based on seventy-seven reports, and I have divided them into six areas.

This is the last Tally Time I will be doing. It has been a real pleasure to do them, but I have lost track of how long it has been. Please give **Heather Menzel** the support and cooperation which I have had. Good luck, Heather.

## STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
20	5	1	<b>Picasso</b> M. Tremblay #6924	8	6
9	1	2	<b>Smooch Me</b> K. Stork #8776	4	2
9	1	1	<b>Wild Irish Rose</b> S. Sorano #8568	5	2
8	0	3	<b>Lela Marie</b> L. Lineberg #5668	3	2
8	1	0	<b>Ness' Candy Pink</b> D. Ness #8133	6	1

## SEMIMIINIATURES

24	2	2	<b>Ness' Crinkle Blue</b> D. Ness #8136	11	9
14	0	0	<b>Rob's Boogie Woogie</b> R. Robinson #8606	13	1
12	0	0	<b>Irish Flirt</b> S. Sorano #7577	11	1
11	0	2	<b>Rob's Fuddy Duddy</b> R. Robinson #7886	7	2
11	1	1	<b>Rob's Antique Rose</b> R. Robinson #8451	7	2

## MINIATURES

12	2	1	<b>Orchard's Bumble Magnet</b> R. Wilson #8479	2	7
6	1	0	<b>Optimara Little Moonstone</b> Holtkamp #7352	3	2
6	1	0	<b>Petite Jewel</b> H. Pittman #7085	1	4
6	0	0	<b>Rob's Rinky Dink</b> R. Robinson #8739	1	5

## TRAILERS

7	1	0	<b>Rob's Galiwinku</b> R. Robinson #8059	2	4
6	0	1	<b>Milky Way Trail</b> J. Stahl #7169	0	5
6	1	0	<b>Rob's Boolaroo</b> R. Robinson #8053	1	4
6	1	0	<b>Rob's Gundaroo</b> R. Robinson	0	5

## SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

14	0	0	<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i> <i>S. 5</i>	4	10
10	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	2	7
9	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i> <i>S 10b</i>	1	7

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical areas.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographical Divisions						
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
<b>STANDARDS</b>								
Picasso	20	2	0	14	2	1	1	
Smooch Me	9	3	4	0	0	1	1	
Wild Irish Rose	9	0	0	5	0	3	1	
Lela Marie	8	0	0	4	0	4	0	
Ness' Candy Pink	8	0	0	4	2	2	0	
<b>WILD SEMIMINIATURES</b>								
Ness' Crinkle Blue	24	3	11	5	0	5	0	
Rob's Boogie Woogie	14	0	5	3	3	3	0	
Irish Flirt	12	0	3	5	1	3	0	
Rob's Antique Rose	11	2	5	2	0	1	1	
Rob's Fuddy Duddy	11	1	1	3	6	0	0	
<b>MINIATURES</b>								
Orchard's Bumble Magnet	12	0	5	3	3	1	0	
Optimara Little Moonstone	6	3	2	0	0	1	0	
Petite Jewel	6	3	1	0	0	2	0	
Rob's Rinky Dink	6	0	1	3	0	2	0	
<b>TRAILERS</b>								
Rob's Galiwinku	7	0	2	0	0	3	2	
Milky Way Trail	6	3	1	1	0	1	0	
Rob's Gundaroo	6	0	0	2	3	1	0	
Rob's Boolaroo	6	0	0	4	0	2	0	
<b>SAINTPAULIA SPECIES</b>								
<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>	14	2	2	8	0	2	0	
<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	10	1	2	5	1	0	1	
<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i>	9	1	4	2	0	2	0	
<b>NUMBER OF WINNERS</b>		214	24	49	73	21	40	7
<b>NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED</b>		77	13	18	23	9	11	3

The states in each geographical area and the number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Arizona-2, California-8, Colorado-1, Nevada-1, and New Mexico-1; #II - Illinois-2, Iowa-2, Minnesota-3, Missouri-3, Nebraska-2, Ohio-3, and Wisconsin-3; #III - Connecticut-4, Delaware-1, Massachusetts-2, New Jersey-8, New York-7, and Pennsylvania-1; #IV - Oklahoma-1 and Texas-8; #V - Florida-7, Tennessee-2, and Virginia-2; #VI - Alberta-1, Quebec-1, and Ontario-1. No Tally Time reports were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning 4 or more awards within an area were: #I - Optimara Montana II-(4) and The Alps-(4); #II - Cool Blue-(5), Rob's Scooter-(5) and Boo Man-(4); #III - Harbor Blue-(4), Little Pro-(4) and Windy Day-(4); #IV - Granger's Silver Cloud-(4); #V - Dean's Bunny Blue-(4).

# Showcase

## *Precious Pink*

*From Best AVSA Collection  
(Mini/Semi)*

*Best Precious Pink*

*2003 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Anne M. Nicholas*

*Hybridized by: H. Pittman*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Rob's Calypso Beat*

*Best Fantasy*

*2003 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Richard Nicholas*

*Hybridized by: R. Robinson*

*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Verdict*

*From Best AVSA Collection*

*2003 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Elmer K. Godeny*

*Hybridized by: K. Stork*

*Standard*

# PLACEMENT OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Nancy Robitaille

Space between plants is important for the healthy, good growth of African violets. Placement on light stands is another important factor to contemplate.

Two schools of thought prevail, and these are directly opposed to each other. Therefore, it is wise to use your own experience to decide just where that particular plant should be based.

The older school of thought is that dark foliage plants and dark colored flowers on plants need more light; place them in the middle of the light stand. Light foliage and light colored flowers prefer less light; place them on the outer edges of the light fixtures.

If you have light stand(s), you must consider where each violet would best be placed for maximum growth as well as where it could best be displayed for your own enjoyment and that of visitors or family members.

As far as I know, there are no hard and fast rules as to where to place different varieties on light stands. It's a matter of logical thinking about the attributes of the plants and their needs and where these can best be met.

If we make up a general chart about plant placement using the ideas from the old school, it might look something like this:

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Dark foliage plants need more light (exception *Optimara* plants which seem to grow well no matter where they are placed - even in window light). Place these on centers of each shelf.

Dark colored flowers such as blue, purple, and red seem to thrive with more light.

Light foliage such as Apple green foliage and girl foliage need less light. Place these at the ends of each shelf of light garden.

Light colored flowers, pink, white, yellow, or green do well with less light.

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To support this school of thought, Helen Van Pelt Wilson's *AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK*, Hawthorn Books, Inc, publishers, 1970, page 70 says: "Fluorescent tubes do not emit the same amount of light throughout their length. Light comes strongest from the center, falling off at the ends. Because of this, you want to select as long a tube as possible, to have the advantage of a long bright center.

"Light requirements vary with African violet varieties. Some need more light than others. Experience is the best guide as to where to place your plants on your shelf or bench - in the center for maximum exposure, at the ends of the tubes for less. To give examples by varietal name is not feasible, but here is a rule of thumb: The darker the leaf the more

light it will usually absorb, so place dark-leaved varieties under the center of the lights. Plants with pale leaves and white or light-colored flowers, also miniature plants, should generally go at the ends of the tubes on the outer edge of the bench or shelf. But this is not a hard-and-fast rule because some varieties will surely contradict it."

Plants will tell you if they are receiving too much light. Leaves that are bleaching out or paler than normal indicate that the plants should be moved to a less intense position on the light stand. Often leaves that hug the pot or turn down are signaling their unhappiness in the present position. Some varieties will get tighter centers which look similar to cyclaman mite outbreak when they are only saying that the light is too intense. Some variegated plants may turn green when too much light is absorbed.

"The distance between plants and lights must also be taken into consideration. Measure from the top of the plant, not from the shelf or from the top of the pot. General experience indicates that a good distance for mature plants with dark foliage is 6-8 inches under white lamps, about 10 inches below the growth lamps, but distance is really dependent upon plant response. ...My own experience under growth lamps seems to be most favorable at 7 inches for standard plants, 5 inches for miniatures..."

"You might start with 10 hours of illumination and work up to the usually acceptable 12 to 14, even to 16 hours. My plants, standards and mini's, rarely get more than 14 hours."

Wilson states that gesneriads such as *episcias* grown for flowers and not just foliage should be placed in the center of the shelf where they can receive light from all sides as well as from above. *Gloxinias* need more light than African violets.

## NEW SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

Now, the new school of thought about placement of African violets on floral carts is as follows:

"*GROWING TO SHOW - How to Grow Prize-winning African Violets*" by Pauline Bartholomew, AV Enterprises Press, 1987, page 27, states:

"Place light-colored foliage plants near the center of the tubes under the strongest light and dark colored foliage at the ends of the tubes where light intensity is weakest. Light-colored foliage plants placed at the ends of the shelves lean noticeably into the light within about 12 hours. Dark-colored foliage plants remain stable for many days at the ends of the shelves and require much less turning. A possible explanation for this phenomenon is that light colors reflect light, and dark colors absorb light. Thus, perhaps the dark foliage is utilizing the maximum benefit of the light and light foliage is losing some of the light benefit through reflection."

...“Leaf cuttings, plantlets and miniatures should be about 6" to 8" below the lights. Even at 10" to 12" below the lights, plantlets and miniatures have a good growth rate and will stay flat and nicely shaped, but they will have few blossoms. Mature plants should be placed about 8" to 10" below the lights.”

Since two such excellent growers and authors of African violet books are in opposing corners, it might be difficult to choose which should work best. Testing for placement is easy enough to do. Be your own judge after a few months of testing each theory.

Plants may be raised for greater access to light by placing them on containers, whether or not they are to be wicked.

Variiegated plants need special attention. Whatever variegation is involved, Tommie Lou or Crown, they both need high intensive light, and this means they want center stage, lower shelf (for coolness). (Mosaic variegation seems to grow well with less light than other variegations.)

Plants with wavy foliage thrive in places of less intense light. Center of the tube seems to make these plants tighter which may or may not be desirable.

Minis and semi-minis need to be closer to lights to develop those perfect rosettes and intense variegation. They should be approximately 5-7 inches from the light tubes, either in center tubes, or at second best, very near center, giving places of preference to variegated varieties.

The problem develops when a plant has dark foliage and a light colored flower. Where should these be placed? I would try these in a position just off center of the tube. A plant with light green foliage and darker colored flowers do well at the ends of the tube.

Fantasies are another problem. Where should these be placed for maximum growth? Intense light MAY make these colors more vivid. However, bi-colors such as pinwheel chimeras, seem to do well on the ends of light gardens especially when foliage is light colored.

The usual light fixture set-up is one cool white/warm light on each shelf. If growing for show, fluorescent light bulbs should be changed each year, perhaps two months before show. Since new bulbs make the light more intense, put the new bulb in during the evening and use it for an hour or so only for the first time. Be sure to mark the date on each bulb. Those growers who do not take plants to show can use the tubes until they turn dark at the end.

What do other authors say about placements of plants in the light garden? “How to Grow African Violets” Sunset Book, Lane Publishing Co. Copywrite, 1977, page 27 says:

“Set mature plants of dark-leaved, dark-flowered, and double-flowered varieties 6-8 inches from special growth lamps. Arrange varieties that require less light – such as plants with variegated or girl-type foliage or white or pink flowers – around the edges of the lamps where the light is less intense. Place miniatures on inverted pots so they stand about 5 inches from the light source.”

#### CONCLUSION

Confused? Well, that just means you have your work set out for you. You make the decision as to whether you will use the old school of thought or the new. My own plants have done very well with the old school's teachings; however, there is always room for improvement.



## NEW CULTIVARS FROM MUTATION

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

Among African violet growers, the words “sport” and “mutant” (from the Latin mutans, changing) are synonymous. Both mean a sudden change or variation. The offspring shows a marked change from its parents (or parent in the case of vegetative reproduction of African violets) in some well-marked character, due to changes within the chromosomes or genes. Sometimes when an African violet leaf is rooted, a plant which is radically different appears among the plants that are true to the parent plant. This is a true sport or mutant.

In looking back on the history of the African violet, many of the important developments in evolving the beautiful African violets we have today were mutants. The first double (‘Duchess’), and the first white (‘White Lady’) were mutants. The perennial favorite, ‘Tommie Lou,’ with its entirely new variegated foliage, appeared as a “different” plant on a rooted leaf of ‘White Pride,’ where all the other plantlets were green.

Mutations may occur naturally as in the case of ‘Tommie Lou,’ or they may be induced. In order to develop new African violets, plants are being exposed to chemicals, radiation, and other techniques of plant engineering.

Some of the most interesting mutants are the **chimeras** where the mutation affects only a segment of the tissue and two or more genetically distinct segments or layers of tissue will grow next to each other. Some of the **pinwheels**, which can also be produced from seed through hybridization, are chimeras whose blossoms are characterized by a definite pattern of stripes. The stripes may occur on the sides of each petal or in the center. Some examples of early pinwheels are: ‘Valencia,’ ‘Kiwi Dazzler,’ and ‘Mauna Loa.’

Many of these plants do not propagate true from leaf cuttings but must be propagated by sucker or peduncle (main blossom stem) or meristem (shoot-tip; growing point) tissue culture.

# Showcase

## *Ramblin' Sunshine*

*Exhibited by:* Bob McCabe

*Hybridized by:* S. Sorano

*Standard Trailer*



*Photo Credit:* Winston J. Goretsky

## *Ness' Lil Hotshot*

*Exhibited by:* Beverly Williams

*Hybridized by:* D. Ness

*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit:* Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Streptocarpus "Butter Blues"*

*Exhibited by: Elmer K. Godney*

# AVSA Categories of Judges

by Joyce Stenger • Houston, TX

Evaluating African violet specimen, gesneriads, and designs is vital to the African Violet Society of America (AVSA). Therefore, distinctive regulations are in place to classify judges who grade show entries. There are four distinct categories of AVSA judges. These are student, advanced, senior, and master.

## STUDENT JUDGE

To become a student judge, an apprentice has to grow at least twenty-five assorted African violets; fifteen of these varieties must be AVSA registered plants. The prospective student judge must be a current member of AVSA and must earn at least three blue ribbons from an AVSA standard show. Two ribbons must be for growing African violets; a third ribbon may be from design or gesneriads categories.

The prospective student judge attends an AVSA Judging School to take the approved exam. The Judging School teacher lectures on the questions to be asked on their tests which includes point-scoring two blooming African violets. There are usually 100 questions. A score of 75 or more is passing. The school and exam can be repeated or audited for learning purposes. All questions come from the handbook that can be purchased from the AVSA office at any time.

Frequently, new student judges try clerking rather than judging so they can gain experience and learn what is generally expected in a show room. When asked to judge, student judges are assigned on a panel with two more experienced judges. A student judge must complete a three-year apprenticeship before being eligible to move on to advanced judge. After three years, a student judge must move on to be an advanced judge or discontinue judging.

## ADVANCED JUDGE

An advanced judge is considered an experienced judge. After being a student judge for three years, the prospective advanced judge must take a Judging School renewal exam and receive a grade of 75 or above. The exam includes point-scoring two or more African violets. Three additional earned blue ribbons are required.

The advanced judge may take a renewal exam anytime

after the first year of receiving the advance judge certificate. Six years as an advanced judge is required before being eligible to move on to senior judge. Continued AVSA membership is required. It is possible to remain an advanced judge indefinitely.

## SENIOR JUDGE

The senior judge should be accomplished in procedures, schools, and exams for at least nine years. (Three years as a student and six years as an advanced judge. This judge must have scored 90 or above on three AVSA judging schools and judged at least five affiliate or convention shows.)

Three new blue ribbons are needed during two of the three annual exams. Separate senior judges exams are completed annually by mail for three consecutive years. To pass, a score of 93 or higher is required. A permanent gold card is given to the senior judge after successful completion of the third exam.

Senior judges must now grow 50 or more varieties with 25 being registered. Continued AVSA membership is required. To remain a Senior judge, it is necessary to take renewal exams every three years and provide three additional blue ribbons. Fifteen years as a senior judge is required before being eligible to move to master judge.

## MASTER JUDGE

This class was created to honor judges who have given long years of service to AVSA. A master judge's certificate is valid for a lifetime. The only requirements are continuation of AVSA membership and having served as a senior judge for 15 years or more. No further exams are necessary; this judge is a master at last. If you meet a master judge or are privileged enough to judge with one, be reverent of their dedication and effort. It is indisputably a significant feat.

In addition to the above, all judges must keep informed of new rules pertaining to shows and judging. These changes are published regularly in the African Violet Magazine.

To learn more about the qualifications, duties, and rights of a judge, please read the judges section of the AVSA Handbook For African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges.



# Some Violets Are Born Winners

by Fred C. Hill • Columbus, NJ

I have been growing African violets now for over twenty years and still have lots to learn. I am by no means an excellent grower. My violets survive in spite of me. Still, during that twenty-year span, I have managed to get my share of rosettes from shows when I exhibit. I have won the gamut of rosettes from AVSA collection classes to Best in Shows and sweepstakes. I will say that I am no newbie to the violet world. With all this said, I still find that there are some plants that want to grow in spite of me.

I was checking my collection of one hundred fifty or so plants (you know how that goes, we don't count them exactly because it will tell us we have many too many plants) to get some of them repotted for my local spring show. I discovered a plant on a bottom shelf of my stand all the way in the back that I hadn't touched in over a year (hanging my head in shame). To my surprise, it was in bloom, and the symmetry was very nice. The plant was 'Mark'. 'Mark', for those of you who are not familiar with it, is one of Mr. Max Maas' older hybrids. It was registered in 1976, so it easily qualifies as a Vintage Violet. I just couldn't believe how good the plant looked. If it wasn't for the dead blossoms and some dry hanging leaves, I could have entered it into a show today and won a blue ribbon with it. While repotting 'Mark', I took stock of some of the other Maas hybrids in my collection.



Another large plant that has great symmetry is 'Mary D'. 'Maas'Gail' does not seem to grow as large as 'Mark' and 'Mary D', but it has a great shape as well and has a lively pink blossom. 'Maas' Edna' and 'Maas' Robert' are two others that I found grow well for me in spite of my neglect.

About three years ago, I picked up a semi-mini at the Union County Chapter of AVSA show in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Union County is the club in which Mr. Maas was a member. It also happens to be the local club of our current AVSA President, Janet Riemer. Union County has been maintaining and keeping alive Mr. Maas' hybrids since his passing. The plant I am referring to is 'Maas' Angela'. It's not registered and has been the center of some confusion lately; however, I am still growing it because, like Mr. Maas' other hybrids, it's a winner with beautiful double mauve blooms with a darker mauve edge. All this and clackamus foliage as well. Those of you on the internet can check the picture in the photo section of the AVSA.org site.

So, what is all this rambling about? I guess I just wanted everyone to know that there are some older violets that are still worth growing. I know how everyone drools over the new introductions at our annual convention, but I think it's time that we did some of that drooling over so many of our beautiful vintage violets. I would also like to see more of Mr. Maas' hybrids on show tables when I visit local shows.

## Donations Are Still Being Accepted For the Annual AVSA Convention Auction

To all members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercial members - it's not too late to make violet-related donations to our seventh annual luncheon auction. We really can use your help. Donations such as crafts, supplies, or newly introduced plant material of all types or any other violet related item of a unique or desirable nature are still being sought.

If you wish to donate items, please notify me as soon as possible. Kindly provide me with information regarding the item's description, its approximate value, and whether you are sending them on ahead or bringing them to convention.

Just a reminder, you must attend the luncheon in order to participate in the auction.

Won't you join us at the luncheon and consider donating an item to help AVSA? Please send notice of intent to donate to:

**Edna Rourke**  
99 Old Stratford Road  
Shelton, CT 06484 -6129  
1-203-926-9716

# Showcase

## *Suncoast Winter Skies*

Exhibited by: **Louise McPherson**  
Hybridized by: **S. Williams**  
*Standard*



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *B-Man's Raqusa*

*2003 Cultivar*  
Exhibited & Hybridized by:  
**Bruno Curcuruto**  
*Standard*



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Bob Serbin*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman*

*Hybridized by: J. Brownlie*

*Standard*

# Tucson, A Nice Place to Visit

by Susan C. Merski

With its blue skies and bright sunshine, Tucson is one of the top vacation spots in the country, especially in the winter and early spring. Every year visitors flock to this desert city to bask in the sun, enjoy the magnificent views, and relax in the casual lifestyle. Many visitors like Tucson so much they decide to stay; the city grows by approximately 13,000 new residents each year. The AVSA convention offers a perfect opportunity to visit this unique area.

The site for the convention is the DoubleTree Hotel located in the heart of the city. This lovely hotel hosts many events and is staffed by professionals who do their job well. The hotel is easy to reach whether you drive to Tucson or fly into Tucson International Airport. Parking at the hotel is free. The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the Tucson airport for those who don't want to rent a car. You can call for the shuttle at the kiosk in the luggage area of the airport.

Depending on flight schedules, it might be more convenient to fly into Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport. From there you can pick up a rental car and drive the 115 miles on the freeway southeast to Tucson, or you can catch the Arizona Shuttle at the Phoenix airport. Once at their main terminal in Tucson, you can take a taxi to the hotel which is about three miles away. Fares are \$48.00 round trip with a 24 hour advance reservation. Contact the Arizona Shuttle Service at 800-888-2749 or on the web at [www.arizonashuttle.com](http://www.arizonashuttle.com).

The DoubleTree Hotel is well laid out with ground level rooms, many with parking right outside the door, as well as a tower featuring rooms with a view of the city and surrounding mountains. Each guest room is equipped with a hair dryer, an ironing board and iron, and a coffee maker. Both smoking and non-smoking rooms are available. The hotel offers a sparkling outdoor heated pool with a toasty whirlpool

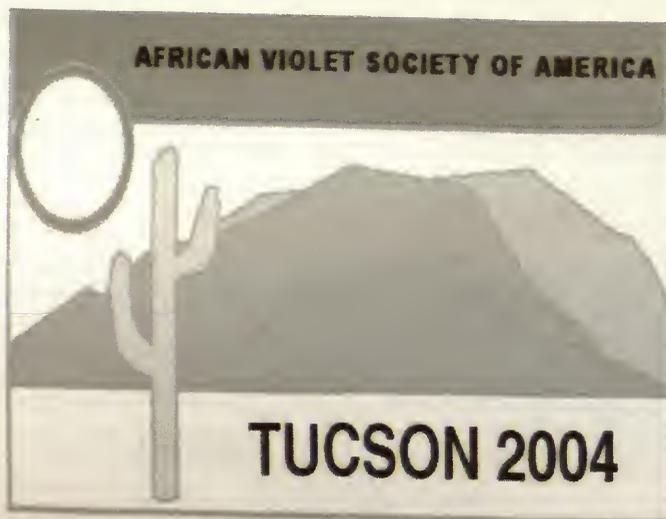
spa nearby as well as a new fitness center. There is a gift shop and two restaurants, the Cactus Rose (open for breakfast and lunch) and the Javelina Cantina (open for happy hour and dinner).

Across the street from the hotel is the 131-acre Reid Park. With its large shade trees and green grass, it is a lovely place to stroll and enjoy the weather. The park features two public golf courses and a driving range. (Make reservations by calling 520-791-GOLF.) There also are tennis courts available on a first-come basis. In April the roses should still be blooming in the lovely rose garden. The Reid Park Zoo is also located in the park. From anteaters to giraffes, the zoo is home to over 500 animals representing 167 different species.

The DoubleTree Hotel is located right on the city bus line so even without a car it is easy to explore the city. And there is a lot to see. Tucson has many museums and galleries and lots of shops, with everything from antiques to upscale clothing and furnishings. The University of Arizona is just three miles away. The Arizona State Museum, the Center for Creative Photography, and the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium are all located on its campus. Tucson has lots of places to eat, and several are within walking distance of the hotel.

The lifestyle in Tucson is very casual. Shorts or denim jeans are accepted attire almost everywhere, so pack your comfortable clothes. Be sure to bring a sweater or light jacket as the temperature drops quickly once the sun sets behind the mountains. Bring a swimsuit if you would like to lounge pool side. Remember that the rays of the desert sun are strong, even in April. Don't forget to pack a hat, sunglasses, and sun screen (at least 15 spf).

The AVSA convention in Tucson promises to be a perfect blend of southwestern charm, great weather, good people, and, of course, gorgeous African violets. You won't want to miss it!



# FERTILIZING

by Sue Gardner

Plants that are unable to obtain needed nutrients from their potting mix are stunted in growth. If only one essential ingredient is missing, plant growth is poor.

For African violets we use soil-less potting mix which has little or no nutrient value, so we must supply the needed nutrients by means of fertilizers.

What is needed in fertilizers?

Fertilizers contain several elements necessary for plant growth. These are:

1. Nitrogen - main factor in leaf and stem growth. It is needed for good leaf color.
2. Phosphorus - needed for all aspects of growth and flower production.
3. Potassium - produces strength and vitality of foliage and resistance to disease.
4. Calcium - needed for strong growth of roots and foliage.
5. Magnesium - needed for healthy green foliage.
6. Sulfur - needed for healthy green leaves (supplied as sulfate).
7. Trace elements - iron, copper, zinc, manganese, boron, cobalt, and molybdenum.

## How to read the labels on fertilizers

On a fertilizer label, you will see an N:P:K value. This tells you the % amounts of these three elements contained in the fertilizer. A "balanced fertilizer" contains these three basic elements in the correct proportions.

African violet fertilizers usually have the three basic elements in approximately the same amounts. They also contain trace elements.

## How do we use fertilizers?

If you use a solid fertilizer for African violets, dilute it at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer to one half gallon of water. This is for use in wick watering containers or for top watering. Liquid fertilizers contain lower levels of nutrients. It is suggested to leach your potting mix every 4-6 weeks to prevent excessive build-up of unused fertilizer salts.

## Fertilizer deficiencies

If the potting mix has incorrect pH, the nutrients will not be absorbed even if supplied in the right quantities. Make sure all other factors (light, temperature, and potting mix) are correct before blaming nutrient deficiencies for any problems with plant growth. Remember a good root system is needed to absorb nutrients.

What do nutrient deficiencies produce in African violets? It is usually retarded growth and lack of flowers.

## Symptoms of deficiencies:

Nitrogen - Yellowing of leaves and spindly or stunted growth.

Magnesium - Leaves turn yellow but veins stay green; drooping foliage.

Phosphorus - Leaves lacking luster, outer leaves discolored, poor root growth, few flowers.

Potassium - Scorched leaf margins and lack of vitality.

Calcium - Yellow leaf margins and poor root growth.

Iron - Tips of new leaves pale or yellow and leaves turn blotchy then brown.

If you notice any of these symptoms, check your potting mix for pests and check the pH. If these are all right, re-pot your plant, then start fertilizing with an African violet fertilizer at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer to 1 gallon of water.

## Too much fertilizer!

Too much fertilizer can cause problems. It can "burn" our plants. An excess of one fertilizer can also upset the balance between different nutrients in the potting mix. For example, excess nitrogen can cause a potassium deficiency.

A fertilizer with too much nitrogen will cause dark green lush foliage - often too soft and floppy.

Toxicities can also be produced by adding too much of some trace elements such as iron. Plants absorb any soluble mineral from the soil, whether or not it is essential to plant growth. They can absorb toxic levels of nutrients if they are present in excessively high quantities. So don't be heavy handed with fertilizers of any sort.

## Fertilizers for specific situations

For baby plants, some people use a high nitrogen fertilizer to promote quick growth.

To promote flowering for a display or show (or just for your own pleasure), some growers recommend a "bloom booster" fertilizer. This has a high phosphorus content.

## Rules for Fertilizing

1. Never fertilize a dry plant.
2. Do not over-fertilize. You will burn your plant. A good rule of thumb is to use 1/4 teaspoon per 1 gallon of water for powdered fertilizers.
3. Leach every 8 weeks with tepid water to remove build-up of salts in potting mix.
4. For variegated plants, use a high nitrogen fertilizer when young to produce growth, but a lower nitrogen one later to produce variegation.

## What about organic fertilizers added to soil?

Organic matter has to be broken down into elements available to the plant before it can be used.

This occurs through bacterial and other microbial action which increases with temperature. The decomposition, however, increases the acidity of the soil and can cause problems. Potting mix containing peat moss becomes more acid over time because of this. So plants must be re-potted reasonably often to avoid low soil pH.



*S. difficilis* No. 2



# Mather No. 2 - An Alternate *S. difficilis* Clone

Dr. Jeff Smith  
Indiana Academy  
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Another nice species clone from the Mather collection is the plant labeled as *S. difficilis* No. 2 or Mather No. 2. This plant is recorded as being collected from the Usambara Mountains, but the collection notes do not indicate if it was the East or West Usambara Mountains. This plant is also recorded as S.A. Robertson specimen R6672. Cuttings of this plant were sent to Iowa State University in 1993. I obtained cuttings of Mather No. 2 from Iowa State University in 1996. Seed of this plant was placed in the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society seed fund, and leaves may now be available from some commercial growers.

Dr. Bill Burt discussed the existence of several different clones of *S. difficilis* in his 1960 monograph of the *Saintpaulia* species. Only one of those clones has apparently survived or become commonly available in the United States. This is the clone that has been sold through the Cooks at Cape Cod Violetry and other commercial growers. The Mather No. 2 clone is similar to this clone, but has some differences in appearance and flowering.

Mather No. 2 is a standard rosette plant, but does have a tendency to sucker freely. The leaves are light green in color and may sometimes have a decidedly yellow-green cast. The leaves are elongated ovals and may reach 7-8 cm (2 1/2 to 3 inches) long and 5 cm (2 inches) wide. The margins of the leaves are shallowly toothed when young, but the teeth nearly disappear in the mature leaf. The veins of the leaf blade are somewhat depressed into the upper surface of the leaf, giving the leaves a slightly wrinkled appearance. This vein characteristic is a good diagnostic characteristic for the species *S. difficilis*. The underside of the leaf is silver or light green in color. The leaf petioles are long and thin and may have a reddish tint. The petioles also have a tendency to twist and present the leaf blade at odd angles. This characteristic can make this plant difficult to shape for show. The hairs of leaves are long appressed, short appressed (LASA) as in other *S. difficilis* clones, and are usually easily visible to the naked eye.

The flowers of Mather No. 2 are about 2 cm in diameter

and are usually found 5-11 per peduncle. The flowers are medium to dark blue in color and are presented in nice clusters above the foliage. The plant can be very floriferous, sometimes producing two peduncles per leaf. A mature well-grown specimen may have 30-60 open flowers at one time.

Mather No. 2 is one species clone of two that have frequently self-pollinated and set seed in my growing conditions (the other is *S. shumensis*). The seedpods are elongated narrow ovals about 2 cm (3/4 inch) long and 0.5 cm (1/4 inch) wide. Many seedpods are often set on the plant, allowing a large amount of seed to be produced.

I have found Mather No. 2 to be an easy species to grow, but a bit of a challenge to grow well. The leaves are sensitive to damage, and care must be taken in exposing the leaves to sprays. The twisting petioles sometimes make the plant a challenge to shape into a flat rosette. The plant does sucker easily and could be grown as a multiple crown plant. However, the number of flowers is greatly reduced under these conditions. I would recommend that the plant be pruned to a single crown for show purposes. This clone grows well as a warm species, but will tolerate cooler conditions. Under cooler conditions, the leaf color is often slightly darker and the flowers are a deeper blue-purple in color.

I have not used Mather No. 2 in hybridizing. It would be an easy plant to cross with; however, care might be needed to avoid self-pollination. If the twisted petioles are inherited in the offspring, it might be difficult to get good show quality hybrids using this species clone. However, the high bloom count is a plus and might be used to develop hybrids with good blooming characteristics.

In conclusion, Mather No. 2 is an excellent alternate clone for this species. It grows well in a variety of conditions and is very free blooming. With a little work, it has the potential for making a good species show plant. If you have enjoyed growing or showing the standard *S. difficilis* clone from the Cooks at Cape Cod Violetry, I think you would also enjoy Mather No. 2.

# Coming Events



## 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 - TEXAS

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

## 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 Gramstorff (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

## March 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA

Central California AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Manchester Mall  
Blackstone & Shields Avenues  
Fresno, CA  
Mar 13 - Noon - 6pm  
Mar 14 - 10am - 3pm  
Info: Karen Willoughby (559) 897 - 9177  
Email: pkatwillabee@hotmail.com

## March 11 - 13 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS, and  
First Nighter AVS Combined Show/Sale  
Richardson Square Mall  
501 S. Plano Rd. @ Beltline Rd.  
Richardson, TX  
Mar 11 - 6pm - 9pm  
Mar 12 & 13 - 10am - 9pm  
Info: Grace David (972) 278-0389

## March 17 - 20 - TEXAS

Dixie AVS 48th Convention/Show  
Hilton-NASA  
3000 NASA Road One  
Houston, TX  
Info: Joyce Stenger (281) 488 - 0267  
Email: jasstenger@aol.com

## March 19 & 20 - TEXAS

First AVS of Denton Show/Sale  
Erwin Hall  
First Presbyterian Church  
1114 W. University Dr.  
Denton, TX  
Mar 19 - 1:30pm - 6pm  
Mar 20 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Eunice Curry (940) 382 - 6465

## March 19 & 20 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Show Sale  
Northtown Mall  
Highway 10 & University Ave. NE  
Blaine, MN  
Mar 19 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 20 - 9:30am - 8pm  
Info: Sandy Officer (952) 835-8603  
Email: Sandyo2@att.net

## March 19 & 20 - NEW JERSEY

Union County Chapter AVSA 50th  
Anniversary Show/Sale  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Parish Hall  
559 Park Ave.  
Scotch Pines, NJ  
Mar 19 - 6pm - 9pm  
Mar 20 - 9am - 3pm  
Info: Chris Brenner (732) 254-8520  
Email: chrisbrenner2@mailstation.com

## March 20 & 21 - COLORADO

41st Annual Show/Sale  
Rocky Mountain AV Council  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
1005 York St.  
Denver, CO  
Mar 20 - 1pm - 4:30pm  
Mar 21 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Karen Preister (303) 239 - 6659  
Email: denverangel68@yahoo.com

## March 20 & 21 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS  
29th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
West Sayville Fire Dept. Hall  
Montauk Hwy. & Atlantic Ave.  
Mar 20 - 2pm - 5pm  
Mar 21 - Noon - 5pm  
Info: (613) 581 - 8116  
Donation \$1.50

## March 20 & 21 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS  
Zilker Park Botanical Garden  
Barton Springs Rd.  
Austin, TX  
Mar 20 - 10am - 4:30pm  
Mar 21 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Jeanette Pursley (512) 243 - 2289  
Email: tijeant1@netzero.net

## March 20 & 21 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show/Sale  
Chicago Botanic Garden  
Lake Cook Rd., East of I-94  
Glencoe, IL  
Info: Susan Bradford (847) 740 - 7801  
(847) 835 - 5440

## March 26 & 27 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Exhibition/Sale  
Westfield Gateway Mall Auditorium  
61st & "O" Street  
Lincoln, NE  
Mar 26 - 10am - 8pm  
Mar 27 - 10am - 6pm  
Info: Joyce Stork  
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

## March 26 & 27 - OHIO

AVS of Dayton Show/Sale  
Towne Mall  
Middletown, OH  
Mall Hours  
Info: Pat Hancock (513) 425 - 0308

## March 26 & 27 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Show/Sale  
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center  
Memphis Botanic Gardens  
750 Cherry Rd.  
Memphis, TN  
Info: Marian Zoller (901) 372 - 0283

## March 26 - 28 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Show/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
Snelling Ave. & County Rd. B  
Roseville, MN  
Mar 26 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 27 - 10am - 6pm  
Mar 28 Noon - 5pm  
Info: Ellen Frilseth (651) 487 - 5555  
Kathy Lahti (320) 274 - 1157

## March 26 & 27 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Annual Show/Sale  
Westfield Shoppingtown Gateway Mall  
61st & O, Lincoln, NE  
Mar 26 - 10am - 8pm  
Mar 27 - 10am - 6pm  
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478  
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

## March 26 & 27 - NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey AVS Show/Sale  
First Baptist Church  
232 Main St.  
Matawan, NJ  
Mar 26 - 3pm - 7pm  
Mar 27 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: David Tooker (732) 219 - 6677  
Email: Davidtook@aol.com  
Jan Murasko (732) 821 - 8641

## March 26 - 28 - IOWA

Quad-Cities AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Northpark Mall  
320 West Kimberly Rd.  
Davenport, IA  
Mar 26 & 27 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 28 - Noon - 5pm  
Info: LuAnn Christenson (563) 355 - 0726  
Email: xenson@kitusa.com

## March 27 & 28 - ONTARIO, CANADA

Toronto Gesneriad Society Show/Sale  
Sherway Gardens Mall  
Centre Square  
25 The West mall  
Etobicoke (Toronto), Canada  
Mar 27 - 11am - 6pm  
Mar 28 - Noon - 6pm  
Info: (416) 217 - 0729

**March 27 - FLORIDA**

Violet Patch of South Florida  
Exhibit/Sale  
Flamingo Garden's Spring Flower Show  
3750 S. Flamingo Rd.  
David, FL  
Info: Allan Mink (954) 587 - 0392  
Email: Minkflowers@aol.com

**March 27 & 28 - MISSOURI**

Show-Me AVC Show/Sale  
Loose Park Garden Center  
5200 Pennsylvania  
Kansas City, MO  
Mar 27 - 10am - 3pm  
Mar 28 - 10am - 2pm  
Info: Julie Fox (816) 532 - 4258  
Email: bmwjewel@direcway.com

**March 27 & 28 - LOUISIANA**

Sundowners AVS Show/Sale  
Baton Rouge Garden Center  
7950 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Mar 27 - 2pm - 6pm  
Mar 28 - 11am - 4pm

**April 2 - 4 - NEBRASKA**

Omaha AVS Show/Sale  
Nebraska Flower, Plant, and Landscaping Show  
Omaha Convention Center and Arena  
455 N. 10th, Omaha, NE  
Apr 2 - 1pm - 9pm  
Apr 3 - 10am - 9pm  
Apr 4 - 11am - 4pm  
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478  
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

**April 2 & 3 - ALABAMA**

Early Bird AVS Show/Sale  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
2612 Lane Park Rd.  
Birmingham, AL  
Apr 2 - 2pm - 4pm  
Apr 3 - 10am - 3pm  
Info: Gwen Johnson (205) 991 - 5335  
Email: gjohn99@bellsouth.net

**April 2 - 4 - MINNESOTA**

Lakes Area Violet Growers Show/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
County Rd. B & Snelling Ave.  
Roseville, MN  
Apr 2 - 10am - 7pm  
Apr 3 - 10am - 6pm  
Apr 4 - 11am - 5pm  
Info: (651) 429 - 4109

**April 3 - CONNECTICUT**

Windsor AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Windsor Public Library  
323 Broad St.  
Windsor, CT  
Hours: 9am - 3pm  
Info: Nancy Hayes (860) 242 - 0162  
Email: john.hayes@snet.net

**April 3 & 4 - NEW YORK**

Long Island AVS 50th Anniversary  
AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
John A. Anderson Recreation Center  
111 North Oceanside Rd.  
Rockville Center, NY  
Info: Florence Schnauffer (516) 379 - 6631  
Lois Szostak Email: loisas@optonline.net

**April 3 & 4 - CONNECTICUT**

Thimble Islands AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Canoe Brook Senior Center  
11 Chery Hill Rd.  
Branford, CT  
Both Days: Noon - 3pm  
Info: Madeline Clem (203) 481 - 9455  
Email: mycuzzard@aol.com

**April 3 & 4 - NEW MEXICO**

Albuquerque AVC Show/Sale  
Garden Center of Albuquerque  
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM  
Apr 3 - 2pm - 5pm  
Apr 4 - 10am - 5pm  
Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026

**April 3 & 4 - NEW YORK**

Capital District AVS Show/Sale  
Nurses Foundation Bldg.  
Western Ave.  
Guilford, NY  
Apr 3 - 1pm - 5pm  
Apr 4 - 11am - 5pm  
Info: Dorothy Raymond (518) 732 - 0259  
Email: draymore@earthlink.net

**April 3 & 4 - CALIFORNIA**

Capital City AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA  
Apr 3 - 2pm - 5pm  
Apr 4 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Lynn Lombard (530) 637 - 9000  
Email: lynn\_lombard@worldnet.att.net

**April 3 & 4 - NEW JERSEY**

AVC of Morris County Show/Sale  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
Morristown, NJ  
Apr 3 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
Apr 4 - 11am - 4pm  
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464 - 4417  
Email: HFJG.Fischer@comcast.net  
Judy Padalino (973) 361 - 4529  
Email: jpadalino@msn.com

**April 3 & 4 - DELAWARE**

Delaware AVS Show/Sale  
Bosco's Auditorium  
Christiana Town Center  
Route #273  
Newark, DE  
Apr 3 - 10am - 5pm  
Apr 4 - Noon - 5pm  
Info: Bobbie LaFashia (302) 656 - 7215

**April 3 & 4 - MICHIGAN**

Town & Country AVC of Michigan Display/Sale  
Oxford Public Library  
530 Pontiac Rd.  
Oxford, MI  
Apr 3 - 11am - 5pm  
Apr 4 - 1pm - 5pm  
Info: Claude Norton (517) 626 - 6941  
Email: cknorton@worldnet.att.net  
Chris Leppard (248) 693 - 2415

**April 9 & 10 - FLORIDA**

Heart of Jacksonville AVS Display/Sale  
Avenues Mall  
10300 Southside Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL  
Mall Hours  
Info: Bobbi Johannsen  
Email: Bobbiv@juno.com

**April 10 & 11 - MICHIGAN**

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
1800 Dixboro Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Apr 10 - 10am - 4:30pm  
Apr 11 - 11am - 2pm  
Info: Ingrid Bowman (248) 698 - 3628

**April 15 & 16 - SOUTH CAROLINA**

First AVS or Spartanburg 25th Anniversary Sale  
Woodland Heights Recreation Center  
1216 John B. White Blvd.  
Spartanburg, SC  
Info: Cami Ingle (864) 967 - 8812

**April 16 & 17 - NEW JERSEY**

Bergen County AVS 47th Annual Show/Sale  
Old North Reformed Church  
Washington Ave. @ Madison Ave.  
Dumont, NJ  
Apr 16 - 3pm - 9pm  
Apr 17 - 9am - 3pm

**April 23 - 25 - MISSOURI**

The Unpredictable's AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Blue Ridge Mall  
4200 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Independence, MO  
Apr 23 & 24 - 10am - 9pm  
Apr 25 - Noon - 5pm  
Independence, MO  
Info: Fred Inbody (816) 373 - 6915  
Email: kskd1@juno.com

**April 24 & 25 - QUEBEC, 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

**April 24 & 25 - OHIO**

Cincinnati AVS Show/Sale  
Eastgate Mall  
4691 Eastgate Blvd.  
Cincinnati, OH  
Apr 24 - Noon - 9pm  
Apr 25 - Noon - 5pm  
Info: Madeline Moran (859) 635 - 2759  
Karen Malott (513) 232 - 8479

**April 24 & 25 - NEW YORK**

AVS of Rochester Show/Sale  
Perinton Square Mall  
6720 Pittsford-Palmira Rd. (Rts. 250 & 31)  
Apr 24 - 2pm - 6pm  
Apr 25 - 11am - 5pm  
Info: Irwin Wagman (585) 381 - 6384  
Email: IrwinWag@aol.com

**April 24 & 25 - MASSACHUSETTS**

Bay State Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Tower Hill Botanic Garden  
11 French Rd.  
Boylston, MA  
Apr 24 - Noon - 5pm  
Apr 25 - 10am - 5pm  
Info: Susan Gimblet (401) 8066  
Email: gimblet@apol.net



**April 24 & 25 - CONNECTICUT**

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Earthplace  
10 Woodside Lane  
Westport, CT  
Apr 24 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
Apr 25 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: (203) 226 - 1784  
Email: Marjorie.Rosenberg@snet.net

**April 24 & 25 - VIRGINIA**

Tidewater AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Norfolk Botanical Gardens/Rotunda Bldg.  
6700 Azalea Garden Rd.  
Norfolk, VA  
Apr 24 - 2:30pm - 5pm  
Apr 25 - 11am - 4pm  
Info: Linda Stinnette (757) 484 - 4689  
Email: rwseagle@aol.com

**April 24 - ALBERTA, CANADA**

Edmonton AVS Show/Sale  
Muttart Conservatory  
9626 - 96A Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Hours: 11am - 5pm  
Info: Patricia Bell (780) 458 - 1386  
Email: pmbell@shaw.ca

**April 30 & May 1 - VIRGINIA**

Richmond AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens  
1600 Lakeside Ave.  
Richmond, VA  
Apr 30 - 1pm - 5pm  
May 1 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Bill Schmidt (804) 266 - 6157  
Email: Schmidt.wc@verizon.net

**April 30 & May 1 - ALBERTA, CANADA**

Stampe City AVS  
28th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Northland Village Mall  
5111 Northland Drive N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
Apr 30 - 10am - 9pm  
May 1 - 9am - 4pm  
Info: Winston J. Goretsky (403) 241 - 8300  
Email: violets@telus.net  
Web Site: <http://www3.telus.net/scavs>

**April 30 - May 2 - NEW JERSEY**

Garden State AVC Show/Sale  
Market Fair  
Rt. 1 South  
Lawrenceville, NJ  
Start: Apr 30 - Noon  
Close: May 2 - 4pm

**April 30 - May 2 - PENNSYLVANIA**

AVS of Springfield 53rd Annual Show  
Springfield Mall  
Baltimore Pike  
Springfield, PA  
Info: Brenda Nyce (610) 358 - 3115  
Joan Santino (610) 485 - 0211

**May 1 - 3 - IOWA**

AVC of Des Moines Show/Sale  
3850 Merle Hay Rd  
Des Moines, IA  
May 1 - 4pm - 8:30pm  
May 2 - 10am - 9pm  
May 3 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: Joan Watts  
Email: jojewels@netins.net

**May 1 & 2 - WISCONSIN**

Oshkosh AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
St. Josaphat Church  
1333 Walnut St  
Oshkosh, WI  
May 1 - 10am - 4:30pm  
May 2 - 9:30am - 3pm  
Info: Kevin Degner (920) 426 - 3764  
Email: kdegner@mcleodusa.net

**May 1 & 2 - OHIO**

Columbus AVS Show/Sale  
Franklin Park Conservatory  
1777 East Broad St.  
Columbus, OH  
Both Days: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Nancy Carr (614) 864 - 8130  
Email: afvioletfan@insight.rr.com

**May 1 & 2 - NEW YORK**

AV & Gesneriad Society of WNY Show/Sale  
Walden Galleria Mall  
Cheektowaga, NY  
May 1 - 10am - 9pm  
May 2 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Holly Pohl (716) 684 - 1387  
Email: Corabells51@aol.com

**May 1 & 2 - ILLINOIS**

Late Bloomers AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
Colonial Village Mall  
1240 South Alpine Rd.  
Rockford, IL  
May 1 - 10am - 6pm  
May 2 - 11am - 6pm  
Info: Jan Judd (608) 325 - 7273

**May 1 & 2 - MISSOURI**

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council Show/Sale  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
4344 Shaw Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO  
Both Days: 9am - 5pm  
Info: Pat Durlap (636) 789 - 3604

**May 1 & 2 - CONNECTICUT**

Naugatonic AVS Show/Sale  
Staybridge Suites  
River Rd. (Rt. 118)  
Shelton, CT  
May 1 - 1pm - 4pm  
May 2 - 10am - 3pm  
Info: (860) 283 - 5311  
Email: violetdoc@webtv.net

**May 1 & 2 - ONTARIO, CANADA**

Lakeshore AVS Show/Sale  
Sherway Gardens Mall  
Centre Court  
25 The West Mall  
Etobicoke, Toronto, Ontario  
May 1 - 11am - 6pm  
May 2 - Noon - 6pm  
Info: Beverly Williams (905) 275 - 5408  
Web Site: [www.avsc.ca](http://www.avsc.ca)

**May 7 & 8 - OHIO**

Parmatown AVC  
Parmatown Mall  
7899 West Ridgewood Dr.  
Parma, OH  
May 7 - 9am - 9pm  
May 8 - 9am - 6pm  
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546  
Email: mbell77@msn.com

**May 7 - 9 - NEW YORK**

AVS of Syracuse 51st Annual Show  
Great Northern Mall  
Route 31  
Clay, NY  
May 7 - Noon - 9:30pm  
May 8 - 10am - 9:30pm  
May 9 - 11am - 6pm

**May 8 - MISSOURI**

Heart of Missouri AVS Show/Sale  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
1600 W. Rollins Rd.  
Columbia, MO  
Info: Dorothy Anderson (573) 442 - 4798  
Email: danderoz@coin.org

**May 8 - NEW JERSEY**

AVC of Burlington County Show/Sale  
Burlington Center Mall  
Route 541  
Burlington, NJ  
Hours: Noon - 9pm  
Info: Florence Murphy (609) 386 - 9234

**May 8 - OHIO**

Upper Miami Valley AVS  
Miami Valley Center Mall  
I-75 & Rt. 36  
Piqua, OH  
Hours: 10am - 9pm  
Info: Shirley Jones (937) 773 - 3761  
Email: violetgirl@woh.rr.com  
Terena Stotler (937) 492 - 6588  
Email: dstotler@earthlink.net

**May 8 - WISCONSIN**

Sundowners AVC & Crosstown AVC  
Combined Sale  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave.  
Madison, WI  
Hours: 9am - 4pm  
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552  
Email: petersonad@aol.com

**May 8 - CALIFORNIA**

Fancy Bloomers AVS Pre-mother's Day Sale  
Coddington Mall  
Gottschalk's Corridor  
Guernville Rd. & Hwy. 101  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Hours: 10am - 4pm (or until sold out)  
Info: Alice Downing (707) 829 - 7760

**May 15 & 16 - CALIFORNIA**

San Mateo County AVS  
San Mateo Garden Center  
605 Parkside Way  
San Mateo, CA  
May 15 - 2pm - 5pm  
May 16 - 10am - 3pm  
Info: Gary R. Beck (415) 771 - 3242  
Email: garybeck@aol.com

**May 30 - CANADA**

Toronto AVS Show/Sale  
Civic Garden Center  
777 Lawrence Ave. E  
Toronto  
Hours: 11am - 4pm  
Info: <http://geocities.com/tavs.html>



# 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.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
2 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
3 Wed. 4:18 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
4 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
5 Fri. 12:18 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
6 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	Full 6:14 pm
7 Sun. 5:31 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
8 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
9 Tue. 9:03 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
10 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
11 Thu. 11:57 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
12 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
13 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th 4:01 pm
14 Sun. 2:51 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
15 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
16 Tue. 6:10 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
17 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
18 Thu. 10:26 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
19 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
20 Sat. 4:29 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	New 5:41 pm
21 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
22 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
23 Tue. 1:10 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
24 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
25 Thu. 12:35 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
26 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
27 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
28 Sun. 1:23 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 6:48 pm
29 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
30 Tue. 1:07 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
31 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu. 9:45 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
2 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
3 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
4 Sun. 3:52 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
5 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	Full 7:03 am
6 Tue. 6:24 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
7 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
8 Thu. 7:50 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
10 Sat. 9:33 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
11 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th 11:46 pm
12 Mon. 12:33 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
13 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
14 Wed. 5:24 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
15 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
16 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 Sat. 12:24 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
18 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
19 Mon. 9:43 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	New 9:21 am
20 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
21 Wed. 9:10 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
22 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
23 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
24 Sat. 9:56 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
26 Mon. 10:14 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
27 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd 1:52 pm
28 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
29 Thu. 8:00 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
30 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2003 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6

# THRIPS

by Ruth Coulson

## What are thrips and why are we worried about them?

Most gardeners know thrips as a pest in gladioli and other flowers. Only occasionally have we been troubled by these thrips on indoor plants, and if they did venture in, they were mostly eradicated with the simple spray of a pesticide of low toxicity. But what we are dealing with now may be a different thrips - the feared Western Flower Thrips, more formally known as *Frankliniella occidentalis*.

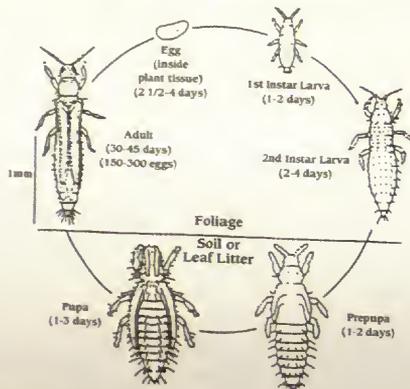
Western Flower Thrips is endemic in North America and has been established in New Zealand for 60 years. It is also found in other countries including Japan, parts of Africa and central America, and more recently Europe. It has been seen in Australia for several years. Many of our members have experienced a thrips infestation of their plants which led me to believe that the thrips troubling us is Western Flower Thrips. None of us have, so far as I know, had these thrips formally identified. Personally, I have been more interested in their eradication than in preserving some for identification by an entomologist.

According to experts, they are impossible to distinguish from other thrips species with the naked eye. Any small (1mm long) pale yellow or buff colored thrips could be Western Flower Thrips, and only with the use of a microscope (>50x mag) can the distinguishing long black spines on the front edge of the shoulders be observed. The small size of the insects and their thin narrow shape also makes it very difficult to even tell their color, because what one grower sees as brown is likely what another calls buff.

I feel that identification is not the most important issue. Other thrips which may infest your violets will do similar damage, and they may be eradicated in similar fashion. The big difference is that WFT is resistant to many pesticides, and thus much more difficult to deal with.

## So what do thrips look like, and what damage do they cause on African violets?

As already said, they are narrow in shape up to 1mm long and pale yellow to buff in color. The accompanying drawing gives some idea of their appearance.



They are not easy to see on your plants because they have a retiring habit and will usually shelter in the more hidden parts of the plant and the flower. You will soon know that they are present, however, because you will see the damage which they cause, particularly when they feed on the pollen of the flowers. Our club members have reported the following damage caused by thrips:

- Flowers dying prematurely, becoming soft and mushy
- Flowers rapidly becoming dried out and paper-like
- Pollen spilled on the petals of the flowers
- Visible damage to the pollen sacs where thrips have been feeding
- An all over dusty look to the flowers caused by faint spillage of pollen
- Flowers becoming brown along the sides of the petals and sometimes all petal edges
- Buds failing to open, or if they do open, having no stamens
- Semi-transparent spots appearing on the flowers
- Flowers never reaching their expected size.

Some leaf damage has also been attributed to thrips, but as none of our members have seen the thrips actually eating the leaves, it is hard to know whether this was the result of thrips or of one of the multitude of other possibilities.

If your plants have some of the above symptoms, then you may have an infestation of thrips, especially if you find that there is hardly a fresh, healthy flower to be found. However, do realize that each and every one of these symptoms can have other causes. Flowers can become dried out and buds refuse to open because of very low humidity. Pollen sacs can also be nibbled by cockroaches, mice, and other pests.

So you will have to examine the flowers carefully to be sure. Use a good light and a strong magnifying glass to look at the flowers carefully. Sometimes, flicking the stamens with your fingers will send thrips running, and you will be able to see them. You may have to pull some flowers apart because the thrips may well be hiding right in the base. They may also be clustered on the back of the flower. If you are still not convinced, break open some buds. If there is damage to the pollen sacs even before the flowers have opened, it is virtually a certainty that you have a thrips infestation.

## How do African violets become infested?

Probably the first thing you will ask is, "How could my plants get thrips?" The answer is, "All too easily". As you see from the illustration, thrips have wings. They can fly. They can also be wafted long distances on air currents, so what is to stop them from wafting right into your African violet growing area? Probably nothing.

As with other pests, you may bring them indoors on your hands or your clothing. They can hitch a ride on cut flowers, the family pet, or on plants that have been taken to a meeting

or a show. Once they are among your African violets, they proliferate rapidly.

I must mention here that the word "thrips" is used as both the plural and singular, although it always seems an odd form for the singular. But now I know why – they increase just so rapidly that there is no need for a singular form. There is never just one thrips.

The thrips life cycle takes 30-50 days. The mature WFT lays eggs in the tissue of the plant. These hatch out in 2-4 days. The larval stages take from 3-6 days, and in fact, the larvae may feed on parts of the plant, including leaves and on the pollen in the buds. After this follows the pupal stages in the soil from 2-5 days. The adult thrips then emerges and moves up the plant to the flowers and buds - where the whole thing starts over again. In warm, humid conditions, that is to say, conditions ideal for growing African violets, the time from egg to adult can be only twenty days.

The importance of this sequence relates to the way you may spray the plants to kill the thrips. It has been found that the thrips is only vulnerable to insecticides as an adult, or in the larval stages, and only then if in a position where the insecticides can reach them. So obviously, one spraying will not do the job.

### Eradication

A chemical fix is what we all we tend to think of to kill the insects. This is rather a difficult proposition with WFT. They are resistant to many insecticides, and as already mentioned, they may hide in parts of the plant where sprays cannot reach them. Because of the complexities of their life cycle, spraying should be done three times at no longer than five day intervals. Types of sprays used should be rotated to avoid resistance in the thrips.

Two insecticides are effective for the eradication of WFT – Malathion and another chemical probably not available for home use.

In practice, our members have reported a number of different sprays which they have found useful in dealing with their thrips problem. There has been some discussion as to effectiveness of these systemic sprays since systemics may be only poorly transported to the flowers and buds – the normal area of infestation. However, some have a contact action as well, and do seem to work, though not always, and not for everyone.

If you decide to try spraying to get rid of thrips, remember the following. Spraying must be **frequent** (at least three times in 15 days), regular (no longer than 4-5 days between sprays), **thorough** (spray every plant, all over, every time) and **persistent** (don't give up too easily. You must spray the full sequence after the last live thrips are sighted).

**Warning:** Use insecticides responsibly, with personal protection, as per directions, and just as importantly, never without need, and never at less than the recommended strength. Either of these practices can lead to thrips which are immune to the sprays you are using and make final eradication more difficult for you and for others. Sure, most sprays will damage some flowers, but then so will the thrips. In fact, you should

remove all visible flowers and buds before you begin your spraying campaign, since they probably show some signs of damage and could be harboring thrips.

Some members have reported that the use of "flea bombs" for the eradication of fleas and cockroaches has the side benefit of killing thrips. Others report that using several mini-pest strips with infested plant or plants, in a large lidded and sealed box for several days will kill thrips. These are "off label" usages (contrary to the registration shown on the label) and therefore cannot legally be recommended. However, it seems possible that some of the chemicals being investigated for thrips may be similar to these.

In the meantime there is one **non-toxic** method which I believe is what we, as hobby growers, should be using. This is the method of removing flowers and continuously disbudding, possibly for up to eight weeks. This deprives the thrips of their hiding place in the flowers and of the pollen which they eat. It is fairly simple to do, and your plants will not suffer from it in the least. Remember that any flowers or buds on the plants will be damaged by the thrips, so you may as well remove them.

Keeping flowers and buds off the plants for a period usually encourages the plants to grow large and strong, so that when you do let them flower they should be really delightful. You should be absolutely rigorous in your disbudding; however, take off even the smallest buds as soon as they appear. Dispose of infested buds and flowers carefully. You don't want leftover thrips to re-infest your plants.

Since a combination of methods may work best of all, you may want to spray once or twice early during the disbudding period.

### Deterrents

Naturally, we would all rather keep pests at bay rather than have to deal with them when they appear. It seems that it will be rather difficult for us to protect our plants completely against thrips. They are so small that they can come through ordinary screens (finer mesh is available but is not at all what you would want in your home), and they can come through open doors, etc. As already explained, they can also come into your growing area on plant material and on your person.

The only advice I have been able to glean on this subject is to be as careful as you can, isolate or spray all new plants and plants that have been out of the growing area, until you are sure that they are not carrying any freeloaders. Though screens will not exclude all thrips, they may discourage some.

The other real protection is the vigilance of the grower. It is important to look at the plants regularly and see the infestation when in an early stage.

Numerous suggestions have been made to me for deterrents. Most of them will do no harm so you might want to try them, but I can give no guarantee of any effectiveness at all.

- Hanging sticky yellow fly traps near your violets. These probably won't catch enough thrips to prevent or arrest an infestation, but are great to indicate whether thrips are present. Check the traps regularly.

- Burning mosquito coils.
- Placing tablets of camphor, naphthalene, or bathroom deodorizer among the plants.
- Spraying doorways, windows, ventilators, and all screens with surface spray.
- Hanging mini-pest strips among your plants (avoid breathing fumes especially in an enclosed area).

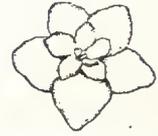
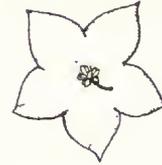
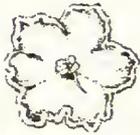
### The Future

I have not gathered all this information in order to frighten you from ever growing African violets. That would

certainly not be my aim. And yet, in a sense, I am trying to frighten you - just enough to alert you to the danger. Once aware of it, we will be able to deal with it much better.

But remember, it will be an ongoing fight. We will need to watch for the earliest signs of thrips on our plants. If they are dealt with early, it is probable that they will be easier to get rid of than if we wait until they become established.

From *The African Violet*, Official Journal of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.



## Watering Methods

What watering method do you use? There are almost as many methods as there are growers. These are the most popular methods.

1. Wick watering - This method calls for a "wick" to extend from the pot plant soil into reservoir of water. The reservoir usually contains a weak solution of fertilizer and water with an algae retardant. The reservoir can be an individual container or a tray in which more than one plant "wick" form a platform above the water. The wick is usually a strip of nylon hosiery, a length of nylon twine, or knitting yarn. Cotton materials are not acceptable because they rot. This is a good method for a beginning grower or someone with many plants, as the plant can usually be left unattended for a week or more.
2. Capillary matting - A method where a mat of some type, carpet padding, blanket material, or material sold especially for this purpose is saturated with water, and the pot with a wick sits in direct contact with the mat. Perfectly flat bottom pots can be used without a wick if the bottom of the pot and the soil are in contact with the mat. This method increases the humidity around the plant and works well with young starter plants. The downside is the same with capillary watering as with the community wicking trays. Pests and disease can spread quickly from plant to plant.
3. Top watering - the all time stand-by watering method. Pour water into the soil from above, making sure that the crown on the plant doesn't get wet. Allow the water to drain through, and after about 30 minutes, pour off any

water remaining in the tray. Never let a violet stand in water.

4. Bottom watering - this method protects the crown from water damage but can cause an accumulation of fertilizer salts on the top of the soil. Pour water into a saucer, and after 30 minutes, pour out any the plant did not absorb. The fertilizer strength is greater in the water used in the top and bottom watering methods than in the wicking method.
5. Texas Potting Method - this is a method of potting made popular by a Texas grower where the bottom section of the pot is filled with perlite, holes are punched in the bottom and sides of the pot just above the perlite level, and the pot is then placed in a tray of water. The water level should come up over the bottom holes in the pot. Some writers say pour off any water the plants don't absorb, and others say to leave the water level to go down as the plants use the water. When the tray is dry and the top of the soil feels dry, the water with fertilizer added is replenished.
6. Self-watering pots - the name tells the tale. The pot has a compartment for water beneath the rootball. A section of the pot is filled with perlite, the water seeps into the perlite level, and the roots drink from that. Several types of pots are available, and you will need to see what works best for you if you are interested.

From the Newsletter of the Victoria, TX, AVS

# PROPAGATION BY BLOOM STALK

by Mary Walbrick

Have you ever used a bloom stalk for propagation? If you have not, give it a try the next time you are putting down leaves. It is easy to do, and requires no special equipment.

This method is excellent, with many hobbyists reporting great success with reproducing chimeras and fantasies. Some of the benefits for using bloom stalks are: you don't ruin the symmetry of your plant when you take a leaf for propagation, you need less room for propagation, and you are using plant material that is usually discarded.

When you are ready to begin this project, first gather the materials you normally use for propagation with a leaf. To save space in the propagation box, you can plant four or more stalks to a container.

When searching for bloom stalks, keep these things in mind. Choose varieties that have large bracts and are heavily marked with the desired traits and coloration. The stalk should be fresh and mature. A mature bloom best exhibits its characteristics. Variegated plants with very light bracts will not root, and miniatures have such small bracts they are not recommended for this technique. Occasionally, the plantlets will not bloom true.

Be sure you use a sharp razor blade or knife to make a diagonal cut about one inch below the bract. Carefully, remove all buds and blooms as close to the bracts as possible. I allow my cuts to dry for 10-15 minutes. A small amount of rooting hormone can be used.

You are now ready to plant the stalk. Lightly moisten the soil with fertilizer water, and then place the stalk into the soil. Cover the container with a plastic bag or clear cover to maintain a slightly moist atmosphere.

You are now ready to put the prepared bloom stalks on the shelf and wait for results. They should be placed about 10-12 inches under fluorescent lights for eight to ten hours per day. The development time of the new growth will vary. It can range from 4-12 weeks before you see tiny leaves start to form in the middle of the bract.

When the plantlets are about 1-1/2 inches to 2 inches across, harden off, and plant in your regular soil. Now that my prop box is full of bloom stems, I wonder if this method will work on some of the other gesneriads?

From the Lonestar AV Council Newsletter



## AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger  
Affiliate Committee

7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506  
email: Promers22@hotmail.com



**Congratulations and welcome to new affiliates in  
Massachusetts and Washington:**

**Patriots African Violet Club**  
President: Eleanor MacIver  
P.O. Box 2073  
Littleton, MA 01460-3073

**Eastern Washington African Violet Society**  
President: Ellen Lyman  
31741 N. Chipmunk Road  
Chattaroy, WA 99003  
Lyman@povn.com

**The Violet Voice (Internet Club)**  
President: Debbie Stout  
Funandfancyflowers@hotmail.com

**New clubs are organizing in Florida and New Jersey:**

**Space Coast African Violet Club**

Contact: Marian Roth  
321-724-9277

gametviolet@yahoo.com

First Saturday each month, 2:00-3:00

Melbourne Library  
540 E Fee Ave  
Melbourne, FL

Donna Gendusa  
2723 Leamings Mill Road  
Millville, New Jersey 08332  
856-825-8648  
oldpaint421@hotmail.com

# How Many Ways?

by Betty Tapping

For whatever reason, for yourself, your club's monthly sales table, or for a friend, you want to ensure that your method of propagating gesneriads is successful. Some methods are specific to a plant type (rhizomatous, tuberous, fibrous rooted) while others apply to many genera, regardless of root structure.

**Culture** - It goes without saying that the success of any method requires close attention to individual growing environments, such as humidity, warmth, light, etc. The level of humidity may be raised by enclosing the specimen you wish to root in a clear plastic bag or sweater box. This is especially critical when dealing with fragile plants such as *Gesneria*. Even those that are less demanding should have relatively high humidity.

Temperatures should ideally be 21-24° C. (70-75° F.). Cool temperatures result in slow growth while high temperatures cause problems with rotting and a spindly growth pattern. Good light is essential for plant health and growth. Fluorescent lighting provides an adequate substitute for daylight when hobbyists do not have the luxury of a greenhouse to provide ideal lighting.

**Fibrous Rooted Genera** - Remember that these methods also apply to rhizomatous and tuberous genera.

**Single Leaf** - Propagation by a single *Saintpaulia* leaf is a familiar one. Select a leaf in good condition. Cut the petiole one inch in length at a 45° angle, and plant in a starter mix; cover with a plastic bag to maintain humidity. Roots and plantlets will form around the end of the outer layer of the

stem. The yield by this method is variable, resulting in two or more plantlets depending on the species or hybrid. Allow the plantlets to reach the size of an inch in diameter before trans-

planting. The clump of plantlets can then be carefully divided to avoid damaging the delicate roots and placed in individual pots.

**Leaf Wedges** - Remove a healthy leaf and cut it into sections. Using a sharp razor blade, trim a leaf into small



*Chirita* leaf cut in wedges, ready to place in starter mix.

shaped pieces following the contour of the main ribs. You should get at least three sections from a small leaf or five on a large leaf like *Chirita sinensis*. Each section can then be handled as a single leaf. Insert the leaf sections point down in the rooting medium.

**Leaf Halves** - This is commonly the method used for *Streptocarpus* but is also applicable to many other genera. After removing the mid vein of a leaf using a razor blade, the half sections are placed on a starter mix so that the cut part is buried one quarter inch. Firm



Halved *Streptocarpus* leaf with plantlets at each rib.

contact with the mix is important so toothpicks may be needed to hold down the leaf. Plantlets will form at the ribs.

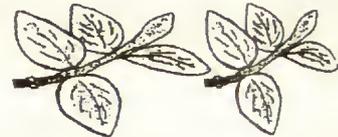
**Leaf Pairs** - This is primarily used for epiphytes which have a space between each leaf pair (the internode). The stem is cut between each leaf pair and placed in a starter mix.



In leaf pair propagation plantlets form at the nodes.

A plantlet will form where the petiole joins the stem (the node). Leaf pairs seem to work for just about everything as long as the leaf is attached to the stem. Plantlets form in a shorter time than with the single leaf method.

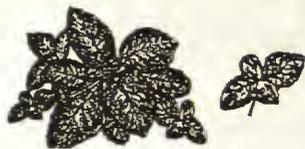
**Tip Cuttings** - *Nematanthus*, *Aeschynanthus*, and *Columnnea*, etc., are easily started from tip cuttings. Cut a section of stem and remove the lower leaves before inserting the cuttings in starter mix. Roots form at the axils where leaves were removed. It is best to pinch out the tip of the cutting to encourage branching for fuller plants.



Tip cuttings with lower leaves removed are ready to plant.

**Suckers** - A sucker may be an underground shoot originating from the mother plant. Some gesneriads, such as *Gloxinia*, are constantly sending out suckers. It is not unusual for a shoot to emerge through the drain hole of a pot. These shoots have roots and often a small enough rhizome that they can be removed and repotted with very little transplant shock. Other suckers start in leaf axils and may be removed and rooted. *Saintpaulia* is an example.

**Stolons** - *Episcia* and *Alsobia* grow stolons, making them the easiest plant from which to procure new stock. Simply remove a stolon and set in starter mix. No problem here!



*Episcia stolon removed from the mother plant is ready to plant.*

**Rhizomes** - The scaly rhizome found in some gesneriads is a modified stem functioning as food storage for the plant. Most rhizomes require a dormancy period which corresponds to the dry season in nature. The size of a rhizome can vary greatly from the small *Koellikeria* to the large *Kohleria*. It is possible to encourage production of rhizomes by reducing water, light, and temperature. The plant then increases production before going dormant (to survive the dry season



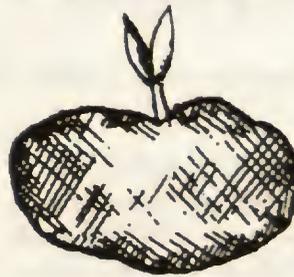
*To multiply rhizomatous material, move rhizomes from soil and roots and plant in fresh soil, or break into individual scales and plant.*

**Note:** A rhizome may also be divided into individual scales, each of which will form a new plant.

**Aerial Propagules** - Propagules are green compared to the lighter coloration of the larger underground rhizomes. The long aerial propagules seen on plants like *Gloxinia* 'Medea' or *Gloxinia sylvatica* are a sign that a plant is going dormant. You can not stop this process once it has started. Formation of a propagule is the result of stress and is quite common in *Gloxinia* and *Achimenes*.

**Tubers** - *Sinningias* allow you to quickly build up a stock large enough to share with friends if you practice several propagation methods at the same time. Cut off the crown and plant it in starter mix, then root the lower leaves individually.

Leave the old tuber in the original pot, remove some of the top soil, and replace it with fresh. Soon several new crowns



*When a Sinningia tuber shows signs of new growth, pot it up and place it in good light.*

will appear. Each of these can again be removed and used to start even more plants. Often the tubers will send up more than one shoot of new growth. Let these grow to about 1/2 inch in height, then remove all but the best shoot, cutting them off as close to the tuber as possible. By letting all of the

plant's strength concentrate on one crown, the result will be a beautiful plant with strong foliage. The crowns you remove will manufacture tubers of their own. Place them in moist soil or moist sphagnum moss, and provide good humidity, warmth, and light to propagate them.

Disbudding *Sinningias* (not allowing them to bloom) will cause them to grow extra crowns. These can be removed and rooted in a mixture of 1/2 perlite and 1/2 vermiculite, a light starter mix, or moist sphagnum. Rooting these extra crowns in a covered sweater box is an excellent way to reproduce plants that either don't produce seed or don't come true from seed. Single *Sinningia* leaves can also be used to start new plants using the same method you use for *Saintpaulia* or *Streptocarpus* leaves. Other than *Sinningia*, *Chrysothemis*, and *Nautilocalyx* are the tuberous gesneriads available.

**Seeds** - All gesneriads are easily grown from seed whether it is from your own collection, acquired from friends, or purchased seed. Please remember that AGGS (The American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society) has a seed fund. Growing from seed would be a whole article in itself.

**Have you kept count?** There are still a few methods I haven't mentioned. Take your pick of these, the easiest by which we may propagate gesneriads for sales tables, auctions, sharing, or show, and enjoy every new plant!

*Originally published in the February 1994 issue of the Toronto Gesneriad Society Newsletter.*



Luck O'  
The  
Irish



# ROOT PRUNING

by Joan Halford

From her book *Growing African Violets in South Africa*

Flowers are produced on slender supports we call peduncles. A plant in vigorous growth will form a new leaf every few days, and above each new petiole a tiny flower bud should appear; this will be the terminal bud of the group of buds on the peduncle. In some varieties, two peduncles accompany each leaf. As the peduncles develop, the buds increase in size and are lifted above the leaves; they begin to open in five to six weeks.

The rate of growth of African violets varies according to the conditions under which they are grown but also according to each plant's individual ability to respond to ideal conditions. Optimum cultural needs of these plants are well understood and have been discussed. However, even if optimum conditions exist, plants sometimes refuse to respond with rapid growth, and when growth is slow, few peduncles are formed. Sometimes an African violet will practically stop growing and for months remain virtually inactive although healthy in appearance. If left untreated, such a plant generally gets worse. Not only is flower production poor, but those young leaves which are produced fail to attain their normal full size. Later, the stem usually bends over sideways, causing distortion of the rosette shape and perhaps allowing the bare stem to show. It is common to see plants in this condition. Although we may not fully understand why our plants behave in this way, an effective treatment is available. Such plants usually respond to pruning of their root systems.

To root prune your plant you will need, in addition to your usual repotting tools, a pair of small scissors, preferably made of stainless steel. If you can, choose a time when the soil in the pot is fairly dry. Remove the plant from the pot. First, inspect the roots and the soil. Healthy roots are light in color with fuzzy root hairs. If the roots are dark and seem fragile, or if you see other evidence of soil-dwelling parasites, this plant should not be merely repotted; it needs to be completely re-rooted. Cut away the entire root system, leaving a short stem. Take the plant to the kitchen sink and clean it in warm running water, as warm as your hands can stand. Scrape and pare the stem thoroughly to remove all dark tissue, as this scraping and washing in plenty of warm water will free the plant of most microscopic parasites, such as nematodes. Set in a bottle of water. Unless your plant was very sick, it will promptly grow a new, clean set of roots. When the roots are well developed, transfer it to your rooting medium and later into your potting mix.

If your plant's root system looks healthy, proceed to cut away part of the roots with the scissors. Begin by cutting off the bottom one third to one half of the root mass. The stem may even extend down into that portion. If so, do not worry, just cut down through it cleanly. It needs no special treat-

ment. Now use the scissors to reduce the diameter of the remaining rootball. This can be done as conservatively or as extensively as you wish. I give a good haircut! When you have finished, take a good look at your plant's leaves. This is the time to remove any that are yellowed or blemished or that spoil the rosette in some way. If the plant has an abundance of healthy mature leaves, you may decide to remove part or all of the outermost ring, to keep it down to a reasonable size.

Put your plant aside, propped up in an empty pot to hold it upright, while you prepare a clean pot. You can usually use the same size pot that you used before, but it must be clean. Cover the bottom with a loose layer of your drainage material, perlite/gravel. This will ensure that you have perfect drainage and good aeration to keep the new root system healthy. Set the plant in place over this. It will be deeper in the pot than it was before.

The petioles of the outer leaves should just touch or be very near to the pot rim. Fill in with moist, fresh potting mix, packing gently but firmly enough to keep the plant centered and upright. Water sparingly at first.

Because of the remarkable ability of the stem to produce roots, within just a few days new roots will begin to grow out into the moist potting mix. As they do so, the entire plant seems to receive an infusion of new vigor. The little center leaves will show up a brighter green color; soon you may notice that the young leaves are growing larger than the older ones just below them and are appearing at a much faster rate. After a few weeks, looking closely among the petioles, you may see tiny flower buds appearing.

If the idea of cutting away large parts of a plant's root system seems extreme or radical to you, try it first with just one or two small plants and watch the results. When comfortable with the procedure, you may then decide to do it routinely with all your plants. Those that are in bloom already need not be treated any differently. They should go right on blooming serenely and will probably increase flower production. For large show-type plants, the pruning should probably be done more conservatively; also for a trailer, this method should be modified so that the plant will be reset at the same depth as it was before.

The beneficial effect of root pruning lasts until the pot is again filled with roots, perhaps after four to six months. Then growth may slow down again. By following this procedure and root pruning every four to six months, you can keep your plants youthful and floriferous. They will not have ugly bare stems showing, they will have less tendency to fall over sideways, and they will produce fewer suckers. This procedure of root pruning is routine when planting out baby plants in my greenhouse.

# Disbudding *Streptocarpus* for Show

by Dale Martens

Do you want a great *Streptocarpus* show plant? Try disbudding! When I say "disbudding", I mean take a pair of tweezers and remove the newly forming bud as soon as you can get a good grip on it. When you disbud African violets, the plant focuses its energy on making leaves. That's exactly what happens when streps are disbudded. The strep will begin producing new leaves within a few weeks of consistent disbudding. We all know that a young strep with smallish leaves will produce only one to three flowers per peduncle. Streps will grow to their maximum leaf size faster when the plant is disbudded. A larger leaf will produce the maximum number of flowers genetically possible for that particular *Streptocarpus*, which may be as many as 5 to 12 flowers per peduncle. Therefore, the larger the leaf, the more flowers will be blooming for show time.

About 4-1/2 months before a show, I take a young, root-bound strep of good size that's in a solo cup or 2-1/2 inch pot and put the strep into the pot it'll be in for show which is usually a 4 inch azalea pot. I don't disturb the root system at all. If your strep is already mature and the show is 4-1/2 months away, remove most of the mature leaves that have bloomed, leaving a 1 inch stub at the base, and repot it in fresh soil. I begin disbudding immediately after repotting. I'll continue to disbud for nine weeks. That gives the strep nine additional

weeks to bud and bloom for show. Streps bloom better when pot bound, so 4 1/2 months gives them quite a while to fill the pot with roots.

A *Streptocarpus* is genetically programmed to produce about 7 or so flower stalks (peduncles). Disbudding will not produce more flower stalks. If you are disbudding the last 2 flower stalks from a strep leaf, you are not likely to get any more flowers from that leaf. You leave the one inch stub on that older leaf because it will help produce new leaves. Your goal is to have a lot of leaves in that pot. The more leaves you have in a pot, the more flower stalks per pot!

*Streptocarpus* plants are as individual as children, so one strep will respond significantly to disbudding, and another may not show as much enthusiasm. I grow on plant stands and keep my lights on 12 hours per day, never increasing or decreasing the length of time. I fertilize with a variety of fertilizers at the rate of 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water, but I do use a high nitrogen fertilizer at least once a month to help promote leaf growth. This does not make my variegated streps turn green. Disbud a few of your *Streptocarpus* plants and see what happens in your conditions.

From *African Violet and Gesneriad News*

## Membership Application

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Individual Membership USA (\$25.00)
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- International Associate (\$11.50-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- Commercial USA (\$37.00)
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- Affiliated Chapter USA (\$27.00)
- Affiliated Chapter International (\$29.50)
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# Is Your Membership in Drive or Reverse?

by Carolee Carter

How geared up has your affiliate been this last year? Have you gained or lost members? I gave you a lot of tips in the Sept/Oct 2002 issue of *African Violet Magazine*. Have you put them into action?

The AVSA Membership Committee has been working diligently to greet every new member to AVSA by either e-mail or snail mail, and I believe that this personal effort has made a good first impression to our wonderful organization. After all, first impressions are lasting impressions. Some of us have had time to also notify individual affiliates in their states of the names of those who have joined AVSA so that they are able to invite them to their shows and meetings.

Earlier this year, our committee took time to analyze what was important to our membership through not only our wonderful magazine – *African Violet* – but also through the invaluable services that our AVSA website and headquarters office can provide. The results were startling, and when we meet in Tucson in April, your AVSA Board will be discussing ways in which to attract new members as well as keep our current ones. We seem to be doing a great job getting new members, but keeping members is where we now need to direct our focus.

There are three requests I'd like to make: The first is to ensure that all of your affiliate members are also members of AVSA. It's only through our membership dues that AVSA is

able to provide you with this brilliant magazine you are now reading, all of the wonderful services through the library, the research, the website that contains a wealth of information, the office staff for personal assistance, and many other services that help your affiliate grow. Don't take us for granted! Yes, the website is now free to anyone who enters it, but the work involved in keeping it up-to-date and exciting takes both time and money.

Second, please, please write or e-mail me ([carolee37@earthlink.net](mailto:carolee37@earthlink.net)) with any suggestions you would like to share with the Membership Committee and the Board to encourage members to renew not only their AVSA membership but also with their local affiliate. The more ideas that can stimulate our minds, the more solutions we can share with you and your affiliates and the stronger we will all be for the effort. (My snail mail address is on the inside cover of this magazine.)

Last, there are some key states where our Committee could definitely use some greeting help: Alabama, Arizona, Southern California, Georgia, Ohio, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North & South Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington. It would involve contacting no more than a half-dozen new members per month. What better way to add potential new members into your local affiliate and help AVSA too! Please write or e-mail me if you live in any of these states and would like to help keep AVSA – and your own affiliate – in Drive.

## To Show - Know Your Plant!

1. Have you observed this particular variety of plant from the time it is a baby plantlet just separated from its motherleaf until it is about a year old? This is useful in having an overall idea of what to expect from your show hopeful. For example, you can determine if the plant is blooming true to variety and how long it takes to come into full bloom.
2. Does it have a symmetrical growth habit, or do the leaves tend to grow in an irregular pattern? Since the symmetry of the plant can count for 30 percent of its points when being judged, this is the element that should be given careful consideration.
3. Does the plant grow fast or slow compared to others? If you want a big plant, the faster grower is more likely to produce it in less than a year provided it does so in an orderly manner and does not become gangly with long petioles and small leaves.
4. Is the flowering habit prolific or sparse? The more prolific bloomers are the varieties to be chosen, especially if they have good, symmetrical foliage as well.
5. Are the flower pedicels sturdy, standing up above the foliage? Heavy heads of bloom can cause weak stalks to
6. allow the flowers to lie on the foliage, and dead blooms will damage the foliage.
7. Can you determine if the flowering nodes produce more than one stem? If more than one stem appears from the axil of leaf and main stem, this is a definite asset when attempting to produce a huge bouquet of blossoms.
8. If the African violet is a trailer, does it consistently produce more than three branches? If not, you may wish to force it to branch by removing the four center leaves of the first crown to appear.
9. If the plant is a miniature, does it occasionally produce a row of larger leaves? A change in the growing environment, including changing fertilizers, can sometimes produce this larger row. It means that this particular variety may need to have a very stable set of growing conditions.

There are probably other questions you could ask about why your particular plant does certain things, but these are the basic things to look for when starting to select possible show entries.

*Saintpaulia International News*

MARCH • APRIL 2004

# Sunday Morning Friends

by Leonard Re  
Fountain Valley, CA

I have been growing African violets for over twenty-two years, and during that time, I have also had several pooch pals. The pooches (Muffin, Blueberry, and Holly) have all been of questionable ancestry. Mixed breeds with no known lineage, no AKC (American Kennel Club) registration, and no registration numbers. On the other hand, all my African violets have known lineage, are registered with AVSA, and have their registration numbers. This has been a wonderful combination. Like the African violets, the pooches were never fussy. Just give them some water, food, and attention, and nature took care of the rest.

My first two pooches, Muffin and Blueberry, never showed any interest in the violets. Back then, they were window grown "no name" violets. After moving into our current home in the mid 70's, we ended up with a surplus of bedrooms. In 1981, I attended my first AV show and discovered AVSA and its affiliate clubs. In 1985, LA hosted the National Convention so I bought my first of three light stands and finally found a use for those surplus rooms. Soon, my "no name" plants disappeared as I acquired the "purebred" plants to be shown at National. Luckily, Muffin and Blueberry continued to show no interest in the AV's. Several plants made it to National, and I won my first blue ribbon with 'Hortense's Phala'!

In 1991 both Muffin and Blueberry passed away at the ripe old ages of 17 and 16 respectively. That was also the year I won my first Best in Show with 'The King'. In 1992 I paid a visit to our local animal shelter and found 'Daisy Mae'. I wanted to rename her, and one of my coworkers suggested Holly as we got her in December. Unlike the other two pooches, Holly showed some interest in the African violets, but she never touched them ...just a quick sniff around the plants on the lower shelves. Luckily, the following year, I finally won my first AVSA Standard Collection with 'The King', 'Marshlands', and 'Splendeferious', so I knew we would get along just fine!

One of our household traditions, from our very early dating days, was going out to Sunday morning breakfast with my

wife Elaine. After Holly came along, she too wanted Sunday breakfast, so we always brought her home some ham and eggs. Then, while Holly ate, I would get a cup of coffee and read the Sunday paper, and after an hour or so head up to the plant room. Holly would always come up, lay under the table, and watch while I watered, disbudded, and repotted my plants. Once in a while, I would go downstairs to wash pots or get supplies, and if I wasn't back up in a few minutes, down she would come. Holly knew that after I was finished taking care of the plants, it was her turn! When she was younger, we would always go for a walk in the park so she check out the birds, rabbits, and squirrels. As she got older, and the walking became harder, I would put her in the front seat of the car and drive her down to the beach (remember the movie Driving Miss Daisy?) where she could see the shore birds, the squirrels running up the trees, and, or course, other dogs. Then, we'd both come home and fall fast asleep until dinner time!

This past Sunday, one of my "Sunday Morning Friends" was missing. Elaine and I went to breakfast, but no ham and eggs came home. I had my coffee and read the Sunday paper. However, when I went to the plant room there was no Holly. The previous Wednesday I had to have Holly put to sleep. She was 13, and had suffered a short illness. Like Muffin and Blueberry, I had her cremated so I could bury her ashes in our garden. On Friday, her vet had sent us a real nice planter with some pretty flowers in it and a nice condolence card. On Sunday, while I was in the plant room, I came across an extra plant of 'Ms. Pretty'. As it was a very nice sunny day, I decided to bury her ashes, collar, and ball. I put the vet's planter over the spot where I had buried her, and put the extra plant of 'Ms. Pretty' inside the planter. And 'Miss Holly' sure was 'Ms. Pretty', with her jet black fur, big brown eyes, and one small white patch on her chest.

As I write this, it is again December and our spring shows are right around the corner. Soon I will be making a trip to the animal shelter to find another pooch pal, and then I will have all my 'Sunday Morning Friends' back together, and I'll hopefully win a few more blue ribbons!



# “Strictly Streps”

by Carolyn Conlin-Lane

General Information: *Streptocarpus* is a large genus native to South Africa (about one third of all of the known species are indigenous to South Africa) and Madagascar. Some of the rosette species were discovered inhabiting wooded ravines and valleys in the Drakensburg mountains of Southern Africa. Streps tend to limit themselves to shaded areas which have dry winters and rainy summers. *Streptocarpus* means “twisted fruit” (i.e. seed pod). The first to be brought to North America was *S. rexii* in 1826. The first modern hybrid was called ‘Constant Nymph’, produced at the John Innes Institute in 1946.

## Two Main Divisions:

### Subgenus *Streptocarpus*:

The rosette form has strap-like leaves growing from a (usually) irregular rosette with several leaves emerging directly from the ground. It is predominately perennial. The unifoliate form has a single leaf. Unifoliate usually die after a single flowering, and it may take several years to reach the flowering stage.

### Subgenus *Streptocarpella*:

This subgenus is a hanging basket type plant, perennial or annual.

Sizes range from the very tiny *S. cyanandrus* and *S. pumilis*, both high humidity lovers, to the massive *S. cooperi* with a single leaf measuring nearly two feet long

**Cultural Requirements for the rosette type** are very similar to African violets. They prefer cooler temperatures and tend to do poorly during hot weather. Reduce the light hours to compensate. They enjoy the bottom shelf of the light stand.

### Repotting

In general, Streps flower better when slightly pot-bound. Streps require an open, well-drained medium. Streps can be planted in a wide variety of different sized pots, and a single crown or multiple crown growth habit can be encouraged. Root restriction (2.5 inch pot) and reduction to a single crown will help to keep compact plants small. It is important not to repot the plant lower into the pot than it currently is. If you do this, you will end up with rot on the newest growth (the whole leaf or just the tips). If you surround the roots with 1/2 inch of fine vermiculite or perlite, this will help to keep the soil from touching the leaves (Note: this technique is also good when you have a plant of any kind with a limited root system, as it encourages the growth of roots). It is possible to repot into the same size pot if the new leaves are still some way from the pot's edge.

Remove any loose potting mix. It may be necessary to cut some of the roots from the bottom of the root ball (as you do when potting down an African violet with a neck). Then put the plant back into the same pot with some fresh potting mix at the bottom and up the sides. When repotting, be sure to remove all the older leaves (e.g. those that have had six or more blossom stems) and any that are damaged (minor damage can be groomed away).

### Watering

Streps can tolerate short periods of drought very well, although a severe wilting can cause damage to the leaves. I usually water when the plants have just started to wilt, watering from the bottom, taking care not to leave the plant sitting in water for longer than an hour or two. Leaching is important to help eliminate salty buildup. If you are planning to show a strep, repot it far enough in advance of the show so that it can get pot bound enough to produce a good display of blooms, at least 5 months.

### Grooming

Flower stems should be removed from the base once the blooms are finished; take care not to damage emerging bloom stalks. Once the last bloom stalk has finished blooming, the entire leaf can be removed, although you may want to keep it for a while if it improves the appearance of the plant. Leaves continually grow from the base and eventually will start to die off at the end. This brown part can be trimmed off. Disbudding can be used to improve the appearance of the foliage. This is especially true for heavier blooming hybrids that will often simply produce flowers at the expense of leaves. A disbudding period of 6 to 8 weeks has proven successful for some exhibitors. In some plants, disbudding can increase the number of blooms per stalk; however, it does not appear to increase the number of stems. (A leaf will produce a finite number of these and then stop.) When exhibiting, I like to use a top dressing of fine New Zealand sphagnum as this improves the appearance of the soil which is often quite noticeable on a Strep, especially a single crown specimen.

## Propagation

**By Crown:** Pull the plant apart and pot up each crown separately.

**By Leaf:** I use African violet leaf starter mix (vermiculite, perlite, and charcoal). Cut off the lower portion of the leaf (the stem end), leaving one to one and a half inches of leaf. Pot up as you would an African violet leaf cutting. Using the remaining leaf, cut out the mid-vein and cut the remaining leaf pieces into one inch long segments. Make a small trough

in the mix, and place the long cut edge of the leaf into it; firm up the mix. Keep the media moist at all times but never wet. I usually keep the pots in a covered tray until the developing plantlets are ready to be transplanted.

**By Seed:** (This section includes advice from Dale Martens and Chris Rose.) Seed is available from the AGGS seed fund, or from your own hybridizing efforts. The seed is very fine - approximately 35,000 seeds per gram! Be very careful not to sneeze while handling your seed. I like to use 2 1/2 inch square pots, as these fit nicely into the covered propagation trays that you can buy at the garden center. The required number of pots should be prepared with pre-moistened mix and then labeled. I use the leaf starter mix together with some of the African violet soil mix.

Seeds should be sown thinly on the surface of the mix. You can use a small piece of stiff white paper folded once down the middle to sow the seed. The seed can be placed into the groove of the paper and can then be dispensed slowly by tapping on the paper and moving it simultaneously. Use a fresh piece of paper for each batch of seed. Do not cover the seed with your potting mix. Cover the pot(s) with plastic and keep warm and moist until germination occurs. The heat from a light stand is fine.

It is a good idea to remove the droplets of condensed water from the seed tray cover regularly. This will help to avoid large drops building up and then crashing down onto the tiny seedlings. You should start to remove the covering once the leaves are about 1-1 1/2 inches long. Prop it open for a few days before completely removing it. Some people remove the covering as soon as the seeds start to germinate, but I have had more success with leaving them covered as it lessens the need to water. It is essential that you do not allow the pots to dry out. If watering is required, early watering is best done with a mister.

Young seedlings seem to grow faster when their roots get jiggled. Conversely, if you lack space, seedlings can be held for a long time in their original community pot. As early as three to four weeks after sowing, young seedlings can be "pricked" out of the seed tray and transplanted into individual pots (2 1/4" or 2 1/2") or community pots. These young

seedlings are typically characterized by one large single leaf. When to do this is very much a matter of personal judgment. Dale tends to do this quite early, while Chris prefers to wait up to six months. I tend to procrastinate, most often due to space limitations.

If you are evaluating a new hybrid, you can continue to use the small square pots and crowd the resulting plants into a plastic tray. The leaves should be kept trimmed in order to allow all of the plants access to adequate light.

**Hybridizing** is not as far advanced as African violet hybridizing.

### Making a cross

Select a flower to be used for pollen (one that has been open for several days) and remove it. Cut open the tube at each side then peel back and remove the upper part of the flower. Pull apart the anthers, dumping the pollen onto the tube. The pollen is easily freed up unlike African violet pollen.

The receiving flower should be prepared to receive the pollen. If the male parts are in front of the stigma, the whole corolla can be carefully pulled off. If the stigma is nearer the front, I usually just make a cut down one side of the flower and then cut around to remove most of the flower (taking care to avoid any action that could result in self-pollination). From there, I like to load up a flat toothpick with the pollen and then apply it to the pistil of the receiving flower. The resulting cross needs to be tagged. Include the date and the name of the father.

If the cross has taken, the pistil should start to elongate (to 2X the original length, or more) and twist within three to four days. Ripening time is 8-12 weeks. When the pod is nearly ready, you will notice that the seam will become more prominent. Gradually, this seam will begin to split and untwist so that the seeds will spill out. You want to harvest the pod before it splits. If portions of the pod are still green, allow it to dry out before opening the pod and harvesting the seed. Some pods will produce an abundance of seeds and others only a few.

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada



# AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

## AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

### Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 1st	Jul/Aug issue	May 1st
May/Apr issue	Jan 1st	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 1st
May/June issue	Mar 1st	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 1st

**Mechanicals & Rates:** One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

### REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE - 3 5/16 IN WIDE	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

*Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.*

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. **NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

### INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any current advertiser or commercial member in good standing may have his/her business listed on the AVSA Web Page Vendor List and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

**Commercial Membership** - \$32.00 per year (USA) \$33.75 per year (International). Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. **NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION.** If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

### VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

### Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$15.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$172.50 for ads.

### Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page	Commercial Member	\$475.00
	Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page	Commercial Member	\$595.00
	Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

### Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

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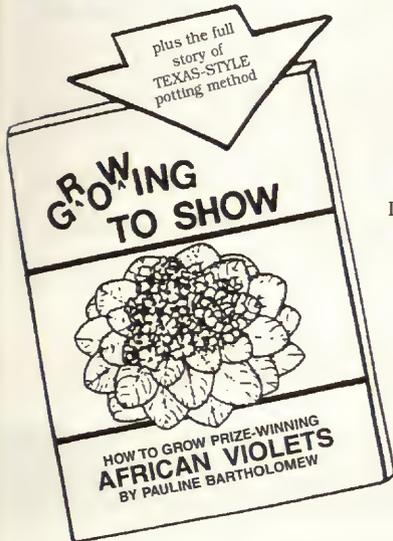
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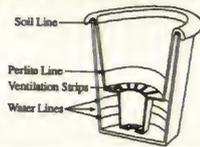
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