

Updates for 2022 Edition of AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges
Updates as of 11/01/2024

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Violet Magazine beginning with the November/December 2023 issue. If you have an old hard copy form you have been using to send in the show winners by mail, you will want to download and print a new one from www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org so the 2nd Best in Show will be reported. Sign in as a member, click on Leaders, then AVSA Shows and Judges, Shows and finally Affiliate Show Awards Report. You can choose to send the completed form electronically or print a hard copy to mail.

Please note that an Unusual or Novelty African violet class is no longer permitted as a class in shows. Likewise, a separate class for windowsill-grown plants will not be allowed in an AVSA-sponsored show. If an affiliate wishes to include any of these, it is recommended these classes be placed after the Educational/AVSA Display. Although it may still be judged, the blue ribbons should not be counted on the SSA sheet, nor should these plants be eligible for special awards.

It is highly recommended that the panel judging collections refrain from tying scores on violets in a collection. By doing so, the final panel is left in a predicament. Even if plant scores are one-tenth apart, at least there is a difference. All final panel members should review the collection sheet scores when choosing plants for the awards table. A point score may easily be misread by a single panel member. At the completion of judging, all AVSA Collection Score Sheets should be placed in an envelope along with the SSA form, then the envelope should be sealed. It should then be given to the Show Chair for mailing. As is stated on page 51 of the 2022 *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*, "Any exhibitor who would like to know the exact point-scoring on their own collection entries can write the Schedule Approver to request those results."

Use caution when selecting a container for a dish garden. Some are being used that are too deep and would not be considered a shallow container. If a container is used that the judges deem too deep, the exhibit may have points deducted under relation to container.

Although driftwood may be used effectively in a container garden as an accessory, the highest point in the container garden should be achieved by using plant material. The size of the driftwood in comparison to the other plant material must also be considered. A container garden is a miniature landscape. The exhibitor must be cautious to use a piece of driftwood that is in proportion to the remainder of the plant material. If the driftwood is too large, points would be deducted under landscape plan due to a disproportionate scale.

Handbook Update, page 41

11. An exhibit *may shall* not be altered or removed after judging until the show is closed, except to replace blossoms in a design. (***See page 42, optional rule 9.***)

Handbook Update, page 42, add the following.

9. Depending upon the decision of the affiliate, this optional rule may be added to rule 11 on page 41. A leaf support may be placed on large standard plants if it is displayed on a pedestal on the Awards' Table. This allows heavy leaves to be supported, if needed to prevent petiole damage. The leaf support should not be readily visible.

Handbook Update, page 69

2. All plants shall be planted in the container and no cut plant material shall be permitted unless it is used as an accessory. Height in container gardens should be achieved with plant material and not accessories. Driftwood, branches, and slate/rock are accessories and may be used effectively in the

garden landscape, but not to achieve **overall** height. No bases are allowed in container garden classes and containers may not be placed within other containers.

Following the question-and-answer session at the Judges Breakfast, a PowerPoint of container garden slides showed everyone a

visual of various options for container gardens. A discussion helped educate those who attended. Be sure to add this breakfast to your convention agenda in Phoenix. You may win some raffle tickets or leaves to rare and desirable varieties.



Photo credit: Svetlana Repkina

RS-Pianistka

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: S. Repkina



Shows and Judges

By Mary Corondan

Email: judges@avsa.org

The fall shows have now concluded, and it is time to prepare for spring shows. Be sure to keep affiliate memberships as well as affiliate insurance up to date. A renewal notice is sent to affiliates in the month of November, so look forward to it arriving soon. If other affiliates are participating in a combined show or sale, they should all have a current AVSA affiliate membership as well as their own affiliate insurance. All clubs participating should be mentioned in the show schedule unless it is a council show. In that case, the council would have an affiliate membership and insurance. This ensures there is no question of liability if an unfortunate event should occur at a show or sale.

Encourage those in your club to attend the AVSA convention in Phoenix in 2024. Convention information and registration will be at www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org soon. In addition, a Virtual Circle Zoom program will be presented on January 12 as a sneak preview of the exciting upcoming convention highlights. This will feature our convention leaders: Candace Baldwin, Joyce Stork, Susan Anderson and Bill Patterson. Information about this Virtual Circle meeting is posted on

the website and will also be found in an email coming soon to your inbox. Get the inside scoop!

The Shows and Judges Committee and Executive Committee have approved the following updates to the 2022 *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*.

[Handbook change \(2022 edition\) p.11 \(foot-note\)](#)

Commercial growers are individuals or firms that advertise and sell African violet plants and/or other materials; pay commercial AVSA Membership dues.

[Handbook change, page 74. 1.](#)

~~1. All AVSA commercial members may enter all commercial classes.~~

1. AVSA Commercial members who offer plants or live plant material for sale as a part of a business shall exhibit in the commercial horticulture division of an AVSA Show. AVSA Commercial members who do not offer plants or live plant material for sale as a part of a business shall exhibit in the amateur horticulture division of an AVSA Show.

Happy holidays to you all!



Shows and Judges

By Mary Corondan

Email: judges@avsa.org

At the AVSA Judges Breakfast at the Phoenix convention, a question was asked about including information in the AVSA Judges List on www.africanvioletsofamerica.org stating the judges who are willing to travel to judge, as well as judges who are willing to travel to judge at their own expense. The answer was, "Yes! That can be done." If you are a judge who would be willing to travel, please email me at judges@avsa.org. Be sure to state whether you are willing to travel at your own expense or if you need to be reimbursed. I would like to include your email address so affiliates can easily contact you. You would also consent to listing your email address on the AVSA Judges List on the website.

There were seven judging schools held in 2023. A total of 14 individuals earned their Student Judge certification, nine earned their first Advanced Judge certificate and 10 more took their second or third Advanced Judge exam. Thirty individuals took the Senior Judge exam and 25 Master Judges completed their continuing education course. Master Judge certificates that will become effective October 1, 2024, were earned by 12 Senior Judges. The new Master Judges are Karen Campbell (Nova Scotia), Valerie Despres (Nova Scotia), Kathleen Garbarino (NY), Lorraine Hilfer (OH), Susan Hill (OK), Lee Hoke (NY), Paul Hussa (MN), Penny Moore (NY), B. J. Ohme (NE), Dorothy Raymond (NY), Geneva Stagg (TN) and Carol Tjaden (IA).

This is a reminder that all Student and Advanced Judging certificates will expire on June 15, 2025, unless you took a judging school in 2022 or after and a new certificate was issued. If you received a new certificate in 2022, 2023 or 2024, your updated expiration date will be noted on your new card. Proof of blue ribbons is required at judging schools. If blue ribbons have not yet been earned when taking the judging school, proof of blue ribbons should be presented to your teacher up to one calendar year after passing the judging school exam.

The newly approved revisions for the 2022 edition of the *African Violet Society of America Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* are listed below. Please update your copy accordingly.

Handbook Updates, p. 82

5. Three blue ribbons shall have been earned in AVSA approved (affiliate or convention) shows before taking any judges' examination. These blue ribbons must have been earned between the previous examination and the one currently being taken, except the second senior judges' exam. At least two of the blue ribbons must have been won for specimen African violet plants in the AVSA horticulture division. The third blue ribbon may be earned in the design division or the "other gesneriad" classes **in an AVSA show. Another option is that the third qualifying award may be earned with an African violet plant, "other gesneriad" or design earning 90 points or**

more in an approved Gesneriad Society show. (Note: Due to competitive judging, awards receiving 90 or more points in a Gesneriad Society show do not always receive a blue ribbon.)

Proof of three blue ribbons. For judges' examinations taken at judging schools, entry tags signed by the show or judges' chair must be presented to the teacher. If an award from a Gesneriad Society show is presented, a point-score sheet signed by the show or judges' chair must be shown to the teacher.

For **AVSA** judges' examinations taken by mail, proof of each blue ribbon earned is recorded on a 3" x 5" card, giving the date and theme of the show, name of the sponsor, name of the variety, or title of the design class, and signed by the show or judges' chair. If the awards are from one show, the information may be entered on one card. **EXCEPTION:** Many shows now use the AVSA or Gesneriad Society Show Entries Program which generates a check out sheet for each exhibitor listing all awards earned for each entry. This sheet, if signed by the show or judges chair, may be used in lieu of the method listed above.

7. Show or judges' chairs shall not sign their own entry tags, point score sheets, exhibitor check out sheets, or proof of blue-ribbon cards.

Handbook Updates, page 83,

Student Judges, Requirements

2. Shall present a current AVSA membership card and proof of three blue ribbons to the

teacher before taking the exam. One of the blue ribbons may be from design or from the other gesneriad classes. (See General Rules for Judges, number 5.)

4. A student judge may take a renewal examination any time after the first year his or her student judge certificate is in effect. Three blue ribbons, one of which may be in design or from the "other gesneriad" classes, will be required for the examination. (See General Rules for Judges, number 5.)

Handbook Update, page 83,

Advanced Judges, Requirements

2. Shall present a current AVSA membership card and proof of three blue ribbons to the teacher before taking the exam. One of the blue ribbons may be from design or from the other gesneriad classes. (See General Rules for Judges, number 5.)

Handbook Update, page 83,

Senior Judges, Requirements

4. Shall present proof of three blue ribbons for the first, third, and subsequent senior judge's examinations. Shall present a current AVSA membership card and proof of three blue ribbons to the teacher before taking the exam. One of the blue ribbons may be from design or from the other gesneriad classes. (See General Rules for Judges, number 5.)

Enjoy those fall shows!

Correction: July/August 2024 AVM

The table of contents in the July/August 2024 AVM contained two incorrect plant names. The new varieties hybridized by

S. Covolo-Hudson are Steffano's Dressed Up and Steffano's Glow Up. We apologize for the error.