



Shows and Judges

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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.