



Shows and Judges

By Mary Corondan

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There were six judging schools offered in 2024. Twelve students earned their Student Judge's certificate. There were no new Advanced Judges, and 14 renewed their Advanced Judge certificate.

The Senior Judge's exam was taken by 19 students. There will be six new Master Judges as of October 1, 2025. They are Carol Brown (IL), Michael Jackson (AL), Heidi Dillenbeck (NY), Kathleen Garbarino (NY), Marilyn Heinrich (NY) and Rodney J. Barnett (PA). B.J. Ohme (NE) and Susan Swanson (IA) became Master Judges in 2023 but were not previously announced. The following eight judges are retiring with Master Judge Emeritus status: Gary Beck (CA), Elizabeth Behnke (PA), Vere Short (SC), Ruth Mengsol (WI), Mrs. Kenneth Rutmayer (NY), Kazuko Lyons (PA), John E. (Jack) Wilson (FL) and Jean Marie Ross (FL).

There were 39 shows across six geographic regions in 2024. The SSAA award was earned by 13 shows, the SSA award was given to nine shows and five shows received neither award. No SSA score sheets were received from 12 shows. Six shows were canceled, and one was rescheduled.

Please note that show registration fees will be \$10 effective January 1, 2026. Any shows that take place on January 1, 2026 or after will be assessed the new fee for the SSA packet.

All Student and Advanced Judge certificates that were extended due to the pandemic expired as of June 15, 2025. Only those who have taken a judging school since 2022 have valid certificates. Please check the AVSA Judges List on the AVSA website to verify that your name is listed providing you have attended a judging school since the pandemic. If you should find a discrepancy, please contact me at judges@avsa.org.

If you have Russian/Ukraine hybrids that you would like to have registered, please contact Dr. Jeff Smith at registration@avsa.org. He will follow through on this for you.

Please note that all updates to the 2022 Handbook are found on the AVSA website. Sign in as a member, go to Members Only Content, then Leaders, then click on See Shows & Judges page. Click on Judges and in the lower right-hand corner you will see "Judges' Handbook Updates."

The 2025 revisions for the 2022 edition of the *African Violet Society of America Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* are listed below. These will become effective on November 1, 2025. Please update your copy accordingly.

Handbook Updates

- Page 70, Suitability of materials: Plants should be those that are compatible when grown in the same cultural environment **as in nature**. Therefore, African violet plants

would not be compatible with cacti, **succulents** or similar plants.

•Add to page 88, Guidelines for Selection of Best in Show, 3., at the end of the first paragraph: **The same premise used to choose**

2nd and 3rd Best in Show should apply to selecting the 2nd and 3rd Best Design.

Let the fall shows begin!



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

**DS-Siiaiushchii
Kolokol'chik**

Hybridized by: Dimetris
Grown by: Jerry VandeBerg
Standard