



African Violet

MAGAZINE

Member Profile: Amy Carruth P.22

**Using Sous Vide
Treatment for the Elimination of Cyclamen Mites P.30**

Does Tapping African Violets Stimulate Flowering? P.38

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- **AVSA Office Address:** AVSA, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720
- **Office Manager:** Amy Carruth (844) 400-AVSA (2872); (409) 839-4725; Fax (409) 839-4329.
Email: avsa@earthlink.net.
- Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. CT.
- **Official Correspondence:** AVSA Secretary, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* secretary@avsa.org.

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- **Convention:** Kathy Lahti, Convention Chair. *Email:* convention@avsa.org.
- **2026 Convention:** May 25–31, Renaissance Dallas North, Dallas, Texas.
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- **Convention Programs:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Convention Chair.
- **Convention Awards:** Send suggestions to Terri Post. *Email:* awards@avsa.org. Send contributions to AVSA Office.
- **Commercial Activities, Sales and Exhibits:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Kathy Bell. *Email:* commercials@avsa.org.

Join, renew and learn more at www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org

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African Violet MAGAZINE

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On the Cover:
Rob's Fiddle Fiddle
Hybridized by: R. Robinson
Grown by: Kathy Lahti
Semiminiature
Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky



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African Violet Society of America

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OFFICERS

Glenda Williams, President
email: president@avsa.org

Rich Follett, 1st Vice President
email: firstvp@avsa.org

Richard Craft, 2nd Vice President
email: secondvp@avsa.org

Dr. Minh Bui, 3rd Vice President
email: thirdvp@avsa.org

Randy G. Deutsch, Treasurer
email: treasurer@avsa.org

Sue Ramser, Secretary
email: secretary@avsa.org

Mary Corondan, Immediate Past President
email: pastpresident@avsa.org

AVM COMMITTEES

Jill Jensen, Chair of Editorial Board
email: editorialboard@avsa.org

Richard Craft, Advertising Chair
email: advertising@avsa.org

STAFF

Sophia Bennett, Editor
P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720
email: editor@avsa.org

Shirley Jones, Desktop Publisher
email: desktoppublisher@avsa.org

Amy Carruth, Office Manager
P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720
email: avsa@earthlink.net

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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

By Glenda Williams

Email: president@avsa.org

Spring is fast approaching. It is my favorite time of the year. It is exciting watching my plants get ready to burst forth with blooms and working with new propagations. Spring is all about getting your hands in the soil, repotting and planting new plantlets that show great promise and potential.

Spring is the season for affiliate show and sale events, and 2026 is shaping up to be a great year. Event numbers are increasing, so get your calendars out! Plan to attend and participate wherever possible. Affiliates need your support to keep growing interest and increasing membership at the local level. Refer to page 11 for a list of upcoming events.

The AVSA National Convention, "Violets are Texas Stars" in Houston, Texas, is fast approaching and preparations are underway for a great event. Convention is my favorite event of the year. Get together with your AV friends from around the country and the world to catch up on all the latest happenings. This is the best time to combine vacation and convention travels. Add in great Texas weather, and voila! You have the makings of a wonderful trip to Texas! Convention information and online registration are available on the AVSA website. There will be wonderful AV-related things to see and do. Volunteer convention helpers are always needed and very welcome.

Thanks to everyone who so generously contributed to our annual Booster campaign.

AVSA is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your generous gift provides AVSA with the ability to achieve our mission of promoting African violets through expansive public outreach and education and supporting the daily operations of the society. Consider setting up a recurring monthly, quarterly or annual donation.

The AVSA 2026 calendar is now available. Contact the national office or shop online to purchase one. Calendars make a great gift for AV enthusiasts.

Special thanks to all who contribute subject content and articles for the *AVM*. If there is a topic of special interest to you, send a request for an article on that subject to the *AVM* Editor. Even better, if you are a subject matter expert, write a short article to share your knowledge with our *AVM* readers.

Continue promoting AVSA memberships to everyone interested in AVs. Encourage everyone to pursue their love of AVs and watch young plants mature, displaying full blossom bouquets in varying colors, shades and patterns. Be a mentor to new growers and encourage them to explore their growing skills. Share your knowledge and answer their many questions so they can grow beautiful plants. Most of all, share your plant materials with others so they can experience the joy of growing and showing.



Editor's Notes

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

As I skimmed through the March/April issue of *African Violet Magazine*, the word “winner” kept popping out at me. We have our annual Tally Time compilation, which lists the plants with the highest number of wins at local and regional shows, on page 6. Award recipients from fall and winter shows are on page 9, and we have some of the top design winners from last year’s convention starting on page 46.

If you’re hoping to win more awards this year, turn to page 11, where you can view a long list of shows coming up this spring. I’d also recommend reading the article on page 38 that describes Dr. Jeff Smith’s experiment to see whether an unconventional method for getting plants to bloom — tapping them on a table — actually works.

Not everything is about winning, of course. There are many of us who grow African violets simply for our own enjoyment. But

even that can feel frustrating at times — say, if you’re being plagued by pests. Donna O’Neal wrote a fascinating piece about her attempt to use a sous vide machine (which is typically used for cooking food) to kill cyclamen mites in her collection. Check out her advice for making this process work on page 30.

If you have a few violets that look a little off and are not blooming, it’s possible they’ve become fasciated. Dr. Jeff Smith describes what this is and what to do about it on page 42.

Everyone is a winner when they join an AVSA affiliate club! There’s no better way to learn about growing and showing AVs. On page 20, Vita Mitchell, President of African Violet Friends of Mississippi, describes how she started a thriving club in less than a year. Perhaps it will inspire you to start an affiliate of your own.

African Violet Magazine Article and Column Deadlines

- January/February issue: November 1
- March/April issue: January 1
- May/June issue: March 1
- July/August issue: May 1
- September/October issue: July 1
- November/December issue: September 1

We would love to hear from you! Please send articles or article ideas for the *AVM* to Sophia Bennett at editor@avsa.org.



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Candy Stripes

Hybridized by: D. Thompson
Grown by: Jerry VandeBerg
Standard

Tally Time 2025

By Susan Anderson

Email: tallytime@avsa.org

The 2025 Tally Time annual report is a summary of the African violet varieties and species receiving the greatest number of awards in AVSA Standard Shows throughout the past year. This year's report summarizes results of 44 shows with 551 winning plants across the six geographic regions. A total of 251 different African violet varieties (25 species and 226 hybrids) were recorded in Tally Time this year. Congratulations to all the winners!

Special thanks to the participating affiliate clubs for submitting their final show reports. Upon completion of your show, please remember to submit the show results through the show entries program or directly online at www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/affiliate-show-awards-report-1.

To have winners included in the annual summary, please submit the Tally Time report by November 20. Enjoy growing and showing!

	Total Number of Awards	Number Best In Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Semi, Mini, Trailer or Species
STANDARDS	9	0	0	Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler P. Hancock #8745	7	2
	8	2	1	Sharon Gartner Sacco/Gartner #11415	2	3
	8	1	0	Jersey Snow Flakes R. Kurzynski #9820	5	2
	7	2	0	The Alps K. Horikoshi/H. Sawara #7813	3	2
	6	1	0	Rebel's Rose Bud R. Bann #9288	3	2
	6	1	0	Buckeye Nostalgia P. Hancock #8745	4	1
	5	0	1	Steffano's Azure Diamonds S. Covolo #11157	2	2
	SEMIS	11	2	1	Rob's Fuddy Duddy R. Robinson #7886	4
6		0	1	Little Pro H. Pittman #6637	4	1
5		1	0	Precious Pink H. Pittman #6025	2	2
MINIATURES	9	1	0	Jolly Orchid H. Pittman #9719	5	3
	8	2	0	Hunter's Whitetail Fawn K. Muzalewski #11244	4	2
	6	2	0	Hunter's Chickadee Chirps K. Muzalewski #11220	1	3
	5	0	1	Rob's Jitterbug R. Robinson #8876	1	3
	5	0	0	Precious Red H. Pittman #9724	3	2
	5	0	0	Windsome H. Pittman #10116	4	1

	Total Number of Awards	Number Best In Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Semi, Mini, Trailer or Species
TRLS	7	1	0	Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	0	6
	7	0	3	Pixie Blue L. Lyon #2598	0	4
	5	0	0	Rob's Gundaroo R. Robinson #9294	2	3
	17	2	1	S. 5b clone <i>confusa</i> Mather E	8	6
SPECIES	10	0	0	S. 5b clone <i>grotei</i> Silvert	7	3
	10	0	0	S. 5c1 clone <i>ionanthus</i>	7	3
	8	0	0	S. 5a clone <i>grandifolius</i> No. 299	5	3
	8	0	0	S. 5h clone <i>rupicola</i>	5	3
	7	2	0	S. 5c2 clone <i>diplotrichus</i> Parker	2	3
	7	0	0	S. 5b clone <i>confusa</i>	3	4
	5	1	0	S. 5a clone <i>grandifolius</i> No. 237	3	1

The following table lists the award winners by geographic region.

	Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographic Regions					
			I	II	III	IV	V	VI
STANDARDS	Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler	9	-	3	5	-	1	-
	Sharon Gartner	8	-	-	-	2	6	-
	Jersey Snow Flakes	8	1	2	1	-	3	1
	The Alps	7	2	2	2	-	-	1
	Rebel's Rose Bud	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
	Buckeye Nostalgia	6	-	-	5	-	-	1
SEMIS	Steffano's Azure Diamonds	5	1	-	1	-	3	-
	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	11	3	5	2	-	-	1
	Little Pro	6	-	1	3	-	-	2
MINTRS	Precious Pink	5	-	-	5	-	-	-
	Jolly Orchid	9	1	7	1	-	-	-
	Hunter's Whitetail Fawn	8	-	6	2	-	-	-
	Hunter's Chickadee Chirps	6	3	-	3	-	-	-
	Rob's Jitterbug	5	-	-	3	2	-	-
	Precious Red	5	-	3	1	1	-	-
TRLS	Windsome	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
	Rob's Boolaroo	7	1	1	3	1	-	1
	Pixie Blue	7	4	1	-	2	-	-
SPECIES	Rob's Gundaroo	5	1	1	1	1	-	1
	S. 5b clone <i>confusa</i> Mather E	17	-	5	11	-	1	-
	S. 5b clone <i>grotei</i> Silvert	10	-	6	1	3	-	-
	S. 5c1 clone <i>ionanthus</i>	10	-	4	4	2	-	-
	S. 5a clone <i>grandifolius</i> No. 299	8	1	5	-	-	2	-
	S. 5h clone <i>rupicola</i>	8	1	-	2	3	2	-
	S. 5c2 clone <i>diplotrichus</i> Parker	7	-	5	-	-	-	2
	S. 5b clone <i>confusa</i>	7	1	-	4	1	1	-
S. 5a clone <i>grandifolius</i> No. 237	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	
Number of Winners		200	20	73	60	18	19	10
Number of Shows Reported		44	6	13	13	4	4	4

*TRLS = Trailers, *SEMIS = SEMIMINIATURES, *MINTRS = MINIATURES

Geographic Region, State/Province (Number of Shows):

Region I: Arizona (1), California (3), Nevada (1), New Mexico (1)

Region II: Iowa (1), Kansas (1), Minnesota (2), Missouri (3), Nebraska (2), Ohio (2), Wisconsin (2)

Region III: New Jersey (3), New York (6), Pennsylvania (2), Virginia (2)

Region IV: Louisiana (1), Texas (3)

Region V: Alabama (1), Florida (3)

Region VI: Alberta (1), Ontario (2), Quebec (1)



Shows and Judges

By Mary Corondan

Email: judges@avsa.org

It is springtime and shows abound! What a delightful time of the year when foliage is turning bright green and blossoms are in abundance.

Questions have been raised recently about the dimensions specified for designs in show schedules. When writing the design section of a show, be precise in the size requirements that are listed. Identify the length and depth of free-standing arrangements and container gardens. If height is to be restricted, be sure it is listed as well.

When these measurements are mentioned, the diagonal should not be considered by the judges. Although niches list height, length and depth specifications, that is not always the case for free-standing arrangements and container gardens. Avoid using terminology such as “in any direction” or “in any dimension.”

It is a tragedy when a well-done design is eliminated due to failure to follow the show schedule. Those writing the design section should be specific. Designers should be sure to read the show schedule thoroughly to prevent a design from being eliminated from consideration.

It has come to my attention that many shows do not have enough judges and clerks

volunteering to help in the judging process. The Judges’ Chair would greatly appreciate you taking time to complete the form and send it in if you are qualified and available. When there is a shortage of judges and clerks, the Judges’ Chair must contact individuals and ask them to assist. Most who are contacted agree to do that, but it requires the Judges’ Chair to go through an additional step that should not be needed. If you are willing and able to assist in judging or clerking the show, please volunteer. You will be among the first to see the show if you do.

If you are willing
and able to assist in
judging or clerking
a show, please
volunteer.

Remember that participating in a show should be fun! It is a pleasure to see many well-grown varieties of plants and designs on display. This creates excitement in experienced as well as novice growers and stimulates interest from the public.



And the Winners Are ...

By Mary Corondan

Email: winners@avsa.org

■ African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, MO — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's James Mixon, Strawberry Fields, Bob Serbin; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Optimara Little Inca, Little Pro; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; 2nd Best in Show: Definitely Darryl; Best Trailer: Jersey Rose Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ardyth Stone**.
- Best Standard: Sport of Hunter's Antidote; Best Miniature: Hunter's Chipmunk Cheeks, **Lynn Canning**.
- Best Gesneriad: *xAchimenantha* 'Dutch Treat', **Wilma Wolverton**.
- Best Design, **Cheryl Graan**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Dale Cox**.

■ African Violet Council of Florida, FL — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sharon Gartner, K's Whirlwind, Hunter's Tranquility; Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5h clone *rupicolus*, S. 5b clone *confusa* Mather E, S. 5a clone *grandifolius* No. 299; Best in Show/Best Standard: Sharon Gartner; 2nd Best in Show: K's Whirlwind; Best Miniature: Tiny Tim; Best Species: S. 5h clone *rupicolus*, **Sandi Soto**.
- Best Semiminiature: Cajun's Little Tizzy; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina sinovietnamica*, **Catherine Carter**.
- Best Trailer: Jersey Rose Trail, **Bobbi Johannsen**.
- Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden**.

■ Central California African Violet Society, CA — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Carolina Elegant Affair, Sister's Secrets, Funambule;

Best Standard: Carolina Elegant Affair; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dodo Bird, **Diane Penders**.

- Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Wascally Wabbit; 2nd Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Joe Meyer**.

- Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Lola Sutherland**.

- Best Design, **Cindy Nofziger**.

- Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Thompson**.

■ Columbus African Violet Society, OH — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hunter's Slippery When Wet, Wrangler's Bryan's Song, Cajun's Code Blue; Best Standard: Hunter's Slippery When Wet; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Frankenstein Franceska', **Robin Shemala**.

- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Windsome, Precious Red, Honey Blue Ace; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Cupid's Jewel; 2nd Best in Show: Honey Blue Ace, **Julie Jones**.

- Best Trailer: Pixie Pink; Best Species: S. 5a clone *grandifolius* No. 299; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cathy Willis**.

- Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Getitia Brown**.

■ Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, PA — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Nostalgia, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Hunter's Momma Jo; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Buttercups, Jolly Butterfly, Little Pro; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Nostalgia; 2nd Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Species: S. 5b clone *confusa*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kurt Jablonski**.

•2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wizard's Prankster, K's Sangria Splash, Jean's Passion; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Jolly Jan, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Miniature: Hunter's Chickadee Chirps, **Jackie Leitzel**.

•Best Trailer: Jersey Starlight Trail, **Karyn Cichocki**.

•Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus* 'Big Apple', **Paul Sorano**.

•Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Tammy Dubois**.

■ New York State African Violet Society, NY — Winners:

•Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Gilded Strawberry, Pueblo, Cajun's Sundowners; Best Standard: Buckeye Clownin' Around, **Doug Burdick**.

•Best in Show/Best Species: S. 5b clone *confusa* Mather E; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna Coleman**.

•2nd Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: N-Podsnezhnik; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Amethyst, **Margaret Califano**.

•Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia iarae*, **Joseph Palagonia**.

•Best Design, **Paul Kroll**.

•Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

■ North Star African Violet Council, MN — Winners:

•Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Rose Bud, Eva, Cajun's Insanity; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Rose Bud, **Gail Podany**.

•2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Starry Night Blue, Austin's Smile, Sweet Affair; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jim Graf**.

•Best Semiminiature: Heartbreak Kid; Best Miniature: Mini Minx; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina petrocosomeoides*, **Patricia Kono**.

•Best Species: S. 5b clone *grotei*, **Bob Lorenzen**.

•Best Design, **Barbara Werness**.

•Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Randy G. Deutsch** and **Barbara Werness**.

■ Sho-Me African Violet Club, MO — Winners:

•Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cajun's Alfie, California Sunset, Cajun's Lil Joy;

Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: California Sunset, **Lynn Canning**.

•2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Honey Blue Ace, Toy Castle, Ness' Angel Blush; 2nd Best in Show/Best Trailer: Linda Darnel; Best Standard: DzhuS-Adelina; Best Miniature: Everdina; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Jim's Canadian Sunset'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ardyth Stone**.

•Best Species: S. clone *ionanthus* ssp. *ionanthus* v. *ionanthus*, **Jay Vantuyl**.

•Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Cheryl Graan**.

■ Sweet Water African Violet Society, NY — Winners:

•Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chicago Flair, EK-Nebesnaia Lazur', Steffano's Azure Diamonds; Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5b clone *confusa* Mather E, S. 5h clone *rupicolus* Mather No. 5, S. 5c1 clone Sigi Falls; Best in Show/Best Species: S. 5b. clone *confusa* Mather E; Best Standard: Opera's Paolo; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeanette Haynal**.

•2nd Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Honky Tonk Blues, **Diane Chandler**.

•Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Midnight', **Jeanne Damaso**.

•Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Heinrich**.

■ Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society, ON — Winners:

•Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Jersey Snow Flakes, Hunter's Twilight Glow, **Bruce Williams**.

•Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Jolly Pepper, Irish Flirt; 2nd Best Show/Best Trailer, Orchid Trail; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Mad Cat; Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Williams**.

•Best in Show/Best Species: S. 5c2 clone *diplotrichus* Parker, **Bill Price**.

•Best Standard: Hunter's Slippery When Wet, **Alla Kotova**.

•Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sayeh Beheshti**.

Coming Events

Check the AVSA Events page (www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org/events), search the local club on Facebook or contact the organizers listed below for the latest information on these events.

■ **March 1 — California**

South Coast African Violet and Gesneriad Society
“An Aviary of African Violets and Gesneriads” Show
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Estates, CA
Sunday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

■ **March 6-8 — California**

Central California African Violet Society
“Violets Celebrate the Chinese New Year”
Show and Sale
Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chance Ave.
Fresno, CA
Friday-Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lola Sutherland: fresnoviolets@gmail.com
www.fresnoviolets.org

■ **March 6-7 — Florida**

Central Florida African Violet Society
Spring Plant Sale and Display
Beardall Senior Center
800 S. Delaney Ave.
Orlando, FL
Friday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Jim King: Jking263@cfl.rr.com

■ **March 7-8 — Texas**

Spring Branch African Violet Society
“Violets are Golden” Show and Sale
2020 Herman Dr.
Houston, TX
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Eileen Mace: eileenmace24@gmail.com

■ **March 10 — Arizona**

Desert Sun African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Show and Sale
Valley Garden Center
1809 N. 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ
Tuesday: 12:30-3 p.m.
JoAnne D’Angelo: flojox918@aol.com

■ **March 20-21 — Texas**

Alpha African Violet Society,
First African Violet Society of Dallas,
First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas
Spring Mini Show and Sale
North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven Rd.
Dallas, TX
Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mary Corondan: mcorondan@yahoo.com
www.fnnavsd.org

■ **March 21-22 — Illinois**

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
African Violet Plant Display and Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Rd.
Glencoe, IL
Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Susan Bradford: gesneriadlady1@aol.com
www.nigesneriads.org

■ **March 27-28 — Florida**

Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society
“Galaxy of Violets” Annual Display and Sale
San Jose Church of Christ
6233 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL
Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bobbi Johannsen:
bobbi@jacksonvilleviolets.org
www.jacksonvilleviolets.org

■ **March 28 — Delaware**

Delaware African Violet and
Gesneriad Society
Display and Plant Sale
Boscovs Department Store
Christiana Town Center
Route 273
Christiana, DE
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bobbie LaFashia: rlafash@comcast.net

■ **March 28 — Michigan**

Michigan State African Violet Society
African Violets and Other Gesneriads Display,
Sale and Leaf Propagation Class
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 North Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lynn Allen: LynnAllen0413@comcast.net

■ **March 28-29 — New York**

Sweet Water African Violet Society
“Violets Honor America” Show and Sale
West Sayville Fire Department
80 Main St.
West Sayville, NY
Saturday: 2-5 p.m.
Sunday: noon-4 p.m.
Diane Chandler: Dchandler5650@aol.com

■ **April 3-4 — Texas**

Magic Knight African Violet Society
“50 Golden Years of African Violets” Show,
Display and Sale
Boerne Church of Christ
1 Upper Balcones Rd.
Boerne, TX
Friday: 1-4 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Christine Wheeler: agognut@gmail.com
www.magicknightafricanvioletsociety.com

■ **April 4 — Georgia**

African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta
Spring Plant Sale and Re-Potting Session
First Baptist Church of Decatur
308 Clairemont Ave.
Decatur, GA
Saturday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Alfredo Hernandez: alfredo@mac.com

■ **April 10-11 — Minnesota**

African Violet Society of Minnesota
Spring Show and Sale
Northtown Mall
398 Northtown Dr.
Blaine, MN
Friday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Randy G Deutsch: rcjsch@prodigy.net

■ **April 11 — Connecticut**

Windsor African Violet Society
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Grace Episcopal Church
311 Broad St.
Windsor, CT
Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Joyce Dickey: joyedickey@yahoo.com
www.windsorafricanviolets.org

■ **April 12 — Ontario**

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
“Landmarks of Toronto” Spring Show
Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, ON
Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Julie Thompson:
jmtompson50@explornet.ca
Brett Flewelling: brett@cogeco.ca
www.tavgcs.ca

■ **April 18 — Missouri**

Sho-Me African Violet Club
“Reflections of Violets” Show and Sale
Jacob L. Loose Park Garden Center
51st and Wornall
Kansas City, MO
Saturday: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Brent Scheuerman:
christopherviolets@yahoo.com

■ **April 18 — Texas**

Moonlight African Violet and
Gesneriad Society of Fort Worth
“50 Years of Memories” Show and Sale
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX
Saturday: 1-5 p.m.
Kathy Leach: kbobl@sbcglobal.net

■ **April 18-19 — Virginia**

Richmond African Violet Society
“Violets Tour Our National Parks”
Show and Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave.
Richmond, VA
Saturday: 1-5 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sharon Long: slong15781@aol.com
www.richmondavs.org

■ **April 25 — Arizona**

Copper State African Violet Club
“Enchanted Gardens” Annual Show and Sale
St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral
8141 N. 16th St.
Phoenix, AZ
Saturday: noon-3 p.m.
Susan Anderson: CopperStateAVC@gmail.com
www.copperstateavc.com

■ **April 25 — Ontario**

Lakeshore African Violet Society Of Toronto
“Violets Go To The Movies”
Annual Show and Sale
St. Philip’s Lutheran Church
61 West Deane Park Dr.
Etobicoke, ON
Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Beverley Williams:
beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com
www.lakeshoreavs.com

■ **April 25 — Massachusetts**

Bay State African Violet Society
“Every Day Is A Holiday With Violets”
61st Annual African Violet Show and Sale
New England Botanic Garden
11 French Dr.
Boylston, MA
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Peg Crawford: peg_crawford@msn.com

■ **April 25 — New Jersey**

African Violet Club of Burlington County
“Violets at Work” 32nd Annual Judged
Show and Sale
Burlington County Lyceum of
History and Natural Sciences
307 High St.
Mt. Holly, NJ
Saturday: noon-4 p.m.
Susan Arnao: SEArnao@aol.com

■ **April 25 — Washington**

Seattle African Violet Society and
Puget Sound Gesneriad Society
“Violets Rock and Gesneriads Roll”
Show and Sale
Volunteer Park Conservatory
1400 E. Galer Rd.
Seattle, WA
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cathleen Graves:
rhythmslave@harbornet.com

■ **May 1-2 — Ohio**

Columbus African Violet Society
Show and Sale
Beechwood Christian Church
280 Morse Rd.
Columbus, OH
Friday: noon-5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Lori Hilfer: lphilfer@gmail.com
www.columbusafricanvioletsociety.org

■ **May 2 — California**

Central Coast African Violet Society
“Violets Celebrate America” Show and Sale
Creston Village
1919 Creston Rd.
Paso Robles, CA
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Mary Thompson:
centralcoastavsociety@gmail.com

■ **May 2 — New Jersey**

Garden State African Violet Club
“Violets Celebrate the Holidays”
African Violet Show and Plant Sale
Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Rd. W
Windsor Township, NJ
Saturday: noon-4pm
April Van Ness: Bvanliz@aol.com

■ **May 2 — Nova Scotia**

The First Halifax African Violet Society
“Spring in Bloom” African Violet Show
Calvin Presbyterian Church
3311 Ashburn Ave.
Halifax, NS
Saturday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Kimberly Miller: kimmiller.msc@gmail.com

■ **May 2-3 — New York**

African Violet and Gesneriad
Society of Western New York
“Violets Play Monopoly” Show and Sale
Audubon Branch / Amherst Library
350 John James Audubon Pkwy.
Amherst, NY
Saturday: 1-6 p.m.
Sunday: noon-3:30 p.m.
Deborah Donaldson: Avgswny@hotmail.com

■ **May 2-3 — Virginia**

Tidewater African Violet Society
“Golden Violets - Celebrating 50 Years!”
Show and Sale
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
6700 Azalea Garden Rd.
Norfolk, VA
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Pat Knight: kemts@cox.net

■ **May 2-3 — Wisconsin**

Oshkosh Violet Society
Show and Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall
531 Knapp St.
Oshkosh, WI
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kevin Degner: kevindegner7@yahoo.com
Jeremy Trost: jtrost73@gmail.com

■ **May 8-9 — Montana**

Billings Bloomers African Violet Society
African Violet Sale
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
180 24th St. W
Billings, MT
Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Club email: billingsbloomers@gmail.com

■ **May 8-9 — Pennsylvania**

African Violet Society of Springfield
Show and Sale
Marple Public Library Community Room
2599 Sproul Rd.
Broomall, PA
Friday: 1-4 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lisa Bradley: icollect56@aol.com
Cindy Castaldi: cdcastaldi@gmail.com

■ **May 9 — Nevada**

Glitter Gulch African Violet Growers
“Violet Magic!” Annual Show and Sale
Nevada Garden Club Center
800 Twin Lakes Dr.
Las Vegas, NV
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Kim Cowl: ggavg.nv@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/groups/ggavg

■ **May 9 — Ontario**

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
African Violet and Gesneriads Spring Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, ON
Saturday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Sue Smith: smith.sue2011@gmail.com
www.tavgs.ca

■ **May 16 — Missouri**

Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council
“Violets Across the USA” Show and Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden - Farr Auditorium
4344 Shaw Blvd.
St Louis, MO
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
metrostlouisavc@gmail.com

■ **June 6 — Nova Scotia**

Annapolis Valley African Violet Society
“Our Violet Hobbies” Show and Sale
Berwick Town Hall Gymnasium
236 Commercial St.
Berwick, NS
Saturday: 2-4 p.m.
Cindy Jo Shoults: cisho14@outlook.com

■ **September 18-19 — Ohio**

Ohio State African Violet Society
Show and Sale
Kingwood Center Gardens
50 N. Trimble Rd.
Mansfield, OH
Friday: noon-5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mel Grice: melsgrice@gmail.com
www.osavs.org

■ **September 19-20 — Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs
Show and Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall
531 Knapp St.
Oshkosh, WI
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Doug Kindschuh: dougsoasis@gmail.com
Jeremy Trost: jtrost73@gmail.com

■ **September 27 — Ontario**

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
African Violet and Gesneriads Fall Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, ON
Sunday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Sue Smith: smith.sue2011@gmail.com
www.tavgs.ca



JOIN TODAY!

Learn more at
africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org
(409) 839-4725
P.O. Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720

AVSA is non-profit, educational organization dedicated to helping African violet enthusiasts enjoy these beautiful plants.



Registration Report

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: registration@avsa.org

■ Sam Cunningham — Houston, TX

Sam's Bayou Nuggets

- (11555) 11/05/2025
- Single white sticktite wasp/variable pink streaks, green edge.
- Medium green, spooned/bustle back.
- Miniature.

Sam's Mother's Little Helper

- (11556) 11/05/2025
- Single fuchsia-pink sticktite bell/thin white edge.
- Dark green, pointed, glossy, red back.
- Miniature.

Sam's Old School Blues

- (11557) 11/05/2025
- Single pale blue-lilac sticktite pansy.
- Dark green, plain, heart-shaped/red back.
- Semiminiature.

■ C. Craig Coleman — Greensboro, NC

Coleman's Cotton Candy

- (11558) 11/13/2025
- Single-semidouble pink ruffled star/variable white edge.
- Variegated dark green and white, ovate, quilted.
- Standard.

■ Mo Fang — Kowloon, Hong Kong

MoMo's Dirty Cat

- (11559) 12/10/2025
- Semidouble-double pink fluted star/light blue shading.
- Chimera variegated medium and dark green, ovate, quilted/variable red back.
- Standard.

MoMo's Pinky Cat

- (11560) 12/10/2025
- Semidouble-double pink fluted star/blue fantasy.
- Chimera variegated medium and dark green, ovate, quilted/variable red back.
- Standard.

■ Joan Baker — Thief River Falls, MN

Rivermist Dreamcatcher

- (11561) 12/12/2025
- Single-semidouble medium pink large star/white puff and darker pink streak fantasy, variable mauve stripe.
- Variegated dark green, white and pink, plain, quilted/red back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Easterblossom

- (11562) 12/12/2025
- Single medium pink ruffled star/white puff fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, white and pink, quilted/red back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Firedance

- (11563) 12/12/2025
- Single dark red star/white puff fantasy. Variegated medium green, white and pink, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Lilacs

- (11564) 12/12/2025
- Semidouble lilac wavy pansy/darker top petals, edge.
- Variegated medium green and white, quilted/red back.
- Standard.

Rivermist Obsession

- (11565) 12/12/2025
- Semidouble dark red-purple large star/darker top petals, white puff fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, serrated/pink back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Rapture

- (11566) 12/12/2025
- Semidouble pink shaded ruffled star/darker stripe, white puff fantasy.
- Variegated medium green and white, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Razzleberry

- (11567) 12/12/2025
- Single-semidouble light lavender star/variable berry-red streak, white puff fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, white and pink, ovate, quilted/red back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Starstruck

- (11568) 12/12/2025
- Single-semidouble cherry-red large star/white puff fantasy.
- Variegated medium green and white, quilted/red back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Taboo

- (11569) 12/12/2025
- Semidouble-double dark fuchsia ruffled pansy/darker top petals, white puff fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, white and beige, round, quilted, serrated/red back.
- Standard.

Rivermist Thriller

- (11570) 12/12/2025
- Single dark red wavy large star/white puff fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, white and pink, ovate, quilted/red back, variable white spots.
- Standard.

Rivermist Zeeva

- (11571) 12/12/2025
- Single red sticktite ruffled star/white puff fantasy.
- Variegated medium green, white and pink, quilted, ruffled, serrated/red back.
- Standard.

■ **Larisa Sheveleva — Astrakhan', Russia**

LV-Big

- (11572) 12/20/2025
- Single violet sticktite pansy/darker blue rays.
- Variegated medium green, pink and white, clackamas foliage.
- Semiminiature trailer.

LV-Deviatyi Val

- (11573) 12/20/2025
- Single white sticktite pansy.
- Variegated dark green, pink and white, clackamas foliage.
- Semiminiature trailer.

LV-Ianochka

- (11574) 12/20/2025
- Single-semidouble white pansy/variable purple splashes.
- Crown variegated dark green and yellow, variable white and pink, pointed, clackamas foliage.
- Miniature trailer.

LV-Krapivka

- (11575) 12/20/2025
- Single-semidouble white wasp/variable fuchsia spots.
- Crown variegated medium green and yellow, serrated/bustle back.
- Semiminiature.

LV-Lanselot

- (11576) 12/20/2025
- Single-semidouble pink two-tone pansy/variable blue fantasy.
- Crown variegated dark green and yellow, girl foliage, clackamas foliage.
- Miniature.

LV-Marinochka

- (11577) 12/20/2025
- Semidouble white-pink ruffled wasp/blue rays.
- Crown variegated medium green, white and yellow, spooned, clackamas foliage/bustle back.
- Semiminiature.

LV-Nebo v Karmashke

- (11578) 12/20/2025
- Single light blue sticktite fluted star/variable darker rays.
- Variegated medium green, white and pink, clackamas foliage.
- Small standard trailer.

LV-Son-in-Law

- (11579) 12/20/2025
- Semidouble light pink wasp.
- Crown variegated dark green and yellow, spooned, clackamas foliage/bustle back.
- Semiminiature.

■ Dianne Duggan — Webster, TX Painter's Good Vibrations

- (11580) 12/27/2025
- Single-semidouble white fluted star/lavender fantasy, variable green edge.
- Variegated medium green and white, ovate, quilted, scalloped, serrated.
- Standard.

■ Maisy Mak — Sham Tseng, Hong Kong Mak's Kiss of Aphrodite

- (11581) 12/28/2025
- Single-semidouble chimera red frilled star/light pink stripe, light green edge.
- Medium green, plain, quilted.
- Standard.



Photo credit: Maisy Mak

Mak's Kiss of Aphrodite

2025 New Introduction

Hybridized by: M. Mak
Standard



Violets Most Wanted List

By Mary Thompson

Email: preservingviolets@avsa.org

The goal of the Violets Most Wanted List is to protect our African violet heritage by encouraging growers to enjoy cultivars that were hybridized ten or more years ago. The Violet Preservation Committee publishes a list of African violet varieties people are looking for in every issue of *African Violet Magazine* and also keeps a list on the AVSA website. If we find a match between a grower and a person looking for a variety, we connect them so they can share plant material.

Show season has started and people are looking for plants at the shows in the hopes of finding that vintage violet they have been looking for. I know I have a couple I've been seeking for quite a while.

If you have vintage violets, consider offering to share them with the committee by filling out

the form on the website. You do need to be a member to request, but you don't have to be a member to share.

I hope to see you at convention. Stop me and say hi.

These are some beauties we have been seeking for quite a while and a couple new ones.

Bagdad
Blue Boy
Cherokee Trail
Ian Metelitsa
Rhapsodie Marilyn
Rhapsodie Marilyn II
Pink Beauty (Brockner)
Tooch
White Lady

Tips for Growing in Natural Light

"Growing in natural light can produce a myriad of problems: burn spots on leaves and flowers, bleached leaves and flowers, small flowers, tight centers, phototropism (growing toward the source of light) and problems with symmetry. You can still have success growing in natural light if you follow some simple rules.

"If possible, select a window that receives morning sun or has a tree outside to gently filter the sun. For southern or western

exposure, use light-filtering curtains or shades on bright, sunny days. Open them on rainy, cloudy days.

"Cut back on fertilizer during the hottest summer months. To prevent burn spots, be extra careful not to get water droplets on leaves.

"Rotate the plants one-quarter turn in the same direction every week to maintain symmetry." —Sharon Rosenzweig



Building an African Violet Club

By Vita Mitchell

Email: vita.mitchell@gmail.com

As they say, “Build it and they will come!” Here is how I formed an AVSA affiliate club in less than a year.

On November 16, 2024, I attended the Louisiana Lagniappe African Violet Society sale in Baton Rouge. It was my first time attending an African violet sale put on by an AVSA affiliate. I traveled from the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where I currently reside. The sale had a beautiful variety of African violets and gesneriads. I was struck by the beauty and quality of the plants, but also by how welcoming the members of the club were to me as a guest.

The seed had been planted. I knew that I wanted to form an African violet club in my area. There was no AVSA affiliate in the state of Mississippi, and I did not know anyone else who grew African violets. Anytime I tried to share my propagations, I was met with reluctance. It is disappointing that African violets have such a reputation for being difficult. It was time to find other people with whom to share, grow and learn more about African violets.

I scoured Facebook to see if there were any groups around that had an interest in African violets. I searched Mississippi within the African violet Facebook groups. I got a few hits and followed some leads. I found Cynthia Sabo, who lived in Gulfport not far from Gautier, where I live. She had a Facebook Group that she had created in hopes of

starting a local group. I sent her a message and we began to correspond.

On November 18, she made me an admin in the group. I immediately got to work sharing and promoting the page. People started joining the page. Cynthia and I decided on the name African Violet Friends of South Mississippi. We wanted the name to be easy to find and reflect our location. Our mission statement is “To share and spread the joy of growing African violets through education and fellowship.”

The next step was to find a place to meet. Ultimately, the public library was the best choice. They offer free meeting rooms to the public. A date, time and place were chosen, and a Facebook event was created to share.

On April 5, 2025, the African Violet Friends of South Mississippi met for the very first time at the Orange Grove Library in Gulfport. I invited Gwen Robinson, a violet grower from Mobile, Alabama, to be our guest speaker. We had 10 people in attendance.

Regular meetings were held in May and June. In July, we decided to meet up at a local ceramic shop to paint our own self-watering African violet pots. It was a fun way to bond and get better acquainted with each other. Some of us went in before the painting night to clean the greenware. It was quite a process, but very rewarding once it was all finished.



Photo credit: Mary Martin.

We held regular meetings in August and September. In October, we decided to change things up once again. It was an eventful month for our club. In lieu of a regular meeting, some of the members decided to take a road trip to Baton Rouge to attend the Louisiana Lagniappe show and sale. Four of us traveled together on Saturday, October 4 to the show. Everyone had a great time. It was nice to meet so many of the Louisiana growers that I had been corresponding with regarding African violet clubs.



Marian, Bea, Lindsay and Vita with AVSA Director for Region 5 Becky McMeel.

An important milestone for our club was becoming an AVSA affiliate on October 16. We finally took the plunge! On the 25th,

we attended a local plant swap at the Harrison County Fairgrounds to advertise our club to fellow garden enthusiasts. Several club members worked at our table where we had propagated NOIDs and shared culture sheets and club information.

We decided to start meeting at the East Hancock Library in Diamondhead, since we could reserve more dates in advance and a good bit of our membership lives close to that location. We started meeting there in November.

At our meeting on November 8, we celebrated becoming an affiliate with cake, reading the club bylaws and electing officers. Officers elected were President, Vita Mitchell; Vice President, Lindsey Tapper; Secretary, Beatrice Willette; and Treasurer, Marian Moletteri. We had seven members in attendance. Our books show 12 members paid dues, so we had a total of 12 official members at the writing of this article.

Forming an AVSA affiliate has been a very positive experience. It has made a positive change in my life and the lives of our members. Friendships have been made and community has been created. We enjoy our time together each month. We are doing a year-long “grow to show” program. All members are propagating leaves from Neptune, one of the Original 10. We will update each other on our progress each month.

Our goal is to one day have a show and sale like so many other affiliates. Right now, we are focused on getting interest and increasing our membership. If you enjoy growing African violets, and you do not have a club in your area, I highly recommend starting one. I am really glad that I did. The AVSA community has been so very helpful with answering questions and helping every step of the way.

Member Profile:

Amy Carruth

By Sandi Soto

Email: ssoto4@tampabay.rr.com



Amy Carruth is the friendly voice you're likely to hear when you call the AVSA office. If you're new to AVSA and don't know who can answer those inevitable rookie questions, she's who you call for answers to anything and everything.

In April, Amy will have been AVSA members' go-to resource for 25 years. At 18 years of age, her aunt, Ruth Rumsey, who was then Editor of *African Violet Magazine*, recruited Amy as a part-time secretary for the AVSA office, and she's been a constant presence ever since. Her two children, now in high school, grew up visiting mom at work and helping care for the African violets on the two plant stands in the office. She'll be the first to tell you she raises kids, not African violets.

Amy has always loved African violets and has returned from every convention with several, which proceeded to die. Every time. Today, she's happy to report that the three she brought home from the 2025 Kansas convention are still alive and blooming.

Most of us have a size African violet we prefer, and Amy is no exception. She likes the big ones. Amy remembers former AVSA President Richard Nicolas bringing his large plants to convention, where he won Best

in Show with his exhibit Rebel's Rose Bud in 2007. His plants were, according to Amy, ginormous! Asked to describe her dream plant, Amy talked about a soft, true blue, maybe a sky blue, with large blossoms and frilly foliage. When it comes to hybridization, Amy says one of the most coveted is a true yellow blossom, but she still wants that sky blue.

Asked what advice she would give to new growers, Amy didn't hesitate. "Utilize the resources you have around you. Find an affiliate club to join, go to the shows, ask questions and sign up for any kind of classes. That, to me, is so important. I have all these people I can go to, and I've FaceTimed with them asking which leaf should I take off. Again, ask questions."

Convention has been a big part of Amy's AVSA career; she went to her first convention in Chicago in 2001 and will be attending her 18th this year in Dallas. She remembers working unsuccessfully to start an African violet society in Beaumont, where the office is located, and at one point wanting to try to grow show plants, but as she says, "I grow kids."

Asked what she'd most like people to know about her AVSA experience, Amy told me, "African violets and the people involved with them have become like family to me, and I love the fact that this one houseplant can bring people from all over the world

together. That's why I'm still working here. I love the people so much! It's like a family reunion at convention. It's the incredible

people I've met who are still dear friends of mine, genuinely true friends, not just because I work here."



Photo credit: Dianne Duggan

Painter's Good Vibrations

2025 New Introduction

Hybridized by: D. Duggan
Standard



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Definitely Darryl

Hybridized by: H. Pittman
Grown by: Ardyth Stone
Semiminiature



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

23-Reka Moskva

Hybridized by: I. Zubo

Grown by: Dr. Janis Theophanes

Standard trailer



In Search of New Violets

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

In the presentation for the October 2025 Virtual Circle, the discussion on what are dominant and recessive traits for African violets was compared to what hybridizers started with, the wild African violet *Saintpaulia ionantha*. Although changes in the botanical classification since the 1892 discovery have renamed the plant as *Streptocarpus ionanthus*, questions are often asked about how the many different flower colors, patterns, leaf texture traits, etc. were created. The questions in this column will hopefully explain what has happened in the last 134 years of hybridizing.

Q: All of the wild African violets have blue or blue/white flowers. How did hybridizers create other flower colors such as pink, fuchsia, white and coral?

A: Hybridizers didn't create the other flower colors. What they did was use artificial selection on mutations that showed up after the plants were in cultivation. Wild African violets are pollinated by bees. The bees can see the color "blue," especially in contrast to the yellow anthers that hold a reward of pollen for the bees. Natural selection reinforces the color of blue for African violet flowers. Any flower that is not blue doesn't get visited by a bee and leaves no offspring behind.

The biochemical pathway to make the blue pigment takes several steps. If the pigment production pathway is broken by a mutation, an intermediate color such as pink or fuchsia is formed depending on which step is broken. Bees cannot see pink or fuchsia and any

mutation for these colors in the wild is lost through natural selection. Humans, however, can see pink and fuchsia and find these colors attractive. Hybridizers used artificial selection to produce plants with pink and fuchsia flowers.

Humans didn't create these mutations, but human artificial selection for the mutations makes these colors visible for our enjoyment.

White flowers are the result of the pigment pathway breaking down entirely. There isn't a pigment in white flowers. They reflect all colors of light and appear white by reflection. Again, this mutation is selected against in nature but is reinforced by human artificial selection.

Coral colors are slight alterations of the pink and fuchsia mutations where an enzyme fails to add another sugar to the pigment skeleton. The loss of the sugar is a recessive mutation

and “reddens” the pigment. This turns pink flowers to coral pink and fuchsia flowers to coral red. The coral mutation also exists in blue flowers, but the coral blue color is nearly identical to regular blue flowers.

The mutations for pink, fuchsia, white, coral pink and coral red are all recessive mutations that happened naturally. A specific enzyme is broken and unable to complete a step in the production of the wild type blue pigment. Both copies must be broken to interrupt the pathway and make the recessive mutation visible. Natural selection acts against these recessive mutations and they never last long in nature. Humans didn’t create these mutations, but human artificial selection for the mutations makes these colors visible for our enjoyment.

Q: Wild African violets have plain leaves without any texture. Where did traits such as girl, wavy or ruffled foliage come from?

A: Wild African violets do have some differences in their leaves. There is actually more variation in the leaves of the wild African violet species than there are in the flowers. The natural selection pressure on the leaves is for how they adapt the plants to fit the microclimates the plants grow in. This is a more direct type of natural selection compared to the bees and flower color. A plant with maladapted leaves doesn’t survive to reproduce. For example, a mutation that cupped the leaves could catch extra water and be subject to fungal infections.

Leaves have several genes that interact with each other to produce the final leaf shape. Most of these genes serve as regulators on cell division and growth. If mutations break down the regulation of cells, growth can become uncontrolled and the leaf shape changes. For example, the leaf shape for most wild African violets is a smooth edge. If a regulator gene stops working, cell division keeps going and

the cells stack up on each other, producing a leaf edge that is wavy, frilled or lobed. Natural selection would usually work against these mutations. However, humans find changes in leaf texture attractive and have used artificial selection to change the texture of the leaves in cultivars. Here again, humans didn’t create the mutations, but they applied artificial selection to encourage mutations that they found attractive.

Girl foliage has appeared at least three or more times as a new mutation.

Leaf mutations such as girl, wavy and ruffled tend to be dominant mutations and are always expressed if present. The normal gene controls cell growth. The mutation stops or inhibits that control, resulting in changes in leaf texture. Leaf mutations often show dose effects. The loss of one control gene produces some changes. The loss of both control genes exacerbates the changes. Girl foliage is a great example of dose effects. Most girl foliage hybrids have only one copy of the mutated gene. This produces the typical girl foliage leaf with the white base at the blade/petiole junction and some ruffling of the leaf edges. A homozygous dominant plant for girl foliage has very uncontrolled growth. The white base of the blade/petiole junction is larger with more waves. The leaf edges become highly ruffled and lobed. Plants with two doses of the girl mutation are very wild growers and very difficult to shape for show.

The control genes for leaf shape can be mutated in different ways, producing different expressions of the trait. Girl foliage has

appeared at least three or more times as a new mutation. The loss of the control gene produces the same general change in the leaves, but the specific details can be different depending on how the gene was mutated and what functionality it may still have. Thus, the different girl foliage mutations have similar end results, but the details, such as the degree of ruffling, may differ between mutations. Many other leaf mutations work similarly.

Q: If wild African violets have single petals, how can double petals be a dominant mutation? Wouldn't natural selection favor extra petals?

A: Natural selection favors whatever system helps the plant produce seed and offspring for the next generation. In the case of African violets, a single row of petals is more successful than double petals. Single petals are energetically cheaper to produce than multiple petals. Bees find the pollen and achieve pollination easier with only a single row of petals. Single petals fall away easily from the fruit or seed pods, preventing fruit rot by fungi. All of these factors favor natural selection for single petals, not double petals.

The mutation that produces sticktite and double petals is similar and is in regulator genes called Hox genes. Hox stands for Homeobox. These genes occur in box-like clusters and control the body shape of an organism. In plants,

Hox genes control the development of the flower parts. Minor mutations will change the petals from single droppers to sticktite or double petals. Major mutations may change all the flower parts into sepals. As with the leaf mutations, changes in the control genes will always be expressed, so these mutations are genetic dominant traits. Dose effects of Hox genes are also possible, with single copies having only a partial change (e.g., sticktite) and double copies having more changes (e.g., double petals). Hybridizers did not cause the mutations in the Hox genes; they just selected for these mutations once they were discovered.

Q: Can hybridizers cause new mutations in African violets?

A: There was a period in the 1950s where X-rays and harsh chemicals were deliberately used to cause changes in African violets. Most of the mutations were very damaging to the plants and few, if any, had commercial value for hybridizers. Using hard radiation and harsh chemicals is also hazardous and their use is not encouraged, nor really necessary. Mistakes in genes happen regularly in African violets, and most useful mutations have been found by an observant grower who noticed something a little different about one of their plants. Artificial selection for these differences has resulted in the tremendous diversity we now enjoy in our African violets.

Help Us Commemorate a Special Anniversary

This year marks a very special milestone: the 25th work anniversary for Amy Carruth, AVSA's beloved office manager. We want to surprise Amy by showering her with old-fashioned snail-mail greeting cards that share how much she means to us. To keep this a secret, please send

your card to Rich Follet no later than April 15. He will deliver them to her in person.

Amy Carruth
c/o Rich Follett
P.O. Box 583
Strasburg, VA 22657-0583



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Number 32

Hybridized by: Armacost & Royston

Grown by: Ann Athey

Standard

Using Sous Vide Treatment for the Elimination of Cyclamen Mites

By Donna S. O'Neal

Email: donna.spencer.oneal@gmail.com

The heat treatment method is frequently recommended within the African violet community and literature as an option for eliminating cyclamen mites on African violets. A sous vide or immersion cooker maintains water at a constant temperature and is typically used for the preparation of food. This same concept can be applied to address one of the most difficult requirements in using heat treatment on African violets to eliminate cyclamen mites.



Damage caused by cyclamen mites.

The required temperature for effective treatment is 110 to 111 degrees F. If the water temperature exceeds this range, the violets are at risk of sustaining injury. Conversely, if the temperature falls below this narrow range, the heating process will be ineffective against eliminating the mites.

The sous vide treatment is an excellent alternative when spraying with a miticide such as abamectin (Avid) is not feasible, especially if outdoor temperatures are below 60 F. In my case, at the end of winter, I could not rely on favorable outdoor temperatures for the spraying schedule required per the label. Other reasons for avoiding miticide use may include cost, availability or personal environmental concerns.

Initial Case Study and Precautions

In my collection, only three out of the eleven African violet samples tested were infested with cyclamen mites. Three of these six were from one area of the room, whereas five of five mite-free violets were on a rack over 5 feet away, which led me to believe the outbreak was not widespread.

Without a microscope, I relied on my local extension office agent to examine the violets and samples and discuss options. I experimented with sous vide treatment on one of the three violets, which after three weeks was examined and deemed mite-free. During this time, I took many precautions: putting all violets that were near the three infested ones in bags or clear totes with lids and cleaning all shelves, surfaces and floors in the area with diluted bleach. I was already routinely cleaning all tools, instruments, work areas and surfaces with 70% isopropyl alcohol. I cleaned used pots first

in dish soap and then soaked them in diluted bleach solution for 30 minutes.

Additionally, I sought advice from Joyce Stork through the “Ask an Expert” resource at the African Violet Society of America and eventually purchased a microscope.

Managing Buoyancy During Treatment

African violets, even in their pots regardless of weight, will float when placed in any water bath. If full water submersion of the violets cannot be maintained during heat treatment, it may hinder and delay the required process.

I resolved this by adding a stove-top steamer insert from a large pot to my setup. I used a 5-gallon bucket, a sous vide device and the insert, which had handles measuring approximately 11 inches from end to end. After reaching the desired temperature, I would take three to four smaller violets or one large violet and place them in the insert. By holding them in place and flipping the insert over, I could tuck one handle under the bottom end of the sous vide and angle the insert down to the bottom of the bucket, keeping the violets fully submerged and preventing them from floating.



A stove-top steamer insert kept the plants submerged during treatment.



An African violet pot wrapped and ready for sous vide treatment.

Lessons Learned From My Experience

Despite my efforts, I learned many lessons after making several mistakes. I believe the outcome could have been better if I had done things differently, which I summarize below.

The microscope revealed the need to treat all my violets, so I proceeded with sous vide treatment for even those appearing healthy. About ten unhealthy violets (e.g., blackened crown, leaf loss) never made it to treatment. These violets, which were already in a sealed bag or container, were bagged in a trash bag and thrown away, oftentimes nice pot and all.

Unfortunately, the success rate for the remaining violets, including the healthy-looking violets, was lower than I expected, and about one-third of these were infested with mites, mostly from the rack five feet away from the area where the original infestation occurred. I ordered Avid and sprayed three rounds, thoroughly cleaning the shelves after each application. I also purchased a second microscope with a 4.3-inch onboard display to make examinations easier and faster.

One week after the third Avid application, I groomed my violets, repotted some to smaller pots, added systemic granules, inserted wicks and checked for mites and saw no activity. Between seven and eight weeks, I examined all remaining violets again and found no mites. I performed spot checks on any struggling violets, which were immediately bagged, but no mites were ever seen. At four-month mark, all violets were checked and no mites were found. Many of the plants have produced healthy new green leaves and blooms, especially after pruning the lower leaves.

Incorporating the lessons learned, I would attempt the sous vide treatment again, as repeated spraying with Avid so soon may contribute to mite resistance.

Detailed Lessons Learned

Here are more details about my lessons learned. In my opinion, if I'd had all this information at the outset of my treatment plan, my success rate would have been higher.

- Purchase a microscope as part of your African violet toolkit once you feel you have committed to the hobby and before you suspect pests.
- Examine various leaves from different parts of the plant. Always look at crown leaves.
- Wrap pots in plastic wrap or plastic bags and secure them with tape, rubber bands or orchid clips to the base of the stem or lower into the top layer of the soil. The goal here is to keep soil from escaping into the water, which can clog the sous vide device and possibly cause damage.
- To save space and avoid broken leaves, I sometimes wrapped a violet in netting, but this likely compressed parts of the violet and created hiding places for mites.
- Remove flowers and buds before treatment to eliminate mite hiding spots.

- If you can, transfer each violet into a smaller pot. You'll need to repot after treatment anyway, and using a smaller container means you'll have less wet soil to deal with.

- Use a timer to monitor treatment duration, which is recommended anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes. If I used this method again, I would recommend 30 minutes. My treatments on the majority of the violets ranged from 17 to 20 minutes, but when treating my third infested violet, I left it in for 30 minutes with no damage and it was deemed mite-free by the extension agent.

- Carve out time to complete the sous vide treatment if you're planning to process a large batch. I had a one-week lapse from my first batch to the next time I was able to complete the rest of my collection. Take time to prepare all plants for the treatment and have everything in place for repotting all plants after completing the sous vide treatment, as all my soil ended up wet and all my violets needed to be repotted.

- Keep some leaves from treated plants as insurance, but clean them with diluted bleach solution. Leaves from infested violets, even after heat treatment, often did not survive or remained infested.

- In the future, when I buy a new violet, I will go to another room away from my main area and remove the healthiest leaves, toss the plant, disinfect the leaves with diluted bleach and start with leaf propagation. It will be worth the additional time, as I have lost so much time dealing with this experience and never want to do it again.

Post Treatment

Maintain the quarantine for at least four months, using all your knowledge about

keeping the area, tools and materials clean. Do not introduce new violets into your area for at least four months. Remove old or deformed leaves and keep checking for any signs of reinfestation. When tending to your violets, wear nitrile gloves and in between violets, spray the gloves with 70% isopropyl alcohol. Stay vigilant — quick action is crucial — and don't let your guard down so you can eventually enjoy healthy violets again.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Sophia Becker at the University of Kentucky, Boone County Cooperative Extension Office, and to Joyce Stork at the African Violet Society of America for their guidance. Additional thanks go to YouTuber @Plantastix for her video inspiration.

“Perfectly Pittman” Video

This video chronicles the multiple hybrids, growing techniques, growing spaces and AVSA involvement of Hortense and Ray Pittman.



Jolly Orchid

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Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

S. 5b clone *confusa* Mather E

Grown by: Jerry VandeBerg



Photo credit: Sandy Skalski

Sandy's Magenta Magician

2025 New Introduction

Hybridized by: S. Skalski
Standard



Photo credit: Noelle Maladorno

Stripey Stellina

2025 New Introduction

Hybridized by: N. Maladorno
Standard



Family Portrait: *Achimenes* 'Glory'

By Mel Grice

Email: melsgrice@gmail.com

Achimenes 'Glory' is a wonderful gesneriad to grow. The dark green semi-upright foliage and bold red-orange flowers make a strong statement. R. Brumpton from the U.K.

C.E. Spagh from Florida initially distributed it in the U.S. I grow it under two or more T-8 light bulbs on my light stands. The stronger light you can give it, the better results you will achieve.



Achimenes 'Glory'. Grown by Vicki Ferguson. Photo credit: Mel Grice.

Achimenes have rhizomatous root structures. Rhizomes are one of the three root structures found in gesneriads, the other two being fibrous only and tuberous. Rhizomes are actually modified stems and grow perpendicular to the force of gravity. Scaly rhizomes are produced under and above the soil, coming from leaf axils when conditions are favorable. They often resemble pine cones and help the plants remain alive during the dry season in the wild. They perform the same function as a tuber or bulb, so do not discard the pot if the plant looks dead — it is only resting or dormant.

Achimenes are propagated by stem cuttings in water or mix. Stem cuttings root very quickly, sometimes within days. Rhizomes can be planted whole, in pieces or by removing individual scales and planting them. I begin by placing a wick in the bottom of the pot since eventually I will wick water the plants once roots are well established. I plant rhizomes in a shallow, 4-inch pan pot (for seven or eight rhizomes), laying them on their sides approximately 1 inch deep in a loose, well-drained medium. Some rhizomes are several inches long, so I break them into about 1/2-inch sections and use a larger pot depending upon how many sections I have. Once planted, I place the pot under a clear plastic dome on a capillary mat that is wicked to the tray below it.

Achimenes seem to require warmth to start, so I place the pot on a top shelf of the light stand just 2 or 3 inches from a T-8 or T-5 light bulb. The pots are gradually lowered away from the lights as the plants grow. Once the plants reach about 3 inches tall, I pinch, pinch, pinch like you would an African violet trailer. Leave one or two leaf nodes

and pinch out the growing tip to encourage branching. The more branches you have, the more floriferous the plants will be. The tip cuttings that you pinch off may be rooted individually in a plastic cup. If you have numerous cuttings, they may be placed in a larger pot under a dome for a few weeks to root.

All these cuttings should eventually produce a scaly rhizome. Warning: Before you know it, your rhizomes you began with could increase exponentially into more rhizomes than you know what to do with. Bear in mind that some achimenes are shy rhizome producers, so don't assume that a pot will be full of rhizomes for the next growth cycle. Always take some stem cuttings for insurance.

A crucial factor in rhizome production is keeping the plants consistently well fed and watered. If excess drying occurs too early in the growth cycle, the plants may go dormant prematurely without producing any rhizomes for next year. That is why I try to have two or more pots of a variety growing. That way, I won't lose the variety if I occasionally forget to water a tray of plants. I try to place each pot in a different part of my plant room so that they are watered on different days.

Many people grow achimenes outside in hanging baskets during the warmer months of the year. My gesneriads stay inside all year long since I don't want to risk bringing in any unwanted pests to my collection.

The spectacular plant shown in the photo was exhibited by Vicki Ferguson at The Gesneriad Society Flower Show in Parsippany, New Jersey.



Does Tapping African Violets Stimulate Flowering?

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

One of the most common questions on the African violet Facebook groups is, “How can I get my plant to flower?” Advice from the members runs from changing the fertilizer and light to repotting and removing suckers. One of the more unusual suggestions is to tap the plant on a hard surface. The idea behind tapping is that vibrations to the plant will stimulate flowering. However, data to back up the claim is hard to find. The purpose of this article is to share an experiment to test the hypothesis that tapping stimulates earlier blooming of African violets.

The plants used in the study were small cuttings that had recently been potted up from a bathroom Dixie cup to a 2-inch pot. The soil mix was Sunshine Mix #4 mixed 50:50 with perlite. Plants were placed randomly within rows by cultivar in a tray. The plants were 18 inches under a 36-watt LED bulb with a light color of 4000K. Light output was 3,200 lumens, and the lights were on a timer for an 8-hour light and 16-hour dark cycle. The plants were watered each week with reverse osmosis water with 1/4 teaspoon of Superthrive Grow 7-9-5 fertilizer. The plants remained under these environmental conditions for the duration of the experiment.

The cultivars used in the experiment were Yukako, Lilliana and Lunar Lily White. Under my growing conditions, Yukako is a medium-level bloomer, Lilliana is a free

bloomer and Lunar Lily White is a reluctant bloomer. Yukako had three plants that were tapped and two plants as the control. Lilliana and Lunar Lily White had three plants tapped and three plants as the control.

Tapping was done by raising the pot/plant approximately 3 inches above the table surface and tapping the pot three times on the surface. Each plant in the experiment groups was tapped once a week for several weeks. Pictures were taken at the start of the experiment and once a week for the following weeks.

Figure 1 shows the plants at the start of the experiment. The top row is Yukako, the middle row is Lilliana and the bottom row is Lunar Lily White. Plants on the left side are the control group and were not tapped. Plants on the right side were the experimental plants and were tapped. Yukako had the two left-side plants as the control and the three right-side plants as the experimental.



Figure 1.



Figure 2: The plants after one month of growth.

The results after one month of growth differed by cultivar. Yukako had two of the three tapped plants with flowers or buds. One of two untapped plants was blooming. Lilliana had buds or flowers on all three of the tapped plants, and only one untapped plant had flowers.

The results for Lunar Lily White were the most striking, with all three tapped plants with buds and no buds on any of the untapped plants. This pattern followed for the next several weeks, until eventually all plants did develop buds.

The explanation for why tapping can stimulate flowering can be found in scientific literature. A summary of the reaction from ChatGPT is as follows:

1. Vibration Sensed: This is an immediate response to the tapping sensed by both roots and leaves.
2. Immediate Stress Signal: The plant may release a pulse of the stress hormone ethylene, and calcium ions rush into cells as a signal cascade, telling the plant that something has changed. Growth-related genes are temporarily paused and stress-response genes are switched on. This response takes place within minutes to hours after the tapping event.
3. Hormone Redistribution: Auxin, the growth hormone, redistributes from shoots to roots. Cytokinin, the bud initiation hormone made

in the roots, is redistributed to the crown. The balance between the auxin and cytokinin shifts, tipping the plant from growth to producing flowers.

4. Bud Initiation: Flower buds generally form within one to three weeks after tapping. If the plant has enough light, fertilizer and maturity, the buds will continue to develop. If the plant is weak, stressed or immature, it may stop growth instead.

The results of this study support the hypothesis that tapping African violets can stimulate early flower production and flowering, especially in young, newly transplanted plants. The results were not identical by cultivar, and individual plants may vary in their response, as seen with Yukako and Lilliana, where tapping helped but wasn't 100% effective in promoting flowers. However, the results for Lunar Lily White were quite clear, with 100% of the tapped plants forming flower buds while 0% of the untapped plants responded. Tapping can be beneficial in promoting flowering, but it is not the only factor involved in flower formation.

The scientific study of tapping or stress-promoted flowering was originally worked out with detailed studies of tomatoes. Plants that were vibrated regularly, either by wind or mechanical shaking, grew stouter and less tall but produced flowers and fruits earlier. A similar response has been seen in many other plants, with the biochemical responses being nearly identical in all plants studied.

A similar earlier response to flowering has been reported through gently squeezing the pot to stress and stimulate the roots. However, this is difficult to achieve if the pots are thick and stiff. Tapping the plants gives the same effect regardless of the type of pot and may be a more practical treatment to promote flowering.

In conclusion, if your African violet is being a little stubborn about flowering and has good soil, light and maturity, try changing the fertilizer to a bloom-boost formulation with a higher middle number of phosphorus

for two to three weeks. Tap the plant to stress the roots during this time. The combination of additional phosphorus and tapping has a good chance to shift the plant from growth to flowering.



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Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

***Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Blue Bonnet'**

Grown by: Dr. Janis Theophanes



The Frustrations of Fasciation

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

Rosette-style African violets grow as a circle, or with radial symmetry. A well-grown plant has leaves that radiate from the center and form a perfect circle of foliage. Many growers are familiar with the “rule of three,” where overlapping layers of leaves are produced with three leaves per layer. Mature rosette plants have a perfect symmetry that judges watch for and award high scores to.

However, sometimes the growth of a rosette plant deviates from a circle. The growth is no longer symmetrical and flowering usually stops. This abnormal growth goes by many names, such as zippering, crested and fasciation. The purpose of this article is to describe the causes of fasciation and if it is possible to restore a plant to circular symmetry.

What Causes Fasciation

The key to understanding fasciation is to understand how African violets grow and produce leaves and flowers. Plants don’t grow like animals do. Animals increase in size by producing new cells all over the body. The new cells produce growth in all three dimensions of height, width and depth. A few special cells retain the capacity for cell division to repair damage, but once full adult size is reached, growth stops.

Plants, in contrast, have permanent areas of cells called meristems that retain the ability to divide. One meristem is at the tip of the stem and is called the shoot apical meristem or SAM. There is a similar

meristem at the tip of each root called the root apical meristem or RAM. Apical meristems produce growth in length or primary growth. Increases in diameter are accomplished by a thin layer of meristem cells that develop around the circumference of the stem or root. These cells are the vascular cambium, and the growth in width is called secondary growth. Plants, therefore, differ from animals in that their increase in size is the result of two meristem regions. The meristems remain capable of producing new cells for years and, in many cases, are essentially immortal.

Figure 1 shows a vertical cut through a plant stem. The nucleus of each cell has been stained for better visibility. Notice that the shoot apical meristem cells are packed into a tiny region at the tip of the stem. The purpose of these cells is to divide and produce more cells. The center cells remain meristematic while the outer cells are pushed outward and downward,

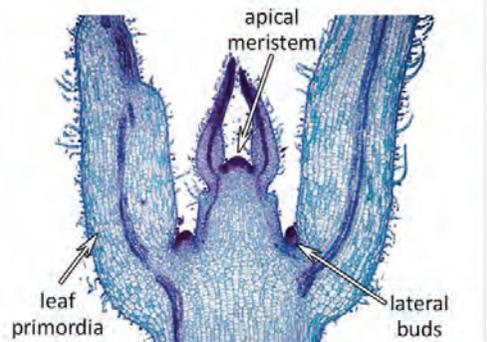


Figure 1. Cross section of a stem tip. Image credit: www.propg.ifas.ufl.edu.

expanding and maturing into other tissues and structures such as leaves, lateral or axillary buds, etc.

Therefore, in the shoot apical meristem, one area is permanently meristematic and retains the capacity to divide, while most of the outer cells are pushed to the edges of the meristematic circle and mature into other plant structures.

What is not visible in Figure 1 is the shape of the shoot apical meristem when viewed in cross section. The shoot apical meristem area is a circle, causing the growth pushed away from this area to produce a rosette African violet. Sometimes, however, the shape changes from a circle to an oval, as shown in Figure 2.

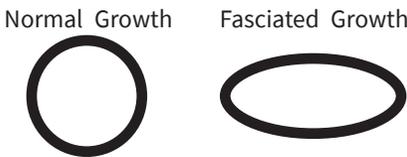


Figure 2. Cross section of a normal shoot apical meristem compared to a fasciated shoot apical meristem.

When the shoot apical meristem's shape changes from a circle to an oval, cell growth no longer expands symmetrically as a circle. Instead, growth expands unevenly, forming a band or line. The position of the



Figure 3.

leaves, axillary buds and all other tissues are distorted and misplaced relative to each other. The plant is now fasciated. An example is shown in Figure 3.

Fasciated growth is thought to be due to genetic mutations, cultural stress, pathogens or hormonal changes. A recent study by Xu et. al. (2019) found that the shape of the shoot apical meristem is controlled by a pair of genes. When both genes are working properly, the circular shape of the apical meristem is maintained, resulting in circular growth and maturation of the tissues. A mutation in one of the genes changes their interaction and the meristem changes to the oval or fasciated shape. The mutation is inherited by all subsequent cells, including axillary buds and leaves.

Fasciated growth in African violets appears to be due to genetics rather than culture changes or pathogens. The evidence for genetic change is supported by the observation that once a plant has fasciated, leaf cuttings produce fasciated plants. The same is true for suckers produced from the axillary buds. I have tried to produce normal plants using leaf cuttings, splitting the fasciated crowns and other methods, and all attempts produced more fasciated plants. This is explained because all tissues produced below the fasciated apical meristem inherited the mutation and will continue to produce fasciated plants. If the cause was cultural or due to a pathogen, one would expect normal plants to be produced occasionally.

One might think that since the fasciated growth form produces more leaves, it would also produce more flowers. The opposite is usually true. Fasciated plants have an altered shape, which changes the hormone distribution needed for flower production. Most fasciated plants fail to

flower and just produce more leaves and multiple crowns. Removing the extra leaves or crowns does not remove the mutation in the apical meristem, and the plant will continue to produce abnormal growth.

Some African violet cultivars appear to be predisposed to mutate to a fasciated sport. For example, miniatures are more likely to fasciate than standards. Bustle-back cultivars have a higher tendency to fasciate, especially older cultivars like Blue Tail Fly and Pink Wasp. The fasciated mutation has originated several times and can appear in plants of unrelated heritage.

Can Fasciated Plants Recover Normal Growth?

Since fasciated growth is genetic in African violets, is there a way to recover normal growth from a fasciated plant? The key to this question is understanding that the mutation is inherited to all tissues below the mutated apical meristem. The trick is to take a cutting far below the apical meristem using tissues that were produced before the mutation occurred. For example, using the oldest leaves that were produced before the apical meristem mutated can

give normal leaf cuttings. You can also try removing the crown and leaving the lowest three leaves behind. The axillary buds of these leaves can produce normal suckers if they were produced before the mutation occurred. Neither of these suggestions may be successful, especially if the fasciated mutation appeared early in the plant's growth.

In summary, a tiny little change in the meristem area of African violets results in a change in the geometric shape of the shoot apical meristem. Because of the way plants grow, the fasciated mutation is inherited by all subsequent tissues. Fasciated plants are unusual and are actually sought out in plants such as cacti. However, in African violets, a fasciated plant is likely destined for the compost pile.

Resources:

Qian Xu, Rong Li, Lin Weng, Yuan Sun, Meng Li¹ and Han Xiao. 2019. "Domain-specific expression of meristematic genes is defined by the LITTLE ZIPPER protein DTM in tomato." *Communications Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-019-0368-8>.

Tips for Choosing or Making a Potting Mix

Violets have very fine roots and are very sensitive to root rot if they do not have air pockets in the potting mix. For this reason, many growers choose a peat-based potting mix that is 50% coarse perlite.

It is rare to be able to buy such a porous mix in a store. To make your own, mix one-part potting mix with one-part coarse perlite. When potting plants, be careful to pile the mix loosely into the pot and do not pack the soil down around the roots.

If you wick water or mat water, you will want to use a potting mix that contains 40% to 60% perlite. If you buy a ready-made mix, look for words like "wicking mix" to let you know that this is a well-draining material.

There is no single perfect potting mix. The best potting mix for your plants depends on your growing conditions, including the general temperature and humidity, and how your water and fertilize your plants.



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Award-Winning Designs from the 2025 AVSA Convention

Email: editor@avsa.org

AVM Photographer Winston J. Goretsky assembled images of some of the top designs from the 2025 AVSA National Convention. All of the designs won Best in Class; any Special Awards are identified with

the photos. Let these images inspire you as you dream up designs for the 2026 convention or your local show. All photos by Winston J. Goretsky.



“Australia”

Underwater Theme / Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement / Best Design

Designed by: Linda Hall



“Dish Garden”

**Best Container Garden/
Best Dish Garden**

Designed by: Scott Ammann



“Dish Garden”

Design Sweepstakes

Designed by: Becky McMeel



“Bahamas”

Runner-up to Design Sweepstakes

Designed by: Linda Hall



“Japan”

Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement

Designed by: Annie Hibbs



“Romania”

Designed by: Dr. Elmer Godeny



“Worlds of Fun”

Designed by: Randy G. Deutsch



Convention Hotel Information

By Randy G. Deutsch

Email: conventionchair@avsa.org

The hotel for this year's AVSA National Convention is very easy to get to. We will be at the Renaissance Dallas North by Marriott. The address is 1590 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway. Whether you are going east or west, you will need to take exit 28.

The discounted group rate for hotel rooms is \$119 plus 13% tax for a king or double queen room. To make your reservation, you can call (972) 869-4300 direct (Central time). You will get the special group rate by telling them you are making a reservation for the African Violet Society of America's annual convention. Check-in time is 3 p.m. and check-out time is noon. The hotel also has complimentary internet access in all of the rooms.

This year, we have negotiated free parking for everyone. Ignore the QR codes to register for parking; just let the front desk know when you check in that you are there for the AVSA convention to receive your parking pass. Free parking is available for all lots around the hotel and the attached parking garage.

The airport is just a short 10-mile drive from the hotel. The hotel does not have a shuttle. Uber/taxi pricing can range from \$25 to \$55.

Yes, you can bring your pet with you this year. They charge a non-refundable fee of

\$50 per night, with a maximum weight of 25 pounds. Also, there is a limit of two pets per room.

The hotel does have an in-house restaurant that serves breakfast and dinner. They do not have a breakfast buffet, so you must order off the menu. The dining room is very large and has a nice, warm feeling to it.

While the hotel does not have any restaurants that are within walking distance, there are several that are in the immediate area. So, with your free parking, you can come and go as you wish. The hotel has a restaurant listing at the front desk; just ask for one. As you would expect from being in the South, you will find many choices of seafood places to eat. You will also find many steakhouses around too. There are national chains as well as local favorites to choose from. There are also a few vegan-friendly spots to look at.

So, make your plans soon! Convention is always a great time to meet up with the violet family and also a time to make a new friend or two. Take a look at the website, www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org, for additional details about the 2026 National Convention in Dallas.

Returning to Convention: Free “Violets 101” Presentation

Email: conventionchair@avsa.org

Mark Romansky will present his extremely popular workshop, “Violets 101: A No-Non-sense Approach to Growing African Violets,” for free to the general public at this year’s convention. The presentation is scheduled for Saturday, May 30 from 9 to 10 a.m. Please encourage your friends to attend even if they are not AVSA members or registered for convention. They can shop the sales room and visit the showroom after the presentation wraps up.

Here is a summary of Mark’s talk: Have you ever struggled with fertilizer, light, water, propagation or grooming for your African violets? What are these things and why do we do them? Mark Romansky has you covered! We are not going down any rabbit

holes — just sharing good, solid basics to get you growing and showing. This presentation is open to any level of grower.

Mark Romansky has been around African violets for over 55 years. His parents were African violet enthusiasts, so vacations were planned around greenhouses and growers. Mark’s Violets 101 presentation at previous conventions led to a series of articles on growing basics for *African Violet Magazine*. Mark speaks frequently on topics of horticulture, reptiles, parrots, rescue, re-homing and special needs birds.

Although this presentation is geared toward the public, it is open to convention attendees as well. Attend if you’re interested and encourage others to join in!

Luncheon Auction Donations Needed

By Candace Baldwin Email: auction@avsa.org

One of my favorite convention activities is the Luncheon Auction. Each year offers a lovely selection of plant and non-plant items, all generous donations from our members and commercial suppliers. A recent change, the addition of the silent auction, has been well received.

Please consider donating plant material, such as a set of starter plants of your

personal favorites, vintage violets or plants with unusual foliage or blossoms. If you are entering the show, is there a show plant you would consider donating? Most any violet-related fun item is a hit with the crowd.

Please email me information about your donation and/or if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity!



AVSA 2026 Convention Souvenir Book Ads

By Randy G. Deutsch

Email: conventionchair@avsa.org

This year's AVSA National Convention, "Violets are Texas Stars," will be held in Dallas from May 25 to 31. We invite you to advertise in our Convention Souvenir Book. Ads can be well wishes or advertising. They are an excellent way to promote your organization or business.

The size of a full-page ad is 8 inches high by 5 inches wide. The cost is \$110. A half-page is 4 inches high by 5 inches wide and costs \$70. A quarter-page is 2 inches high by 5 inches wide. The rate is \$40. All inside ads will be black and white.

We also offer three full-page ads on the inside front cover, inside back cover and outside back cover for \$145 if printed in

black and white or \$175 if printed in color. Only cover pages can be in color.

To purchase an ad, contact Janet Castiglione, Souvenir Book Chair, at jmcvioletcas@gmail.com.

The deadline for all ads is April 28. Camera-ready copy is preferred (PDF, Word doc or JPEG file). Ads can be purchased by check or money order (USD only). Make checks or money orders payable to AVSA and send to:

Terri Post
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Thank you in advance for your support!

What is Girl Foliage?

In African violets, the term "girl" has nothing to do with gender. It originated when an early hybrid named Blue Boy produced a sport with unusual foliage. The cultivar was named Blue Girl. Any cultivar since with the same foliage is considered a "girl."

Girl foliage is the result of a genetic fault that allows the petiole to grow into the leaf blade. This creates a pale green or

somewhat pink splotch at the base of the leaf that contrasts with the deeper green of the leaf. Depending on how far the stem tissue grows into the leaf, the leaf becomes more ruffled and often unmanageable as it tries to cope with the extra cells. Many girl leaves are also lobed or heavily scalloped. Girl leaves often have short petioles that may cause an exaggerated compact or tight growth pattern, especially if grown in cool locations.

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Fund Reports for November/December 2025

By Randy G. and Carla Deutsch

Email: fundraising@avsa.org

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund: \$125

The Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund supports the long-term stability of the society.

■ \$50 to \$99

Rita Kuni, Columbia, IL

■ \$25 to \$49

Barbara Greenawalt, Glen Allen, VA
Rob and Rebecca McMeel, Houma, LA

■ Under \$25

Barbara Gallo, Moorpark, CA
North Little Rock, AR

Barbara Burde Endowment Fund: \$150

The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund supports the society's long-term needs in technology.

■ \$100 to \$199

Laura Campbell, Camarillo, PA

■ \$25 to \$49

Rob and Rebecca McMeel, Houma, LA

■ Under \$25

Candace Baldwin, Midland, TX
Barbara Gallo, Moorpark, CA
Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR

Booster Donations: \$2,070

Booster Donations support AVSA's ongoing general expenses.

■ \$500 to \$599

Lynn Allen, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Randy G. Deutsch, Sioux Falls, SD

■ \$200 to \$299

Wisconsin AV Council, WI

■ \$100 to \$199

Kevin Degner, Oshkosh, WI
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Wynne Voorhees, Dallas, TX

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Janet Fox, Oakland, CA
Memphis AV Society, TN

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Sue Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX
Glenda Williams, McDade, TX

■ Under \$25

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Sherin Boyd, Saint John, NB
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Carolyn Lyons, Oshkosh, WI
Gilian Nicholls, Cape Girardeau, MO
Pam Schwager, Neligh, NE
Angela Weeks, Lewis Center, OH
Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR

Boyce Edens Research Fund: \$40

The Boyce Edens Research Fund supports research and scholarships.

■ \$25 to \$49

Rob and Rebecca McMeel, Houma, LA

■ Under \$25

Barbara Gallo, Moorpark, CA
Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR

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Were you encouraged to join AVSA by a particular individual, vendor or group? If so, please enter their name here: _____

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- March/April issue: January 1
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- July/August issue: May 1
- September/October issue: July 1
- November/December issue: September 1

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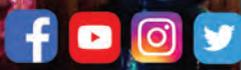
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Dr Ralph (Rob) & Olive Mas Robinson, owners
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