



# THE DIXIE NEWS

Publication of Dixie African Violet Society ([www.DAVS.org](http://www.DAVS.org))  
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## President's Message

Lynne Wilson

[tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com)

Dear Members,

I hope you all are having a wonderful summer. It is really warm here in Tampa and now we are experiencing our usual sequence of high temps and late afternoon showers. The lightning has produced quite a show as the storms move across the bay.

Pat Wilson sent a wonderful Facebook message about violet therapy. I called her and told her how much I appreciated reading it and asked if I could add it to this newsletter. Pat said yes, so I am sharing this with our growers.

“For many of us in the African violet world, our violets are a source of beauty and enjoyment. Now, in these troubled times, those little plants are becoming a source of respite and calm in these troubled and violent times. Turning to our African violets allows us to separate from the trouble and turmoil that we hear and see every day on television and in the newspapers. The plants allow us to put ourselves into a tiny corner of beauty and tranquility without losing touch with reality. We can gain a sense of perspective and peace without resorting to medication or alcohol when we work with our violets. During the Vietnam War, my husband, when he was home, said that an hour in his greenhouse was better for him than three martinis. His time with the violets allowed him to decompress from the tensions of wartime military.

“Now, many years later, the violets allow both of us to decompress from all the tensions thrown at us every day. For a brief window of time, each of us and our African violets are in a small sphere of peace and tranquility. Treasure that small window, as it restores each of us to go forward to do our best for ourselves, our loved ones and our community, no matter how

small or large it may be. Thank goodness for the gift of African violets to the human soul.”

Happy Growing!

Lynne



S. 5c2 clone diplotricha Parker  
Bill Price – AVSA Best in Show



Buckeye Nostalgia  
Kurt Jablonski – AVSA 2<sup>nd</sup> Best in Show

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Rob's Peedletuck  
by Mary Corondan

## HIGHLIGHTS OF AVSA'S 2016 CONVENTION ALBUQUERQUE, NM

by Kathy Spissman

Dixie's Convention Director  
770-939-5289 or

[mrsstrepstrels@comcast.net](mailto:mrsstrepstrels@comcast.net)

This year's AVSA convention was one to remember. The plant sales room with over 12 commercials was large and filled with lots of plants. I made a dent in that room!

All the meals at the banquets were good, plus the Friday raffle was so much fun, even with all the steps to get to the room.

Every presentation was so informative. Got some great tips on "How to pack those show plants to travel to a show." Best in years. The Ways & Means and Florida Council had wonderful raffle and silent auction items. I won quite a few. . .but then had to pay overweight on my suitcase. . .bummer.

Loved seeing old friends I had not seen in a while.

At the Affiliate meeting our club got some good ideas to plan for next year.

Attending the Business Meeting makes you realize and appreciate the Officers and Board members who give their time to keep this organization going through these days of a changing world.

The show room was very large and filled with so many beautiful plants. It was a sight to behold. I don't think I had ever seen so many minis and semi-minis before. There were almost 4 long sections of tables, both sides covered with little beauties. Just gorgeous.

If you have not been to a national convention, next year is your opportunity in Orlando, Florida. It is so close to the Dixie states. Sign up for all the presentations--they are free, go to all the dinners, take a picture of every plant in the show, buy lots of new beauties for your collection but most of all, meet new friends and make lifelong friendships as there is nothing better than a true African Violet friend.

See you in Orlando!



## AVSA 2017 Convention and Show ORLANDO, FL

May 28 - June 4, 2017



AVSA's 2017 convention and show will be held May 28–June 4 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort International Hotel, 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 - (407) 351-2420. The African Violet Council of Florida will be the hosting club.

Come join us to see our African violet show consisting of many different varieties and colors. There will be an AVSA commercial vendor salesroom with vendors from different parts of the country. During the convention, there will be seminars covering all aspects of growing and showing African violets. . .and there will also be a variety of scheduled tours.

### 2017 Convention Hours

#### Show Room Schedule During Convention Week

The show room is open to members registered for the convention on Thursday evening following the Awards Banquet.

The show room is open to the public on:

Friday, June 2, 2017 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, June 3, 2017 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Note: *There is a \$5.00 admission charge for people who are not AVSA members. If non-members join AVSA at the door, this fee is waived. AVSA members who are not registered with the convention and show their AVSA membership card will receive a \$1.00 discount.*

For additional information or questions about the 2017 AVSA Convention, please contact Linda Price, Convention Chair, at [conventionchair@avsa.org](mailto:conventionchair@avsa.org).

## JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

An AVSA membership offers the following benefits:

- Six full-color issues annually (64 pages each) of the African Violet Magazine filled with great growing information
- Regular columns include
- For Beginners
- Question Box
- In Search of New Violets
- Gesneriad Advice
- Thinking Small
- Coming Events



The AVM gives members continuous information on the latest developments in the African violet world. Commercial members advertise and sell the latest and most popular violets and products. The September issue contains an insert which lists all commercial members so you can find one near you or write for their latest catalog or list. *(Some information formerly published in the AVM, such as the Commercial List, can now be found on the website, on the Magazine page, and is available for members only.)*

- Discounted prices on all products sold in the AVSA Store.
- AVSA holds annual conventions in various regions of the country. All members may participate in these exciting events which feature judged shows open to all registered AVSA members.
- Informative presentations are made by experts in African violet culture.
- AVSA maintains an extensive library of slide and video programs which are available to members at a nominal service charge. Individual Membership is \$30. Send check with contact information to:  
AVSA  
2375 North Street  
Beaumont, TX 77702
- Or register online at [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)

- Commercial members also display their newest introductions and have booths where plants and plant-related products are sold.



## MORE AVSA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

**Linda Price, Apopka, FL\*** - For me, the highlight of AVSA's Albuquerque Convention was the people. So many people stopped by the Auction/Raffle tables I was working (with the help of Elvie Blakely and Mary Lou Harden) to tell me what they do to make the Convention a success. A few of the people that I remember were Ron Davidson, Steve Turner, Glenda and James Williams, Libbie and Tom Glembocki and Al Cenci.

At dinner on Friday night, I met Joyce and Kent Stork and Vladimir and Tatiana Kalgin. I also reconnected to Kathy Lahti, who introduced me to the Local Convention Chair, Sharon Shannon, and Local Show Chair, Kathy Bell. They worked so hard during the Convention!

There were many others that I met. One of the most interesting was Mary McFarland who chatted at length with both Elvie and me and who stood right in front of me as I drew out her name for the beautiful Russian violet donated by Steve Turner. I met many vendors, some of whom I already knew from previous Dixie shows, and others I met for the first time. I invited all of them to the 2017 Convention in Orlando.

Undoubtedly, the most fun came when members of the African Violet Council of Florida, hosts for next year's convention, presented their skit inviting everyone to Orlando for the 2017 Convention. They were: Linda Price as Emcee; Mary Lou Harden and Elvie Blakely as lost tourists; Sharon Gartner as pineapple; Kurt Jablonski as orange slice; and Carolee Carter as flamingo. You never know what people are capable of until you see them perform!

\*Linda is president of the African Violet Council of Florida and is local Convention Chair of AVSA's 2017 convention.

**Johnnie Berry, Atlanta, GA\*** - What I enjoyed the most at this year's AVSA convention were the seminars by (1) Debbie McInnis who told us that, "In

order to win it, you have to bring it!" (2) How to pack plants when traveling to conventions by B.J. Ohme and Mary Corondan, and (3) Paul Kroll's workshop on making a dish garden.

\*Johnnie is President of the African Violet Club of Atlanta, Treasurer of Dixie African Violet Society and a newly installed Director of AVSA.



## Know Your Dixie Member

### Phillis Hinkle

by Betty Ferguson

I am an Oklahoma Sooner and proud of it. I was born and raised in Oklahoma City. Growing up there was a carefree time. Our doors were never locked, and we played up and down the street all day and evening without parental supervision. I am the oldest of 4 children. I have 3 younger brothers who all still reside in OKC. Our parents grew up during a difficult time, the depression, in a challenging area, the dust bowl of western Oklahoma.

I have no children so my six nephews and niece are my children and they know it. They know they have their own parents to see them through their senior years and they also have Aunt Phillis. In addition, I have my precious ones, 4 great nieces and 2 great nephews. They also reside in Oklahoma City.

This fall is my fiftieth high school reunion. I'm not sure how that happened because I can't be that old. I attended Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK. I loved it. There were more people in my high school graduating class than in the entire student body at OBU. It was great to be a part of something more intimate than just one of many. I moved to Atlanta after graduating from OBU. I had friends in Atlanta that I'd known from OBU. I came for a visit and several interviews. I was hired almost on the spot by the DeKalb County School System and the rest, as they say, is history. I attended Georgia State University and received my Masters in education while I was teaching. I taught elementary school for 33 years then substitute taught for another 8 years. I have been retired for 12 years and love every day of it.

I have lived in Atlanta for 45 years. This is my second home. I have developed many friendships through activities I enjoy. My interests include sewing, English

hand smocking, my church, where I volunteer every Wednesday, and a book club I enjoy that meets once a month. It goes without saying that my violet club is a valuable part of my life. I also love to travel. I've been on several river cruises, which I love, and travel to Colorado, Cape Cod, Oklahoma, and destinations for the AVSA and Dixie conventions.

Plants and horticulture are really a part of my background. My grandparents had farms and gardens. My parents had a large garden when we were growing up. My brothers and I still are involved in horticulture to some degree. My youngest brother is a master gardener and almost always has a garden. I enjoy plants and working in my yard. I've grown violets from time to time as long as I can remember.

I read about a violet club that was starting and made inquired about it. This was 1974. My interest led me to the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta, and I've been a member ever since. There are a few others in our club that have been members from almost the beginning as well. In 1976, the AVSA convention was held in Atlanta. It was sponsored by Dixie and our club was very involved. If I wasn't anchored in violets by then, that was the hook, line, and sinker. I've been the secretary, vice president, and president of our club. I've been an active member of Dixie since 2004, and have held the position of awards chairman.



Christening Gown  
Photo AVA of  
Australia

My violet collection contains about 150 plants. I grow all classes of violets, but semi-miniatures are my favorite. I have two

very favorites, Christening Gown and Rob's Little Pueblo, that are always in my collection. When I walk into my plant room I greet them all, "How are you guys doing?" Grooming is my most enjoyable time with my plants. Yes, I do talk to them as I'm working. I haven't grown many other Gesneriads in the past, but I'm enjoying growing Sinningias, especially the small ones. I'm also trying my hand with Episcias.

African violets have brought me much pleasure as well as good friends and good times. Walking into my plant room when they are blooming is a true gift. I'm sure I've "rescued" many violets, but they have "rescued" me right back.



Picasso

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## What is Merit Judging or How can there be six blue ribbons in one class?

by Sue Hoffmann, Dixie AVS Judges Chair

One of the first things an African violet judge learns is: AVSA shows are merit judged. This simply means each plant is examined individually and judged on its own "merits" by the AVSA scale of points for the type of plant being judged: Standard, Semiminiature/Miniature, Species or Trailers. (These appear in the AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges.) Therefore, one class with twelve exhibits may legitimately contain ten blue ribbons and two reds, or even twelve blue ribbons. Yes, all those blue ribbons can be in the same class. Each blue ribbon plant earned a score of 90 or more points. With that score, they won the status of blue ribbon (90 – 100 points).

This is a frequent question when the public visits a violet show. We are so accustomed to competitively judged shows. Fashion shows, dog shows, cooking competitions, and even Gesneriad shows award only one blue ribbon per class. AVSA gives credit where it's due through merit judging. It takes a long time to produce a show plant, and it truly deserves a blue ribbon if it earns 90 points or above.

A judging panel consists of three judges. Although it may seem friendly, having only two judges is not acceptable. There must be three. One of the three may be a student judge (up to three years of experience); the other two will be advanced, senior or master judges.

Each panel is assigned classes to judge which are usually similar – i.e. all Standard violets. It's good to do a “once over” before judging and keep in mind to always “look for beauty, not flaws.” Judges usually scan the plants in a class and ask, “Are there any plants in this group that need a special look – could we possibly deduct 11 or more points?” Since most deviations only result in a ½ to 3 point deduction, it takes quite a few to reach 11 points. To speed the process, judges should be familiar with the rules and deductions listed under the Scale of Points in their Handbooks.



Ace of Diamonds  
Hybridized & exhibited by Kent Stork  
AVSA 2016 Convention

Basic judging criteria for specimen plants are:

- Symmetry – how does the plant radiate from the center? Are there gaps? Is one side heavier? Do the leaves progressively get larger?
- Condition – is the plant clean? Is it centered in the correct size pot? Are there mars or blemishes on the leaves? Is it an acceptable diameter for type? Are blossoms fresh? Any signs of pests or mildew? Seed pods?
- Blossom count – are there an appropriate number of blossoms for the size plant?
- Size and type of blossom – is the color, style and size blossom as described for the variety?

Merit judging is not competitive judging. While this is true, a competitive component enters when judges look at and compare exhibits to determine the “Bests”.

Many special awards are and can be presented: Best in Class; Best Standard; Best Miniature; Best Semiminiature; Best Species; Best Trailer; Best AVSA Collections; Best Dixie Collections; Best Dixie Hybrid; Best Russian Collection; Best Variegated; Best

Vintage; Best Chimera; Best of a Hybridizer (Buckeye, Cajun, Lyons, Rob's, etc.). Often there are awards for specific varieties, and if these cash awards are sizable, many growers compete.

Only blue-ribbon winning exhibits are eligible for special awards.

Only blue-ribbon winning exhibits are eligible for special awards. If there's a Best Concord award and the only Concord wins a red ribbon, that ribbon or cash award is not presented. The club may decide to hold the award until the following year to promote more people growing Concord, or it might get reassigned for another award at the current show.

At the basic level, each class has a Best in Class award. These are usually decided by consensus among the panel who judged the class. They deem one plant the highest scoring and mark it as the Best in Class. Best in Class winners are often chosen to vie for top awards in a show. The only classes which must be point-scored in writing and submitted to AVSA or DAVS are the Collection classes. Once the judging panel deciding on the top awards (usually appointed by the Show Chairman) begins their work, the plants in contention can be assembled. Sometimes it is necessary to point-score each plant to rank them when they are within fractions of a point apart. Other times this is an easier task and can be done among the judges by consensus after comparison and discussion.

Merit judging works well for our society. The AVSA Handbook and the Scale of Points judging system were developed to promote greater consistency in judging around the world. Soon an electronic version of the Judges Handbook will be available. I can't wait!



K's  
Slingshot

Kathy  
Hajner,  
Peralta,  
NM



Johnnie Berry  
 Membership Chair &  
 Treasurer  
 287 Fennel Way, SW  
 Atlanta, GA 30331-4107  
[johnniepearl@comcast.net](mailto:johnniepearl@comcast.net)

**NEW MEMBERS**

Sharon Shannon, Los Lunas, NM  
 Holly Walp Aiken, SC

**RENEWING MEMBERS**

Kay Black  
 Judith Lund  
 Marvin Spissman  
 Kathy Spissman  
 African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta  
 Jo's Violets  
 Miriam Greene  
 Nashville African Violet Club



**Of Growing  
 and Showing  
 African Violets**  
 by Betty Ferguson

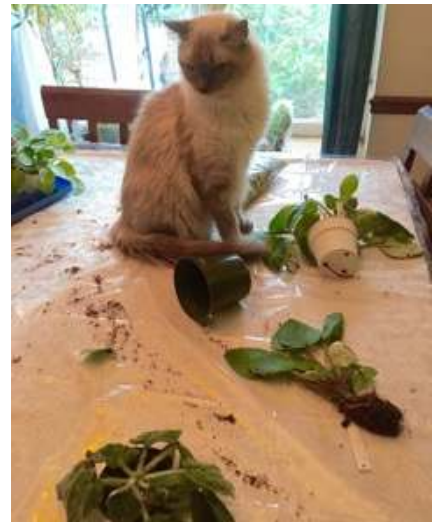
The Second Law of Thermodynamics states, in so many eloquent words, that unless you pump a whole lot of energy or effort into something, it's just naturally going to go to pot.

- Unless you spend endless hours disciplining your kids, they're going to wind up in the pen and/or produce a passel of little darlings for you to raise.
- Unless you get up every few minutes and nuke your coffee, it's going to get cold.
- Unless you get up and add more ice cubes, your tea is going to get hot.
- Unless you spend an hour every day or hours on weekends grooming, repotting, and watering your African violets, they'll grow giraffe necks, sucker like trailers, or flat out croak.

Murphy's Law, on the other hand, says that even if you do the necessary things, you can probably expect the worst just the same.

- The plant most likely to get broken in transportation, no matter how well it's packed, is your Best-in-Show hopeful.
- The harder you try not to slosh water all over the floor, the more likely it is that you will.

- A falling African violet will always land upside down.
- You will always find your plant material cards for your designs right where



- you packed them--after you get home from the show.
- The lower you slump down in your chair when show duties are being delegated, the more likely you'll be chosen for the job you least enjoy.
- The spray bottle of Round-Up your husband leaves on the counter will wind up in your collection of pesticides posing as a fungicide.
- If the convention is held in a no-pets-allowed hotel, your pet sitter will choose that week to take a vacation.
- Behind every little problem (mildew) there's a larger problem (mites--or your husband's Round Up), waiting for the little problem to get out of the way.
- Whenever you give away the extra of your favorite violet, shortly after you'll find your original plant dead. If you place a tray of plants on the floor, your male kitten will happily convert it into a fresh fragrance litter box.



- If you place a pan of potting soil on the floor, every cat in the house will happily convert it into their favorite litter box and will always prefer that pan over any of their real litter boxes.

- The more expense you put into a show design, the greater the likelihood of it getting a red or white ribbon.
- Whenever you need your sucker plucker, it's never there. When you don't need it, it's always laying right in front of you.
- It's never a No ID violet the dog chooses for his chew toy.
- The probability of getting thrips increases as the show date approaches.
- The violet your granddaughter chooses to douse with your most expensive perfume will be your most expensive chimera.
- How long your neighbor hangs around to chat, how many places your kids need to be driven to, how many chores your spouse needs assistance with, and how many things you or they break or spill is directly proportionate to how badly your plants need to be watered.

This Writer's Law states: If you are fool enough to go around uttering any of the above Murphy's Law statements, you can count it, sooner or later the thing you fear will most assuredly come upon you. But, knowing Murphy's Law, no matter what you do or don't do, it might happen anyhow.



Johnnie Berry, Phillis Hinkle, Kathy Spissman, Miriam Greene, Barbara McGrath

### FROM THE DAVS AWARDS DESK

Marian & Greg Zoller  
[marigregz@gmail.com](mailto:marigregz@gmail.com)

Just a reminder that, although we will not have a 2017 DAVS Convention, we will continue to ask for your support and donations to the 2018 DAVS Awards Fund. Kathy Spissman, our Convention Chair, is continuing her search for a venue and hopefully within the next few months, we'll be able to announce a date and place for our Spring 2018 convention. So we hope our individual members as well as affiliates will continue to support our Dixie awards fund. Please send your checks to the following address:

DAVS Awards  
 Marian and Greg Zoller  
 4815 Oak Lane Cove  
 Arlington, TN 38002

**BECOME A MEMBER!**  
**(Membership Application on p. 14)**  
 Please send check payable to DAVS to  
 Johnnie Berry, Membership Secretary  
 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331  
[johnniepearl@comcast.net](mailto:johnniepearl@comcast.net)

### OTHER ROSETTES AVAILABLE

**BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB BEST FANTASY ROSETTE.** To order this rosette for an AVSA-judged show, send your request along with check for \$5 to:

The Baltimore African Violet Club  
 JoAnne Baker-Pruner (410) 315-8513  
 125 Dalesway Drive  
 Pasadena, MD 21122-4057  
 E-mail: [jpbaker@coldwellbankermove.com](mailto:jpbaker@coldwellbankermove.com)

**OPTIMARA BEST OF SHOW ROSETTE FOR OPTIMARA & RHAPSODIE.** To order this rosette and a sample kit of Optimara products, send your request to:

Optimara  
 Attn: Best of Show Rosette  
 P.O. Box 78565  
 Nashville, TN 37207  
[sales@optimara.com](mailto:sales@optimara.com)

Include your name, name of the AVSA-affiliated club holding the show, dates of the show, your complete address (NO P.O. Boxes), and daytime phone number.



Kurt  
 Jablonski &  
 Paula Bal  
 AVSA  
 Convention



# THE OTHER GESNERIADS

## Why You Should Love Streptocarpus\*

By David Gregg  
(Photos by David Gregg)

<http://cubits.org/Strepbystrep/>

There are many reasons for loving Streps. Their flowers come in an array of colors, color combinations, patterns and fantasy markings. The flowers are proudly displayed above the foliage and elegant. Some wavy, some very frilly, others with ruffles and some with unusual blooms that resemble an orchid or butterfly. However, there are other practical reasons to love Streps and give them a try.



Here are my top 7 reasons;

1. They are tough. Experience is a great teacher. However, many have been able to grow Streps successfully even when they have had little to no luck growing African Violets.



flowering plants.

2. They grow under natural or artificial light. Personally I have grown them under both and the plants don't seem to care. Any window will do, even a northern exposure, however, they must not be in direct sun. Bright indirect light is sufficient to get lovely blooms. Not sure if you're getting enough light? Take your hand and place it about one foot above the plant. Now move your hand back and forth, if you see a distinct shadow on the plant, you have enough light for these beauties.

Growing under artificial lights? See Helpful Tips for growing in the new section of the website for advice.

3. Ease of grooming. Since Streps develop multiple crowns, there's no need to remove suckers in general. There are exceptions, particularly in some Polish and Ukrainian varieties where too many crowns develop at one time on the plant. In these cases, keep only 1 additional crown. If allowed to develop, the additional crowns will crowd out the center or each other. DS-Mysticism is one that is notorious for this habit. Have a leaf too big? How about a discolored leaf? Just trim the leaf to any shape and the desired length with sharp scissors.



4. Flowers, Flowers, Flowers. Unlike their cousin the African violet, which usually produces only one bloom stalk per leaf axis, Streps will produce between 6-7 bloom stalks in succession from each leaf. A mature plant with many healthy leaves can produce lots of blooms. Mature plant's flower stalks can produce from 2-6 flowers. On average most varieties will have 2-3, however, there are some which produce even more.



5. Ease of propagation. There are two methods of propagation, the AV method and the mid-rib method. The most popular is the mid-rib method. This is done by taking a section of leaf, preferably 2-3" in length. Cut along the rib going through the center of the leaf using a sharp knife to reduce the chances of bruising the leaf. Now pre-moisten your mix so it is damp, not wet. Make a small ditch the length of your leaf and insert the cut end into the ditch and spread your mix around the leaf and firm the soil around your leaf. Dome or bag your pot and keep out of direct sun. The biggest danger to the leaf rotting is keeping the mix too wet.



The AV method involves cutting the stem back to about 1 1/2." Cut the end of the stem on an angle and then cut the top of the leaf. This helps put the leaf's

energy into growing roots and babies once the leaf roots. This method will produce fewer babies for those who do not want more than a few. On average you will get 3-4 babies from a leaf planted this way.

6. Fewer pest problems. Streps are susceptible to the same pests as AV's - mites, thrips, etc. Mealy bugs



tend to be the most likely problem, but in general they are less likely to attract mites or thrips.

7. They are spectacular. What is more spectacular than a mature plant in full bloom? These plants mature quicker than AV's which means...faster to

bloom! Most Streps will begin blooming in 4 - 6 months. There are exceptions depending on variety, culture and environment. Could be sooner or could be a little later than the general time frame.

Now how can you not love having "weeds" in your indoor garden now?



Streptocarpus 'Telerei' – Best Strep, Denton, TX, 2014  
won by Richard Nicholas (photo by Jeff Hubbard)



Streptocarpus 'Raydar's Tensie', First Austin AVS,  
shown by Penny Smith-Kerker (Photo by M. Bullard)

\*Reprinted with permission from LSAVC Mar-Apr 2014



## DIXIE'S 2018 CONVENTION

by Kathy Spissman  
Convention Director  
770-939-5289

[mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net](mailto:mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net)

**NOW IS THE TIME, DIXIE AFFILIATES!** I know. . .it seems like 2018 is far in the future. . .but now should be a good time for your club to consider hosting the 2018 Dixie convention. The third week in March has worked well for us in the past, although the dates are not written in stone. So please put this item on your club's agenda. If you would like to help but feel your club is too small to host a convention, perhaps you could partner with a nearby club, or maybe you can offer a suggestion as to a venue that might work for us.

In any event, please consider this and discuss it with your club members. Remember -- I do all the negotiation with the hotel as well as the Dixie members who are chairpersons each year. I would be glad to send your club a list of the duties you would be responsible for. A big plus for having the convention in your area -- you probably will gain some new members from the convention and it is a fun way for all of your members to come together to support Dixie.



Jack of Clubs  
Hybridized & exhibited by Kent Stork  
AVSA 2016 Convention

# Congratulations

To these winners at the AVSA 2016 Convention, Albuquerque, NM. For a complete list of awards, visit [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org). Best in Show and Best Species, S.5c2 clone diplotricha Parker; Best Other Gesneriad, Primulina yungfuensis, **Bill Price, Vancouver, BC**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Best in Show and Best Standard, Buckeye Nostalgia; Best Buckeye Collection, Buckeye Nostalgia, Buckeye Claret Wine, Buckeye Main Event, **Kurt Jablonski, Miami Beach, FL**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Best in Show and Best Semiminiature, Rob's Inner Orbit; Best Trailer, Senk's Fruit Fly, **Mary Corondan, McKinney, TX**; Best AVSA Standard Collection, Bisque Risqué, O. New Mexico, Granger's Fantasy Lace, **Stephen Covolo, Springville, CA**; Best AVSA Semiminiature Collection, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Jersey Sugar Plums, Eternal Orbit; Best Robinson Collection, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Rob's Delicious, Rob's Scrumptious; Best Miniature, Rob's Chilly Willy; Horticulture Sweepstakes (41 Blue Ribbons), **Anne Nicholas, Denton, TX**; Best AVSA Species Collection, S. 5f clone orbicularis, S. brevopilosa, S. 8 clone Cha Simba, **Candace Baldwin, Phoenix, AZ**; Best Holtkamp Collection, O. Little Creek, O. Little Blackfoot, O. Little Maya, **Debbie McInnis, Floyds Knobs, IN**; Best Design, "Sandia Peak Tramway," B.J. Ohme, Lincoln, NE; 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Design, "Terrarium - 24 inches or less," **Suzanne Roberts, Dallas, TX**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Design, "The Rio Grande River," **Judith Carter, Broken Arrow, OK**; Design Sweepstakes (10 Blue Ribbons), **Danny Tidwell, Beebe, AR**.



Dues for all classes of memberships are due February 1 each year.

Please send your dues now so you won't miss any issues of *The Dixie News*. You'll find the Membership Application on page 15 of this issue.



Pat Hancock – Debbie McInnis  
AVSA Convention 2016

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

February issue – January 15

May issue – April 15

August issue – July 15

November issue – October 15

## attention affiliates

Robbie McMeel, DAVS Affiliate Chair  
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Are you planning your Spring show? Have you already set the dates and arranged the venue? If so, it's probably time for you to write your Show Schedule. This is just a reminder to be sure to include classes for Dixie AVS Collections in your schedules. Dixie has ribbons available for the Best Standard Dixie Collection and Best Mini/Semimini Dixie Collection. Cost for these ribbons is \$10.00. This is to help defray the cost of the ribbons and to pay for the postage.

Along with your request, send a copy of your show schedule, name of the Club, Show chair person's name, complete shipping address with 9-digit zip code, and a contact email address if possible.

In addition, why not offer a special ribbon award for the Best Dixie-registered plant in your show. All Dixie-registered plants are listed on Dixie's website ([www.davs.org](http://www.davs.org)). There are many plants that are registered with both AVSA and Dixie.

If you have the First Class program, the Dixie Registration Number will show up in the plant information. In the last issue of *The Dixie News*, I listed some of the hybridizers who have registered their plants with Dixie. I'm again including that information for you:

1. Wrangler's Series (Smith)
2. Rodeo Series (JC Munk)
3. Apache Series (JC Munk)
4. Jolly Series (Hortense Pittman)
5. Alamo Series (Hortense Pittman)
6. Buckeye Series (Pat Hancock)
7. Cajun Series (Belinda Thibodeaux)
8. Dean's Series (Harold Hobbs)

So be sure to include the Dixie Collection Classes in your show schedules. If you have questions, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

# COMING EVENTS

**October 1-2, 2016, Spring Branch African Violet Club, Annual Fall Plant Sale**, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004. Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday 10 am to 3 pm. Information: Karla Ross 281-748-8417 or [kjwross@yahoo.com](mailto:kjwross@yahoo.com).

**October 8-9, 2016 – Fall Plant Festival at University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, Tampa, FL** Friday 10 am to 4 pm and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm. Visit <http://gardens.usf.edu/> and click on “Events”.

**November 4-5, 2016, Lone Star African Violet Council, annual convention, show and sale**, 700 Central Parkway East, Plano, TX 75074. Show hours: Friday 2 to 4:30 pm and Saturday 8:30 am to 4 pm. Sales room open Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Information: Mary Corondan at [mcorondan@yahoo.com](mailto:mcorondan@yahoo.com).

**February 24-25, 2017 – Tampa AVS annual show, Valrico, FL.** Information: [jasb39@gmail.com](mailto:jasb39@gmail.com).

**May 28-June 4, 2017 – AVSA Convention & Show**, Wyndham Hotel, Orlando, FL. Convention information at [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org) or [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com).

**July 2017 – The Gesneriad Society Convention & Show**, Omaha, NE. Convention information at [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)



At this year's Dixie convention in Atlanta, it was recommended that, in lieu of a 2017 DAVS convention, all Dixie members volunteer to

help our Florida friends with the 2017 AVSA Convention in Orlando. There will be plenty of opportunity to assist – with registration, putting up signs, being a show room host/hostess, making sure the show room is tidy each day, helping with entries, or placing table favors and centerpieces for banquets. You can contact the Local Convention Chair Linda Price at [laprice41@yahoo.com](mailto:laprice41@yahoo.com) in advance to let her know you'll be glad to help. . .or just let us know when you check in at Registration. Florida thanks you!

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From the Editor. . . Mary Lou Harden  
[mlhard@verizon.net](mailto:mlhard@verizon.net)

Dear Dixie Members,

It was great seeing many of you at the AVSA convention in Albuquerque. I stayed busy throughout the convention, helping with Florida's silent auction and raffle tables. That turned out to be a good place to be since convention goers had to pass by our tables whenever they went to a workshop or into the sales room. Furthermore, we were stationed just across the hallway from the sales room which made it SO convenient for us to periodically visit the sales room and buy more plants!

I tried to be observant of everything going on since we Floridians will be hosting next year's AVSA convention in Orlando. . .and Albuquerque will be a hard act to follow! Orlando is a great place to visit and we're hoping you'll bring your family along, and that you'll come early and stay late.

I encourage you to read Robbie McMeel's column on page 11 and make sure your club includes the Dixie Collections in your show schedules. Also, check out Kathy Spissman's article on page 10 in which she asks for your help in selecting a venue for Dixie's 2018 convention. Since Kathy takes care of so many details for a convention, it should not be that difficult to host the convention.

I hope all of you have enjoyed your summer break. Now it's time to get busy and get some plants repotted. If you repot now, give your plants some consistent, special care and continually groom them, you should have some nice entries for the AVSA convention. For those of you who are having Fall shows and plant sales, we wish you great success! See you in Orlando!



Mel Grice, AVSA  
Affiliate Chair

## DAVS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Commercial \$ 25.00 year  
Dual \$ 20.00 year  
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