



THE DIXIE NEWS

Publication of Dixie African Violet Society (www.DAVS.org)
Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc. (www.avsa.org)
Mary Lou Harden, Editor (mlhard@verizon.net)

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President's Message

Lynne Wilson

tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com

Dear Members,

It has been a rough time for our coastal members. Hurricane Matthew aimed at Florida but seemed to glance off Florida and move on to Georgia and the coastal areas of South and North Carolina.



The flooding was intense in the Carolinas and we pray for the well being of all those affected. I spotted a beautiful Facebook posting by Jacksonville member Bobbi Johannsen who was riding out the storm at her home on Jacksonville Beach. Bobbi was left without power but was working on her violets by lamplight (? Kerosene or battery operated) I checked with several of our east coast members and their damage seems to have been limited to leaves and branches.

I'm happy to report that Johnnie Berry, Dixie's Membership Chair and Treasurer, who was hospitalized in late August and underwent surgery, has recovered and is now doing well.

On a sad note, I received word that Charles David Ridings has passed away. Charles was the Charter President of the African Violet Society of Chattanooga and helped host the Dixie African Violet Society Convention at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. He was also a member of the Greater Atlanta African Violet Society. Charles served as a missionary in Seoul, Korea. His family and his church family were foremost in his life. He is survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Peggy Ridings.

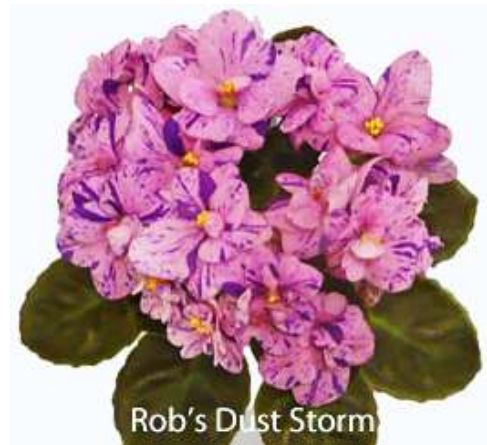
As the AVSA Convention and Show nears, we still need volunteers for some jobs. Please consider helping and contact Linda Price, our Convention Chair at laprice41@yahoo.com or Thad Scaggs at

tascaggs@gmail.com. We're looking for a great turnout of Dixie members!

Hope to see you in Orlando.

Happy growing!

Lynne



Thunder Surprise

CONTENTS

President's Message - Lynne Wilson	1
Contents	2
AVSA 2017 Convention Information	2
Join the AVSA	3
Pyrethrum, Pyrethins and the Pyrethoids – Betty Ferguson	3
Know Your Dixie Vendor: Jo Schrimsher - Betty Ferguson	5
What Goes into Growing a Show Plant - Sue Hoffmann	6
From the DAVS Awards Desk Marian & Greg Zoller	7
Rosettes Available	7
The Other Gesneriads: Taxonomy - Thad Scaggs	8
Renew Now	9
Publication Deadlines	9
We Love Volunteers	9
Attention Affiliates! - Robbie McMeel	10
Tips for Keeping Your African Violets Problem Free	10
Central Arkansas African Violet Show And Sale - Betty Ferguson	11
Coming Events	11
Can You Help?	12
How African Violet & Gesneriad Lovers Love to Spend their Weekends	11
DAVS Officers	12
State Directors	12
Standing and Special Committees	13
From the Editor - Mary Lou Harden	13
DAVS Membership Application	14
Commercial Members	14
Commercial Ads	15



Cajun's Coujon



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.

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

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



PYRETHRUM, PYRETHINS AND THE PYRETHOIDS

Betty Ferguson

"The extract from the Chrysanthemum plant containing pyrethrins is called pyrethrum."¹

The natural insecticide, pyrethrum, is found in the seed heads of the Dalmatian chrysanthemum (*Tanacetum cinerariifolium*), which looks like a typically white, common daisy with a yellow center. Pyrethrum was the old genus name for several species now known as *Tanacetum* or *Chrysanthemum*.

Pyrethrum flowers are first known to have been in use about 2,000 years ago, when they were traded along the Silk Route and were used to control human body lice and fleas. The plant appears to have been originally grown in China but was later grown in the Dalmatian region, now known as the Balkans (the area of Croatia and Bosnia). Pyrethrum powder was introduced to the United States in 1860.

About 15 different areas in the world have attempted commercial production of the temperamental plant, which prefers well-drained, volcanic soils. Tasmania, an island state south of the Commonwealth of Australia, is currently the largest producer of pyrethrum.

Pyrethrum is planted as a perennial and typically left in a particular plot for 3 to 5 years before rotation. Plants can produce as many as 400 flowers per plant. Flowers are harvested shortly after blooming and are typically dried in windrows to prevent fermentation. In East African countries the dried flowers are packed into burlap bags and transported to the processing plant, where they are pulverized. In Australia and Tasmania the dried flowers and stems are pelletized before being transported to the processing plant.



Another pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide product

Processing may yield a dried and powdered product, or else the oleoresins² within the flowers are extracted with solvents, the usual modern method. The resulting six active insecticidal esters³ are referred to as pyrethrins. These components make up the active ingredient in the broad spectrum insecticide. The refined product is typically blended with solvents, synergists and emulsifiers for varying uses.

According to the website, *Pyrethrum, Nature's Insecticide*, pyrethrins have been called the perfect insecticide based upon its many features. Pyrethrins are effective against a broad range of insects yet it is relatively safe for humans and other mammals. Pyrethrins are practically non-toxic to birds, rabbits and rats, but they are highly toxic to fish and honeybees. Cats do not have a liver enzyme needed to metabolize pyrethrins, and the pesticide can be toxic in small doses to some cats.



A pyrethrum and piperonyl butoxide product

Pyrethrins affect the nervous system of insects causing erratic movement and paralysis. The increased movement tends to cause the insect to bumble around, exposing it to more insecticide. Even when the amount of pyrethrin is insufficient to kill insects, it still has a repellent effect and prevents female mosquitos from being able to bite. Synergists,

such as piperonyl butoxide, are often added to enhance the potency and to speed the effect of pyrethrins.



A beta-cyfluthrin and Imidacloprid product

Natural pyrethrins degrade rapidly in the environment. As a result, pyrethroids, which are synthetic chemicals based on the chemical composition of pyrethrins, are more commonly found in commercial products than pyrethrum. Some of the pyrethrin products frequently found on garden center shelves include permethrin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, and lambda-Cyhalothrin.

Pyrethroids constitute the majority of commercial insecticides available for household and home gardener, and houseplant use. Like their natural cousin, they are usually safe for most warm-blooded animals for normal use.



Pyrethrum flowers look like plain white daises.

Pyrethrum and the synthetic pyrethroids are indicated for a wide range of insects and mites including mealy bugs, thrips, fungus gnats and mites.

¹“Pyrethrins & Pyrethroids.” *Pyrethrum Natures' Insecticide*. Web. 10-01-2016.

“http://www.pyrethrum.com/About_Pyrethrum/Pyrethrins_Pyrethroids.aspx”

²Oleoresins are natural or artificial mixtures of essential oils and a resin.

³Esters are compounds formed from an alcohol and an acid by removing the water as in soap making.

Know Your Dixie Vendor

Jo Schrimsher
JoS Violets

by Betty Ferguson



Jo was born into an Army family in Miami, Florida. After her daddy's discharge, the family moved to Mission, Texas, where every-body knew everybody and her dad and grandfather owned a paving business. Her mother was the officer manager for the business.

She was the couple's only child until age eight, and the first of her two little brothers was born. She describes herself as having been an independent and stubborn child. (The independent trait is easy to see, but I haven't seen the stubborn steak, if it still exists.) She climbed trees, played cards, board games, and Chinese checkers with her dad.

As a teen she made money selling citrus from an orchard and worked for a catering service. She graduated from high school in three years and reports her teen years to have been "mostly fun." Her BS degree is in Home Economics and her MS and EdS are in Counseling and Human Development.

Jo worked for Region III Education Service Center and retired from Jackson County Special Services but now has a private practice doing play therapy.

Jo and her husband met at Texas College of Arts and Industries, now Texas A&M, and have been married 52 years. Her son has one son and lives in Indiana. Her daughter lives in San Antonio and has four sons.

When her husband, who was in the Army, was stationed in Alabama, Jo had a friend who grew African violets. And the addiction began. Jo started growing them, too. Her plants moved home to Texas with the couple when her husband was discharged.

In 1981 or 1982, Jo started the Victoria African Violet Society (VAVS). The best part of growing, she said, is teaching others how to grow.

Jo's love for plants came naturally. Her grandmother hybridized gerbera daisies and poinsettias. In addition to growing and selling African violets, Jo grows plumerias and cactus orchids, but she lists African violets as her very favorite plant. Her favorite violet? She just can't decide.

Offices she has held have included VAVS President nearly every year since 1982 and Lone Star African Violet Council Treasurer.

After she started VAVS, the club was having trouble finding supplies and violets, so being the resourceful person she is, in 1983 Jo started JoS Violets. Her website has expanded the business, especially the mail order division. The business aspect she would most like to skip is the income tax. (Personal note: The very first *Streptocarpus* I ever purchased, 'Iced Pink Flamingo', was from Jo. It lived happily ever after in the Oyama pot I bought it in—until my office Streps were diagnosed with tobacco mosaic virus.)

Jo's family is happy that she is busy, and her grandsons enjoy helping out at sales tables. Although her husband appears to ignore her violet hobby and business, he does help load and unload the car and mails her mail order packages.



Snowy Trail grown by JoS Violets
Best Plant in Show (Commercial Division)
AVSA National Convention (Houston April 1999)

As she maintains both her play therapy practice and JoS Violets, she no longer has time for bridge, quilting, or crochet but still plays mahjongg weekly.

When asked if she'd be selling at the AVSA Show this coming spring, Jo answered, "Probably not, but I hope to attend and enter." She'll probably be returning home to Victoria with some nice rosettes for winning plants. They certainly won't be her first big awards. Her 'Snowy Trail' was featured on the front cover of the April, 1999, issue of the *African Violet Magazine* after winning Best Plant in Show, Commercial Division, at the AVSA National Convention.

In addition to being able to purchase nicely grown plants for a very decent price from a Dixie vendor, you can order from Jo earlier in the spring and later in the fall than from the Northern vendors. In addition, in warmer climates, and if the weather allows, she will ship year round.

Check out Jo's website, <http://www.josviolets.com/>, or call her at 361 575-1344.

WHAT GOES INTO GROWING

A SHOW PLANT?

Compiled by Sue Hoffmann
DAVS Judges chairman

FIRST . . . choose the right plant.

Each November, the "Best Variety List" appears in the *African Violet Magazine*, and you'll find the "Honor Roll of African Violets" in the July/August issue. While you're at it, check the *African Violet Magazine's* "Tally Time" (March/April), a summary of the African violet varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards in AVSA Standard shows. It is compiled once a year and includes geographical areas so you can see which varieties did well where you are growing.

- ✓ Not all plants make ideal show plants. Look for good symmetry in a young, healthy plant.
- ✓ Foliage should have sturdy, straight petioles evenly distributed around the main stem.
- ✓ Look for a variety that produces numerous bloom stalks with many blooms per stalk.
- ✓ Strong peduncles to support the blossoms above the foliage at the right height.
- ✓ Stable, clear bright blossoms and foliage.



. . . look at the things you, the grower, can control.

From the AVSA Handbook – one of the easiest potting mixes to make at home is: 1/3 peat

moss, 1/3 perlite and 1/3 vermiculite. African violets prefer a light mix that is slightly acidic pH 6.5 – 6.7. It helps to keep your soil mix simple.

Get and use "**Growing to Show – How to Grow Prize-Winning African Violets**" by Pauline Bartholomew and The African Violet Society of America, Inc. It is available from AVSA. (See AVSA.org).

- ✓ Limit your collection so you can care for your plants, without being overwhelmed.
- ✓ Look at your show plants every day.
- ✓ Provide adequate light. Timers are important. Plants should never "reach", but lay flat.
- ✓ Use a balanced fertilizer with a steady feeding program to provide a healthy diet.
- ✓ Air movement is essential.
- ✓ Do not overpot.
- ✓ Do not crowd plants.
- ✓ Keep your growing space clean.
- ✓ Most show plants are grown on leaf supports.
- ✓ Plants prefer tepid water. If it's comfortable to you, plants like it too.
- ✓ Plants prefer fluctuation - 10 degrees cooler during their dark cycle.
- ✓ Remove suckers or smaller leaves when they first appear.
- ✓ Groom, groom, groom. Look for "patterns of three leaves" to insure symmetry.
- ✓ Remove immature leaves.
- ✓ Allow your plant to bloom at least once to assure it's blooming true to description. After this insurance, disbud according to the prescribed schedule.*



learn the AVSA Scale of Points to understand what you're striving to achieve.

Symmetry	25 points
Condition	25 points
Quantity of bloom	25 points
Size and type of blossom	15 points
Color of blossom	10 points

Symmetry is the shape of the plant. It is formed by overlapping groups of three leaves, in triangular shape. If one of the three leaves is missing or misplaced, points are deducted.

Condition is also referred to as "cultural perfection". This aspect is controlled by the grower. Judges deduct for signs of: dirt or spray residue; a neck; off-centered plant; dirty pot; immature leaves; signs of insect damage or disease; or evidence of a culture break.

Quantity of bloom is judged according to variety and type. Some of the vintage varieties have fewer blossoms than recent hybrids, and this is taken into consideration by judges. On average, a mature standard plant should have around 20 to 25 blossoms. Semiminiature plants usually have 10 – 20 blooms, and Miniature plants from 6 – 12. Of course, these counts will vary according to the variety and diameter of the show plant.

Size and type of blossoms and color of blossoms are judged using their descriptions in the Master Variety lists, from photographs, and judges' knowledge from growing many different varieties.

**Growing to Show – How to Grow Prize-Winning African Violets” by Pauline Bartholomew and The African Violet Society of America, Inc. pg.89/90*

By Sue Hoffmann, Dixie AVS Judges Chair
violetsue123@outlook.com



Phyllis King demonstrates how to create a Natural Garden for members of Tampa AVS.

FROM THE DAVS AWARDS DESK

Marian & Greg Zoller
marigregz@gmail.com

Attention, Affiliates: Even though Dixie will not have a 2017 Convention, we are continuing to receive donations for our 2018 show awards. As you are well aware, time is passing quickly! In less than 50 days, 2017 will arrive and Kathy Spissman, our Convention Chair, will be stepping up 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, please continue to send your show awards so we'll be well prepared for our next show! Please send your checks to the following address:

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



Rebel's Flaming Star

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

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

Visit our Website
www.davs.org

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

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.

THE OTHER GESNERIADS

Taxonomy

Thad Scaggs

Taxonomy is the science of naming, describing and classifying organisms and includes plants, animals and microorganisms of the world. In this article we will look at the taxonomy of Gesneriads, hopefully in terms we all understand and why it is so important to have our plants correctly labeled because as you'll see, changes are being made as more molecular studies are being done.



We all know how important it is to have our African violets and other gesneriads correctly labeled if we want to enter them in an AVSA-judged show. I'd like to be clear, as a lay person I've written this paper using research from scientific papers and studies that were very detailed so without going into molecular phylogenics, chromosome numbers and morphological homoplasies (since admittedly I would be in way over my head), this is very basic information.

Not long after I began growing gesneriads other than African violets, I started learning about name changes of species and/or genera. Often it involves moving one or more species from one genus to another or changing a "holding name" to a species name. It can also be resurrecting a genus that all the species were transferred from to another genus, or creating a new genus. This has become even more frequent with the advances in DNA sequencing which has already reorganized many of the species and genera in our favorite plant family.

What's in a Name? When writing a paper or article there are specific ways to present names. When referring to genus, the first letter is uppercase and with species, all letters are lowercase with both names written in italics. Hybrids are written in standard script with 'single quotation marks', and unpublished and holding names are written with "double quotation marks" until taxonomists have a published name for them. An example is *S. sp.* "Ibitioca" which is now *S. florianopolis*.

One of the first articles or papers I read on taxonomy (and learned what it actually is) really piqued my interest in this study. It began with the genus *Gloxinia*. There had been 14 species in *Gloxinia*. Thirteen of those species were transferred out and 2 were transferred in. Of those transferred out, 4 were placed in the resurrected genus *Seemannia*, 3 placed in resurrected genus *Mandirola*, 1 each to new genera *Gloxinella* and *Gloxiniopsis*, 2 each to new genera *Nomopyle* and *Sphaerorrhiza* and 1 transferred to *Monopyle*. Of the two transferred into *Gloxinia*, one was from the genus *Anodiscus* and the other from *Koellikeria*.

A plant many of us grow or have grown, especially in the southern states, was *Gloxinia sylvatica*, which is now *Seemannia sylvatica*. If you are still growing it, change the label.



Gloxinia sylvatica, now *Seemannia sylvatica*

The preceding transfers of species also left significant changes down the line. For instance, they left well over a dozen and possibly many more changes to the genus of specific hybrids. For some, only the genus was changed, while others went from intergeneric to intrageneric and vice versa. A couple that I have grown, the Jim Roberts intergeneric hybrid *xGlokeria* 'Dragon Song' (*Gloxinia perennis* x *Koellikeria erinoides*) is now *Gloxinia* 'Dragon Song' after K.

erinoides was moved to *Gloxinia*. Another, *Gloxinia* 'Medusa,' is now *Seemannia* 'Medusa'.



Gloxinia
'Dragon Song'

The genus *Alloplectus*, which few if any of us grow, also had many changes cited in the paper. This genus had approximately 40 species included in it until new research left 5, transferring 27 to genus *Glossoloma*, 4 transferred to *Crantzia* and the other species transferred to *Drymonia*. I didn't list all of the individual species, but if you would like to know them you can contact me for that information. Please keep in mind that the paper this information came from I received several years ago, so some of these transfers could have gone through new changes since then.

I think most of us are familiar with the changes made a few years ago to genera *Chirita*, *Chiritopsis*, *Hemiboeopsis*, *Primulina* and *Wentsaiboea*. Most of us were much more familiar with the genus *Chirita* than the others. When genera are merged together and recognized takes precedence which would be *Primulina*. However, in the case of these genera, while the great majority, of over 300 species and even more now with the new discoveries that have been made in recent years were transferred to genus *Primulina*, approximately 50 were transferred to genus *Henckelia*, approximately 30 to *Microchirita*, approximately 20 to *Liebigia*, a few to both *Opithandra* and *Didymocarpus* and 1 or 2 each into genera, *Briggisia*, *Codonoboea*, *Damrongia*, *Didymostigma*, *Hemiboea*, *Lysionotus*, *Monopyle*, *Oreocharis*, *Platystemma*, *Pseudochirita*, *Raphiocarpus*, *Rehmannia*. I am only giving approximate numbers because some of these species could be transferred in or out of the genus they were in at the time of the paper used in my research.

Sometimes it is hard for us lay people to keep up with many of the changes that are only published in taxonomic research papers.

There was a paper published in December 2015 redefining the genus *Streptocarpus*. This study which seems to have been accepted by botanists and taxonomists which was very technical and detailed (32 pages) reclassifies the genus *Saintpaulia*. According to this study, without going into tribes, sub tribes, clades and subclades, etc., it concludes the genus formerly known as *Saintpaulia* is now classified as *Streptocarpus* subgenus *Streptocarpella* section *Saintpaulia*, recognizing 10 species. Now this sounds like, and by taxonomic standards, would be a big change for *Saintpaulia*/African violets, though it really shouldn't change anything for AVSA or the authority they have for naming African violet hybrids. Any changes would be small and Dr. Jeff Smith has submitted a proposal to the AVSA Executive Committee about those minor changes to the First Class registration system for species. I'm sure we will be kept up-to-date by Dr. Smith and AVSA.

If anyone would like to see the research papers I've used in writing this article, feel free to contact me by email at tascaggs@gmail.com.

RENEW NOW!

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 14 of this issue.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES
February issue – January 15
May issue – April 15
August issue – July 15
November issue – October 15

WE  **VOLUNTEERS**

The success of any African violet show depends in great part on volunteers! Whether it's your local affiliate show or AVSA's annual convention, volunteers are what make the shows and conventions work. So . . . if you haven't already considered serving as a volunteer at AVSA's 2017 Orlando convention, please get your name on the list! There will be plenty of opportunities for you to serve.

Please contact Local Convention Chair, Linda Price, at laprice41@yahoo.com in advance to let her know you'll be glad to help!

attention affiliates

Robbie McMeel, DAVS Affiliate Chair
204 Greenwood Street
Houma, Louisiana 70364
985-868-0439
rmcmeel@bellsouth.net



Just a friendly reminder to all affiliates to be sure to include classes for Dixie AVS Collections in your show 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). There are many plants that are registered with both AVSA and Dixie.

If you have the First Class program, the Dixie Registration Number will be displayed in the plant information. Here are some of the hybridizers who have registered their plants with Dixie:

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 (listed above).



FOR KEEPING YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS PROBLEM FREE

1. Observe your plants often.

Daily is best. Whether it's your plants, your children, your husband – checking on them often is important to their (and your) well-being. If there's a problem, it's always easier to "nip it in the bud." So, if you see a sucker forming, remove it earlier rather than later. If allowed to grow, suckers often destroy the symmetry of your plant.

2. Consistent care is key.

- Watering
- Fertilizing
- Repotting
- Cleaning trays, matting, pots, labels

3. **Good air circulation is important.** If you don't have ceiling or other type fans, use clip-on fans. If you don't have good air circulation, you're more apt to get problems such as mold or powdery mildew.

4. **No over-crowding!** Easy to say, hard to do! We've always got to have "just one more plant!" You'll never have a show plant if your plants are crowded or even touching other plants.

5. If buying new plants:

- Buy only from reputable sources – those which have proven themselves to sell only high-quality, bug-free plants.
- If you're concerned about buying plants and introducing them into your collection, perhaps it would be wise to just buy leaves.
- When adding new plants to your collection, be sure to isolate for one month at a minimum. Some suggest a 3-month quarantine.

6. **Keep in mind that African violets are really quite inexpensive.** What's the worst thing that can happen if your plant has a problem and doesn't look good? That's right – death! Get tough on your plants. If they don't perform well, get sick or otherwise just don't bring joy to you, give them a nice funeral and buy a new plant!



Jolly Jubilee

Central Arkansas African Violet Show and Sale

Betty Ferguson

The Central Arkansas African Violet Society held their first show and sale in seven years on October 7-8, at the North Little Rock Community Center.



All eight members exhibited. The show, with 99 exhibits and judged by Anne and Richard Nicholas and Brenda Brasfield, won the Standard Show Award blue certificate. Danny Tidwell chaired the show with co-chairman, Betty Ferguson. Helping host the club was Fermentables, a hobby store specializing in fermenting products and products for hydroponic and indoor gardening. Fermentables generously provides a meeting place for the club's monthly meetings. Top show winners were: Best in Show, Rob's Outer Orbit by **Glenda Robertson**; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Danny Tidwell**; Best Design in Show and Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Ferguson**. The Best Miniature, Jolly Orchid, was grown by a fairly new member, **Renee Conklin**, who had never even been to a show.

COMING EVENTS

February 9-20, 2017 – Florida State Fair, with African violet and Gesneriad exhibits. Tampa, FL Visit www.floridastatefair.com for days and times the fair is open.

February 24-25, 2017 – Tampa AVS annual show, "Hats Off to our American Heroes." Show hours: Friday, February 24, Noon to 5 pm; Saturday, February 25, 9 am to 3 pm. Plant Sales hours: Friday, February 24, 9 am to 5 pm; Saturday, February 25, 9 am to 3 pm. Farm Bureau, 100 S. Mulrennan Road Valrico, FL 33594. Information: jasb39@gmail.com.

April 8-9 USF Spring Plant Festival at USF Botanical Gardens on the campus of the University of South Florida. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday. For information, visit <http://gardens.usf.edu/>.

May 28-June 4, 2017 – AVSA Convention & Show, Wyndham Hotel, Orlando, FL. Open to the public Friday, June 2, 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday, June 3, 9 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$ 5.00. For information, visit Convention information at www.AVSA.org or laprice41@yahoo.com.

July 2017 – The Gesneriad Society Convention & Show, Hilton Hotel, downtown Omaha, NE. Convention information at www.gesneriadsociety.org

HOW AFRICAN VIOLET AND GESNERIAD LOVERS LOVE TO SPEND THEIR WEEKENDS. . .



Members of Tampa AVS and Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society spent a recent weekend at the Fall Plant Festival sponsored by the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. It's a two-day plant sale with about 70 vendors from all over the State of Florida selling plants and plant-related products. Over the years, it has been a great means to introduce African violets and many of the other Gesneriads to the public, and it has been useful in obtaining new club members.

Members of both clubs met mid-week to set up tents and tables, then returned bright and early Saturday morning with lots of plants and supplies and spent Saturday and Sunday greeting the public, many of whom were returning customers, talking about their favorite plants, answering questions and yes, selling lots of plants and supplies. Can you think of a more fun or better way to spend the weekend?



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Glenn Shelton



Jerry Kast



Jerry O'Keefe

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Windsome

From the Editor. . .Mary Lou Harden
mlhard@verizon.net

Dear Dixie Members,

I hope all Dixie affiliates are having Spring shows. Some of our smaller affiliates have opted not to have an annual show, usually because there are simply not enough members to carry the load. And that may be a legitimate reason. However, It has been my observation that memberships in those clubs that skip an annual show often decline. And that seems to be true even if they replace the show with a “display.” Nothing can take the place of a beautifully staged and AVSA-judged show! The public is impressed with the beauty of the exhibits and all those blue and tri-color ribbons just add to the excitement. So, my advice is to go the extra mile, press on and encourage your club members to sponsor a show every year.

Most of you have seen the movie or the play, “The Sound of Music,” in which Julie Andrews sang the title role. One of my favorite songs from the movie is “My Favorite Things.” A few years ago I wrote a poem titled “My Favorite Things.” I thought you might enjoy it, so get the tune in your head and start singing.

MY FAVORITE THINGS

Petals and pedicels and seedlings for growing,
Petioles and Axils and Cultivars for showing,
Bundles of Chimeras tied up with strings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Variegated two-tones and semi-double blossoms,
Doubles and Singles and Suckers playing possums,
Fantasies and Mutants and Wasps without wings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the thrips come,
When the mold grows,
When the mealies attack. . .
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don’t feel so bad.

Yes, I know, I should stick to growing, designing and editing!

I hope all of you are making plans to attend the AVSA convention in Orlando. It’s going to be a great convention and we would love to have all of our Dixie members and friends on board!

Meantime, have a blessed Thanksgiving and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year!

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