



THE DIXIE NEWS

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Mary Lou Harden, Editor (mlhard@verizon.net)

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President's Message

Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com



Brrrr, Dixie Members and Friends,

As I sit here at my computer, the wood stove in my living room is chugging hard. My dining room space heater is on. And I hear the whirr of my central heat unit when the hall temperature drops below 65°. The thermometer on my patio read 15° when I dashed out to open my hen house door at 7:00 this morning. But look what's blooming outside.



Silly thing. It's January. It's like me. It wants spring to come. Now. Or to move to south Florida.

I love Christmas, but maybe just as much, I love when the stores move their remaining Christmas stuff to out-of-the-way sales racks, and they fill up the shelves with gardening items—seeds, garden gloves, potting soils, colorful windmills and plastic flamingos. It means fun in the sun soon. And spring African violet shows and sales. New plants, friends I've been missing, and maybe a handful of blue ribbons.

I'm hearing more clubs are planning spring shows in spite of Omicron's invasion on the heels of delta (or whatever the last one was called) and supply chain lacks and high fuel costs. I've been welcoming you to the AVSA Convention in Little Rock for several

years now, and it looks like this year we'll be able to actually get together in person. Y'all come now!

And then this fall, I look forward to seeing you at our Dixie Convention, October 12 to 15, 2022, at the Double Tree by Hilton in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Besides a whole lot of cold air (and this year's foolish yellow daffodil) January brings Dixie dues time. It's so easy to forget and postpone. I need to get my own check made out to Dixie African Violet Society for \$15 and mail it to Johnnie as soon as I finish my ramblings. And if you've forgotten, too, here's her address: Johnnie Berry, 287 Fennel Way SW, Atlanta, GA 30331. Please remind your club treasurer, too. Club dues are \$20.

Happy spring, folks!



Tiniki
Chimera exhibited by the late
Dr. Richard Nicholas
at an AVSA convention

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JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

On This Cover: 'Rob's Vanilla Trail', a semiminiature hybridized by Ralph Robinson, shown by: Bobbi Johannsen of Jacksonville, FL, at AVSA's 2017 convention show in Orlando, FL. Photo by Winston J. Goretsky.

The November/December issue is loaded! Look for several ideas on how to prepare for cooler weather, including articles on maintaining proper temperature and humidity, as well as watching for nutrient deficiencies in your plants. And, if you've ever wondered whether there's a "right" time of year to repot, we have an answer to that question!

The *African Violet Magazine* is a great reason to **JOIN AVSA!** Members receive six full-color issues annually of the African Violet Magazine. Check out AVSA's website:

www.Africanvioletocietyofamerica.org.

SUPPORT AVSA. AVSA especially needs the support of its individual members, its affiliates and commercial members at this time. Donations should be mailed to: AVSA Office, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. Online Donations are also

Follow me to Tennessee

DIXIE CONVENTION 2022
OCTOBER 12-15, 2022

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
MURFREESBORO, TN

accepted. Dixie encourages all Dixie affiliates and members to support AVSA. AVSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Donate online or by mail to: **AVSA Office, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont TX 77720.**

Individual Membership in AVSA is \$30 per year. Send check with contact information to:

AVSA
P.O. Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720

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. After judging, shows are open to the public. Informative presentations are made by experts in African violet culture. Commercial members also display their newest introductions and have booths where plants and plant-related products are sold.

we are moving in that direction. We have had to comply with the COVID requirements at our meeting place.

We did gather in-person for our December meeting. We had the best time. Members brought leaves and plants to share. Some members brought wrapped goodies for each person to take with them since we could not have food or eat in that area. The most fun we had was playing Bingo with a game created by Laveta Hilton, one of our members. She used the pictures of all the types of violet leaves to make a grid and used the descriptions to locate them on your card. This was a great way to learn all those leaf types. Winners were able to choose a plant. (Everyone won at least once)

At this writing we are finalizing our yearbook. We have decided on programs which will include both in-person and zoom. The planning itself is very motivating and hopefully encouraging to the members.

We ARE READY to be with each other! Hopefully all of you are well. Stay Safe!

Phillis Hinkle, Georgia Director

**BECOME A DIXIE MEMBER
DIXIE AVS DUES**

Individual	\$15.00 Yr
Individual Life	\$175.00
Affiliate Club	\$20.00 Yr.
Commercial	\$25.00 Yr.
Dual (2 at one address)	\$20.00 Yr.

Mail application (p.17) or a copy with check payable to Dixie AVS to:
Johnnie Berry, Membership Secretary
287 Fennel Way, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331
johnniepearl@comcast.net

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
(Membership Application on p. 17)**

Please send check payable to DAVS to
Johnnie Berry, Membership Secretary
287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331
johnniepearl@comcast.net

**GEORGIA STATE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

by Phillis Hinkle
pchinkle@bellsouth.net

Greetings from
The Peach State,



**ARKANSAS STATE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

by Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com



The Central Arkansas African Violet Society meetings have been fun with new, enthusiastic members. We have a raffle at each meeting, and it's thrilling to watch newbies' excitement

WELL....it's been almost 2 years of craziness. Greater Atlanta has weathered this ride pretty well. We are not back to 100% in-person, but

over winning a leaf or plantlet of a pretty African violet or other Gesneriad.

I was scheduled to present the November program on design, but instead I assembled a forum of our more experienced growers. I started the discussion by asking a few general growing questions, but the newer members quickly jumped in with their own.

Our CAAVS board decided to cancel our January meeting. Quite a few members were not able to attend, the Omicron variant has reared its ugly head in Arkansas, and snow and ice were due to move in that day. Franki Taylor will instead present her program, "Allowing Algae to Grow in Our Reservoirs and Pots," in February. She says she'll base it on Dale Marten's experiences with algae.

Betty Ferguson, Arkansas Director

FLORIDA STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Bobbi Johannsen
Bobbiviolet@bellsouth.net

Hello!

I'm happy to report that several of our Florida clubs will soon be having shows, displays and plant sales! Detailed information about all of them can be found on page 13.

Tampa AVS will have a booth at the Florida State Fair which begins February 10 and runs through the 21st. They will also have an AVSA-judged show in Tampa February 25-26.

First Lakeland AVS will have a plant display and sale in Lakeland February 11-12. They will also participate in a community sponsored art, garden and music event on March 12.

My own club, Heart of Jacksonville AVS, will have a plant display and sale in Jacksonville on March 25 and 26.

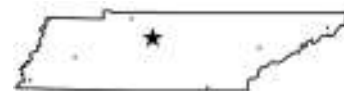
The African Violet Council of Florida will hold its Spring meeting in Altamonte Springs on Saturday, April 30.

Here's hoping that all Dixie affiliates will soon be back to regularly scheduled meetings as well as AVSA-judged shows!

Bobbi Johannsen, Florida Director

TENNESSEE STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Marian Zoller
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The Memphis African Violet Society has tried to stay safe from COVID for what seems like forever. Most of our meetings have been via Zoom. It is a way to have a meeting but it is definitely 2nd best to having an in-person meeting. Either way we love seeing friends and violet lovers. The Zoom programs have been great, but we get fewer people there to participate.

We did have an in-person Christmas party and all had fun with a Dirty Santa gift exchange. We also had a delicious pot luck dinner. It was great to see everyone live and in person.

With the New Year we can only hope that things will improve. I have gotten myself enough out of my funk and starting to take better care of my plants. I am currently doing some overdue repotting and putting down leaves with the HOPE that we can have some kind of show or sale sometime this spring. Wouldn't that be wonderful after a 2-year shutdown.

Before starting my repotting work, I revisited my stack of old AVSA magazines looking for growing tips, advice, and just general information. I would recommend it to everyone. I found lots of articles and information that I had forgotten over the years.

Wishing the best to everyone and hope to see you in either Little Rock or Murfreesboro or both.

Marian Zoller
Tennessee Director

LOUISIANA DIRECTOR'S REPORT February 2022



by Becky McMeel
beckymcmeel@gmail.com

Hello Violet Lovers!

Is everyone enjoying the “4 seasons in one day” weather? We don warm ups in the a.m., and shorts and short sleeves in the afternoon! Small wonder the sniffles are rampant!

Here’s hoping you are all healthy and Omicron has passed you by. Once again, masks are the order of the day, social distancing is back, and staying home has, once again, become common place.

As of January 2nd, 2022, Sundowners AVS became Louisiana African Violet Society. They have a Facebook page under the name LA. Lagniappe A.V. Club, and a Facebook group under the name La. Lagniappe A.V. Society. Feel free to check them out and join!

December saw LLAVS having an in-person Christmas Social in Mandeville. It was the first in-person meeting since June of 2021. Members in attendance enjoyed their time together with lots of delicious food and desserts.

At the January Zoom meeting, the club decided to sell plants in Baton Rouge, on March 12th and 13th, at the LSU Spring Garden sale. Members are beyond thrilled as they have an abundance of extra plants, and the LSU sale had been cancelled the last 2 years.

As of this writing, LLAVS will be having their annual show and sale on April 23rd and 24th at the Baton Rouge Garden Center. A final decision (due to Omicron) will be made at the February meeting. Fingers crossed that it is a go as club members are tending to lose their excitement about growing for show. Why invest all your time growing pretty plants that will go nowhere?

This leads me to ask if any other club memberships have seen a decline, large or small, in the desire to grow and show violets. Conventions, sales, and shows have been cancelled, leaving growers in a quandary over what to do. Has this sense of “violet apathy” found its way into your group? Over the course of, say, the last year or so, LLAVS has experienced such a decline. However, with a show looming in the next 3 months, it is time for them to “get with the program” and get their plants in shape. The thinking is a small show is better than no show at all.

Exciting news for the state of Louisiana! A new violet club has been formed and is preparing for election of officers! We welcome the Acadiana African Violet Society, based in Opelousas, Louisiana, to the ranks of violet growers in the state. Thanks go to Chris Brooks for contacting LLAVS on how to start a club and get it done! There will be more to come on the new club in the future.

Till next time. . .Happy Growing!

Becky McMeel, Louisiana Director



Edge of Darkness

Cajun Violets Word Find

Josh McKinney - Madison, AL
jmck5@icloud.com

Belinda Thibodeaux is a Louisiana hybridizer of numerous symmetrical varieties, many of which are variegated standards. The following violets are registered with DAVS and AVSA MVL numbers are included as available. All **hybrids** in the puzzle should have the alpha prefix of "Cajun's" added to make the correct name.

V Q C Y O R J S B J P N E M M N K
 I O L U Y L S J N T L K C E C O O
 E V O L L I L M E U B S N R K I G
 K N P L L O A I K R J J A C E V O
 A M E B B M G O L B N A H Y N I U
 C L S D A O U N O J U O C M N L V
 O F N R I K T I A I O H R E A B A
 P C U J R A A T E T R Y E L T O J
 C B Q J I Y M H E I O D H N R L E
 Y G L B E T X R S R Q T T Z A U D
 U J C B H I Q T I I A U O N I F H
 G Z F D L N Y Q N A D M N W L I R
 P Y F H A A V N E I F L A V T T N
 Q L V D Y S U N D O W N E R S U R
 D D R C O N Z Y D E C O N R P A R
 M F B Y R I A F L A E R E H T E M
 V T B R O Y A L J E W E L S B B S

**KEY: S-Standard; M-Miniature; L-Large;
 SM-Semiminiature; TR-Trailer**

Name	AVSA#	DAVS#	Growth Habit
Cajun's Alfie	(10631)	#1779	SM
Cajun's Amaretto	(10742)	#1796	S
Cajun's Another Chance	()	#1829	S
Cajun's Beautiful Oblivion	(10572)	#1764	S
Cajun's Christy	()	#1811	S
Cajun's Coujon	(10633)	#1781	LG
Cajun's Deja Vu	(10634)	#1782	S
Cajun's Ethereal Fairy	(10579)	#1771	S
Cajun's Fair Maiden	(10636)	#1784	S
Cajun's Insanity	(10743)	#1797	S

Cajun's Lil' Joy	(10639)	#1787	SM
Cajun's Lil' Love	(10640)	#1788	SM
Cajun's Mama Ruby	(10938)	#1813	S
Cajun's Mercy Me	()	#1836	S
Cajun's McKenna Trail	(10423)	#1808	SMTR
Cajun's Royal Heir	(10493)	#1761	S
Cajun's Royal Jewels	(10494)	#1762	S
Cajun's Sundowners	(10586)	#1778	S
Cajun's Two to Tango	(10771)	#1803	S
Cajun's Zydeco	(10811)	#1810	LG

Alfie	Amaretto	Another Chance
Beautiful Oblivion	Cajuns	Christy
Coujon	Deja Vu	Ethereal Fairy
Fair Maiden	Insanity	Lil' Joy
Lil' Love	Mama Ruby	Mercy Me
McKenna Trail	Royal Heir	Royal Jewels
Sundowners	Two to Tango	Zydeco

(Made with:
<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/word-search>)

[Answer Key elsewhere in this issue]

DIXIE AVS AFFILIATES REPORT 1st Quarter 2022

by Robbie McMeel
rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

Well, I don't know about the rest of you, but I am glad 2021 has made its exit. I saw a cute quote on the internet, where someone said that they were not staying awake to welcome the New Year, they just wanted to be sure the old left.

I apologize to all for the short reports and not having another installment of Meet Your Vendors and Hybridizers for the last Dixie News. We went through hurricane Ida last September and we had a good bit of damage to the house. We lost the north side of the roof and 3 rooms were flooded. Becky and I have been dealing with carpenters, floor installers, roofing contractors, and many others to get things back to normal.

With the country still in the grips of COVID, it appears that some clubs are planning their shows, hopefully to start this spring. I know that we have made plans to have our show in April. Looking forward to seeing old friends again and meeting new ones. I still have not received any request for ribbons for shows, but hopefully that will change soon. I know that some clubs have ribbons from the past that were not used. If you have a show, please send me all of the information, so that I can publish it.

As I have previously mentioned, last year I received permission from Ken Muzalewski, hybridizer of the Hunter series violets, to register some of his plants with DAVS. I know that a lot of members are now growing his plants, so now they can be registered in the Dixie Classes. Along with our other hybridizers, hopefully we will be able to fill these classes at our shows. Now that we are catching up with all of the repairs, Becky and I will be working on this very soon. If anyone has any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

I hope that all of our members are doing fine and staying safe through these trying times. Even as it appears that we are slowly getting this pandemic under control, we all still need to be cautious.

Let us keep reminding our members that there are a lot of Dixie registered plants out there that are still in circulation and we need to continue to grow them for the Dixie Collection Classes. As mentioned before, a list of all Dixie Registered Plants is on the Dixie Website. Let us please keep Dixie in our shows.

Respectfully and keep up the good growing,

Robbie McMeel

ROSETTES AVAILABLE

BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB BEST FANTASY ROSETTE. The Baltimore African Violet Club is offering a rosette for the **Best Fantasy** in any MAAVS or AVSA affiliate show. Send request and a check for \$5 made out to Carolyn Epstein at
Carolyn Epstein
14317 Yosemite Court
Rockville, MD 20853.
inky4ever@aol.com

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

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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.



Streptocarpus 'Cat Dance'
Mary Beth Bryant,
St. Petersburg, FL

The Story of Avid



By Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com

Once upon a time, or possibly more than one time, an evil plague crept into your kingdom of African violets, causing unsightly illness and maybe even death. Determining you had been infested with mites or thrips, oh my, you were advised by a plant wizard. Or possessing the wisdom of a wizard yourself, you may have pulled out your magic bottle of Avid and mixed up a potent potion.

Were you aware that the potent compound in your concoction was the subject of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine won by William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura?

In the 1970s researchers at the Kitasato Institute in Japan, searching for a new antiparasitic agent, turned to soil microbes, hoping for a safer, more effective veterinary antihelminthic for use against parasites such as flukes, roundworms, and tapeworms. Japanese microbiologist Satoshi Ōmura focused on the *Streptomyces* bacteria, which was already known to produce antibacterial chemicals including Streptomycin. He isolated bacterial organisms from Japanese soil samples and sent them out to various labs, including Merck, where Dr. Campbell was employed.

Further lab work by Dr. Campbell showed hopeful bioactivity from the sample containing *Streptomyces avermitilis*. In a lecture at Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Campbell remarked, "Microorganisms can develop things humans can't even think of." With his lab partners he proved those soil dwelling microbes to be effective against roundworms in mice and purified and later chemically improved the compound for veterinary use. He called it avermectin. The 'A' means no or not, 'verm' is for worms, and 'ectin' is for parasites that live on the body (and plants) as well as inside it. The mode of action of avermectin in most cases, according to Dr. Campbell, is to paralyze the parasite so it can no longer eat and reproduce.

Searches around the world have located no other source of the *S. avermitilis* bacterium. Although initially the research focus was for an anti-parasite agent for animals, over the years since its discovery avermectin uses have multiplied to include abamectin, a variant we know as Avid.



Western
flower
thrips.

One day, not so many years ago, I pulled my magic bottle of Avid off my top shelf to treat some kind of plague that had attacked my plant kingdom. I happened to pay attention to the generic name of the miticide/insecticide—abamectin. Abamectin? That name sounded mighty close to ivermectin, the antiparasitic drug the Arkansas State Poultry Veterinarian had recommended I use for my chickens as a preventative against any nasty critters the wild birds might infect them with. You, too, may have been using one of the avermectin sister medications in other ways.

Being the curious individual you've probably figured out I am, when I connected the two drug

names, I went to my computer. I found that avermectin derivatives are the active ingredient in some ant bait traps; in Heartgard against dog heartworm; Revolt and Revolution for pets against fleas, ear mites, and internal parasites, and as antiparasitic treatment for farm animals.

Avermectin is used in many products for farm animals and humans to protect against skin parasites including mange, scabies, head and body lice and bed bugs. Currently, ivermectin is being used to treat billions of livestock and pets around the world and is even used to treat against fish lice. It is highly effective against ticks, including ticks that carry Lyme disease. When my house rabbit's treatment by his vet didn't work, I used ivermectin to cure his eye condition that was caused by a protozoan parasite his mother passed to him.

Ivermectin has eliminated river blindness transmission of humans in two states in Nigeria and slowed the progression in other tropical countries. It kills the parasite that causes elephantiasis. (My cat's veterinarian in Jakarta, Indonesia, had a photograph on his desk of a man with elephantitis of his testicles.) Researchers have found that ivermectin makes peoples' blood deadly for mosquitos, including malaria mosquitos, for at least a month. Yet it has almost no side effects for humans.

Additionally, the avermectins possess anticancer, anti-diabetic, antiviral, antifungal properties, and are used for treatment of several metabolic disorders.* Patients with Lyme disease report relief or halt from symptoms after taking ivermectin. An abundance of sources can now be found online reporting wide success in using ivermectin to treat and prevent COVID-19 and its variants.

Having learned these facts, I set about my own research. One of my oldest and favorite African violets, the species Sigi Falls, developed all the telltale signs of impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) when our club had a re-emergence of that plague. Using Agdia test strips, I got a positive reading. Not willing to part with this

favored plant quite yet, I isolated it and spaced three Avid treatments, spraying the entire plant, including roots.



Species Sigi Falls with her life saving drug

New growth has shown no evidence of INSV and tests have been negative. Could it possibly be that Avid possesses magical antiviral properties against INSV?

"Doctor, ain't there nothing I can take"
I said, "Doctor, to relieve this belly ache?"
I said, "Doctor ain't there nothing I can take"
I said, "Doctor."

"Yes, you call in the morning
If you call me in the morning
I tell you what to do
If you call me in the morning
I tell you what to do"

Further research is needed before I proclaim the storybook success of our potent potion against African violet enthusiasts' most dreaded plague. I won't, however, be courting thrips and the INSV they spread to do the research myself. But if you find the wicked thrips witch has cast

an INSV spell at your house, I encourage you to continue the research.

The End.

*El-Saber Batiha G, Alqahtani A, Ilesanmi OB, Saati AA, El-Mleeh A, Hetta HF, Magdy Beshbishy A. Avermectin Derivatives, Pharmacokinetics, Therapeutic and Toxic Dosages, Mechanism of Action, and Their Biological Effects. *Pharmaceuticals (Basel)*. 2020 Aug 17;13(8):196. doi: 10.3390/ph13080196. PMID: 32824399; PMCID: PMC7464486.



Irish Flirt

**COPY DEADLINE
FOR MAY 2022 ISSUE
APRIL 15**

The Alps



the other Gesneriads

by Carol Schreck

A LITTLE JEWEL – PETROCOSMEA



Petrocosmeas are known for their tailored, rosette forming foliage

Would you like a small, rosette gesneriad with attractive foliage? Let me recommend *Petrocosmea* to you. *Petrocosmeas* take less space than a semiminature African violet and need less repotting, too. Their name means “ornament of the rocks” and they truly are ornamental, with or without flowers.

While doing research for this article—and a club program on the same topic—the most important thing I learned was the reason for my earlier failures in growing this gesneriad genus. Since I have limited space and live in central Florida, I have two light stands in what we call a “glassed-in Florida room.” (Some are screened-in.) In the summer, this room gets very hot. Therein lies the source of my problem. *Petrocosmea* plants are cool temperature lovers, but I had not previously known that. Natives of China, Northeast India, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma) and South Vietnam, these plants are considered alpine gesneriads. They definitely want cooler temperatures than the *Episcia*, *Achimenes*, *Kohleria* and other semitropical gesneriads that thrive for me.

Now I have achieved success with having blooming *Petrocosmea* plants of several varieties in our living room on the light stand that enjoys the year around temperature control that is comfortable for the home residents. My success story includes *P. flaccida*, *duclouxii* and a hybrid, *P. 'Momo'* created by Nagahide Yamaguchi. It is a cross of *P. nervosa* x *flaccida* and has flowers that are slightly larger than either parent. All three of these varieties have purple flowers, grow in a flat, tight rosette, with very "furry" foliage, and have purple flowers. I am also growing species *P. kerrii*, but it has not yet bloomed for me. It will have blossoms of white or cream with a distinct yellow splotch in the center.



Petrocosmea with stolons

I'm reminded of the late Frances Batcheller, who maintained a botanical collection of more than 200 different gesneriads for research purposes and wrote several publications. In an article she wrote in 1971, she wrote "Petrocosmeas are not easy to grow, therefore not recommended for a grower with intermittent enthusiasm. Over-watering and heavy soil will soon prove fatal. Hot, dry or ventilation-lacking growing conditions also spell doom." She recommended a porous, quick-draining soil and careful watering to keep these challenging plants in good health.

Petrocosmeas can be propagated either from leaf cuttings (as with many other gesneriads) or by rooting the offsets the plants produce, or by

seeds acquired from the Gesneriad Society's Seed Fund. I have found that, as the plants become almost root-bound, they will produce offsets or stolons, so this is a great way to have additional plants to sell or share with fellow gesneriad addicts. Try some. . .you'll like them!

Answer Key: [See p.5

V	Q	C	Y	O	R	J	S	B	J	P	N	E	M	M	N	K
I	O	L	U	Y	L	S	J	N	T	L	K	C	E	C	O	O
E	V	O	L	L	I	L	M	E	U	B	S	N	R	K	I	G
K	N	P	L	L	O	A	I	K	R	J	J	A	C	E	V	O
A	M	E	B	B	M	G	O	L	B	N	A	H	Y	N	I	U
C	L	S	D	A	O	U	N	O	J	U	O	C	M	N	L	V
O	F	N	R	I	K	T	I	A	I	O	H	R	E	A	B	A
P	C	U	J	R	A	A	T	E	T	R	Y	E	L	T	O	J
C	B	Q	J	I	Y	M	H	E	I	O	D	H	N	R	L	E
Y	G	L	B	E	T	X	R	S	R	Q	T	T	Z	A	U	D
U	J	C	B	H	I	Q	T	I	A	U	O	N	I	F	H	
G	Z	F	D	L	N	Y	Q	N	A	D	M	N	W	L	I	R
P	Y	F	H	A	A	V	N	E	I	F	L	A	V	T	T	N
Q	L	V	D	Y	S	U	N	D	O	W	N	E	R	S	U	R
D	D	R	C	O	N	Z	Y	D	E	C	O	N	R	P	A	R
M	F	B	Y	R	I	A	F	L	A	E	R	E	H	T	E	M
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LET'S MEET OUR VENDORS AND HYBRIDIZERS

by Robbie McMeel

rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

In this installment of "Let's Meet our Vendors and Hybridizers", we have a well known vendor and a member of DAVS -- Jo Schrimsher of JoS Violets in Victoria, TX.



Jo at a recent Dixie convention

Jo's love with plants started when she was a child spending time with her grandmother. Her grandmother grew lots of plants, including gerber daisies, which she hybridized. She also grew poinsettias and roses. Her grandmother taught her a lot about growing these plants and how to cut roses. She got interested in African violets back in the 70's. She was influenced by Shirley Sanders and Hortense Pittman to grow violets and to start her business. Jo has her own greenhouse where she grows along with a few rooms in her house and also runs her business out of her house. She also grows other gesneriads, plumerias, and cactus orchids. She previously had an outside garden and enjoyed working in the landscape, but violets now take up most of her time.

Jo and her husband, Geoffrey Schrimsher, now live in Victoria, TX, which is in south Texas. She said that Geoffrey is tolerant of her business and helps her load and unload for the trips to shows and also helps with the packing of plants for mail order.

Jo is a member of many clubs, including AVSA and DAVS. In her local club (which she started) -- the Victoria African Violet Society -- she has held the office of president many times.

Jo also sells plants and supplies at local shows and all of the conventions, wherever the conventions are held. She started selling supplies when she saw the needs of the society members and the business took off from there. She enjoys traveling and talking to all of the people who want to know about violets and the other gesneriads at all of the shows and conventions.

Jo also has a website www.iosviolets.com and plants@iosviolets.com. Go visit her site to see what plants she offers. There may be one of those oldies but goodies you have wanted to replace or add to your collection.

Jo no longer has time for other hobbies because she loves growing violets so much and the violets take up so much of her time. She used to



hybridize, but had to stop because of the lack of growing space.

In closing, I have enjoyed the friendship with Jo over the years, as I am sure we all have. Please be sure to stop by her table at the upcoming conventions and shows to speak to and support her.



Sinningia 'Deep Purple Dreaming'



Upcoming Events

February 11-12, 2022 -- 9 am to 3 pm, First Lakeland AVS Display and Plant Sale. Christ Lutheran Church, 2715 Lakeland Hills Boulevard, Lakeland, FL 33805.

February 25-26, 2022 – TAMPA AVS, Annual Show and Plant Sale, "Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space," Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, 5030 East Busch Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33617.
Information: mlhard@verizon.net.

March 4, 2022, SPRING BRANCH AVC Show and Plant Sale, "Games Violets Play," Marriott Courtyard, 12401 Katy Freeway (I-10 & Dairy Ashford), Houston, TX. Information: Vickie Crider: vcriders52@outlook.com

March 12, 2022 – Lakeland Spring Obsession, a Garden, Art and Music event, Lake Crago Park, 525 Lake Crago Drive, Lakeland, FL 33805. 8 am to 3 pm. First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL.

March 25-26, 2022, Heart of Jacksonville AVS, Jacksonville, FL, Plant Display and Sale, San Jose Church of Christ, 6233 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL. 10 am to 4 pm

April 23-24, 2022, LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE AVS (formerly known as SUNDOWNERS AVS), Annual Show and Plant Sale, "Violets Celebrate the 20's," Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70806.

May 29 – June 5, 2022 - AVSA Annual Convention & Show, "Violets Go Hog Wild in Arkansas," Little Rock Marriott Hotel, Little Rock, AR.

September 15-17, 2022 - OHIO STATE AVS Annual Show and Plant Sale, "Violets in Motion," Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. Information: Mel Grice, melsgrice@gmail.com.

October 12-15, 2022 - DIXIE AVS Annual Convention & Show, Double Tree by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN.



Cajun's Royal Knockout

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

February Issue – January 15
May Issue – April 15
August – July 15
November – October 15

CREATING A TERRARIUM

By Mary Lou Harden
mlhard@verizon.net

A terrarium is a miniature garden (miniature landscape), planted in a covered, transparent container. The size of the container will depend on the rules in the show schedule. Although a glass container is heavier than plastic, glass is preferred because it is less likely to get or show marks or scratches, and plastic containers often become discolored. The terrarium can be round, square, rectangular or octagonal and can be footed. A base is not permitted, nor is draping.

Terrariums are arranged so that plants and the container together complete an artistic design. All parts of the design should be in proportion or scale. There should be one focal point or center

of interest. All plants must be removed from their pots and planted in the container. No treated or cut plant material is permitted.

Accessories may be used, but must not predominate and must be placed within the container, not outside. There can be only one planting area -- no multiple or divided planting areas.

Prohibited items include: The American flag, state flags, flags from other nations, plants on the endangered list from any state or nation, artificial plant material and live creatures.

The garden should contain plants with similar culture requirements, as well as one or more blooming African violets. All of the plants must have similar needs as to soil, temperature and watering. Select plants of different heights, contrasting but harmonious colors, and some with interesting textures. Choose 5 different kinds of plants. If you use too many varieties, your garden may appear crowded and confusing.

Unlike a dish garden, a terrarium must have a cover. None of the plant material may reach above the opening.



Sample of rectangular container

The AVSA scale of points for Container Gardens is:

Landscape Plan	40 points
Suitability of Materials	20 points
Condition of Materials	20 points
Cultural Perfection	10 points
Relation to Container	10 points

THE STEPS TO MAKING A TERRARIUM

Read the Schedule – the Schedule is the law of the show. Ask yourself: (a) Does it require a theme? According to AVSA, none of the container gardens should have a theme to follow. And (b) Are there any size limitations?

Choose an appropriate Container – glass or plastic (clean)



Prepare a Landscape Plan. It doesn't have to be an "architect's drawing," but it should be comprehensive enough to give you an idea of how your finished garden will look.

Begin first layer. Think "drainage." The first layer should be gravel, rocks, sponge rock or perlite, or could even be Styrofoam bits. One problem with terrariums is the lack of drainage so care must be taken to not overwater.

Next. If you're planning to keep and maintain the terrarium for a few weeks or longer period of time, add a layer of charcoal to absorb acids produced by soil bacteria.

Add moistened, porous soil in small amounts. Build up the soil at the back, make hills and valleys, and make it low in front. In one of the valleys you may want to create a lake using a small mirror or other type of improvised lake..

Place the tallest plant at the back. If your plant isn't as tall as it should be, build up the soil at the back side of your terrarium in order to gain height.

Add an appropriate size piece of wood, nothing large or overpowering. Then add

remaining "filler" plants – ivy, mondo grass, fern, palms, aralias, or other gesneriads, etc.

Last. Place your African violets and Sinningias. Make sure that all of your plant material is clean and it must be in scale.

You can create a pebble path down the side of a hill or add colored sand. The path should lead the eyes of the viewer deeper into the scene.

Stand back and critique your garden. You may decide it is complete or you may wish to add some final touch such as an unusual small stone or a piece of wood.

Cover exposed soil with moss and/or gravel. If you plant your garden 2 or 3 weeks before show, be sure to keep it in a well lighted area and mist it occasionally.



Sinningia 'Sun Blaze'



Ness' Crinkle Blue

Photos: AVA of Australia – 2017 Show

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

Dear Dixie Members,

It's show time in Florida! That means we're busy as bees!

Actually, I am so pleased that our COMING EVENTS column in this issue is so much larger than any of our 2021 Columns! That's an encouraging sign of good things to come! However, as you will notice, Florida is not the only state having violet shows. Texas and Louisiana have shows scheduled in the next couple months.

And of course, the AVSA convention and show are scheduled for the first week in June. We're all hoping and praying for great attendance and lots of beautiful exhibits in the show. I hope to see many of our Dixie members going "HOG WILD" at the AVSA convention in Little Rock, Arkansas!

We still have eight months to go before our own Dixie Convention this October. However, this is a good time to observe your collection of African violets and the other gesneriads you're growing. Start planning now and give special attention to your favorites – those violets that seem to have special qualities and grow symmetrically. As you know, not all violets make good show plants. So be selective and then give those plants that extra TLC. I've tried to be diligent about foliar feeding my plants once each week with fish emulsion. It's amazing how the foliage reacts by greening up!

Now that we're done with this Covid thing (we ARE done, aren't we???), I'm wondering what all of our affiliates are doing to regain lost memberships and gain new members. Interestingly, Tampa AVS has added a few new members during the past two years. With our show the end of this month and also our display at the Florida State Fair, we're looking forward to adding even more new members. Our meetings are "in person" at a local library. Hopefully all our State Directors will keep us informed on what's going on in their state as far as meetings and membership are concerned.

Until next time, let's hope and pray that the violet world will continue to grow and bring joy to many!

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