



# THE DIXIE NEWS

Publication of Dixie African Violet Society ([www.DAVS.org](http://www.DAVS.org))

Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc. ([www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org))

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

May 2022

Vol. 70, No. 2

## President's Message

Betty Ferguson  
[bettywithviolets@gmail.com](mailto:bettywithviolets@gmail.com)



Hooray, Dixie members and friends!

Not only has spring sprung, but the AVSA Convention is right around the corner, and it looks like it's going to be another good one. I can hardly wait to see my fellow African violet addict friends again, especially my Dixie friends, and to meet new friends.

As you know, the show room will be filled with colorful beauty, and part of that beauty needs to come from YOUR home. This year we have a class especially for our weirdo violets—wasps, girls, bustle-backs and more. Class 63 will hold violets with novelty or ornamental foliage, such as longifolia or bustle-back. Our wasps and other eccentric blossomed violets will go into Class 64. Plants in these two classes are not eligible for Best in Show, but heck, a blue ribbon or Best in Class at national is nothing to sneeze at. I haven't heard anyone say you can't show your weirdos in the regular classes as well, or if they are registered, in the AVSA and other collection classes.

Remember if you enter other Gesneriads in the "Gesneriads grown for ornamental factors other than bloom" classes, those plants better have some really significant ornamental factors to appease the judges, who must judge according to Gesneriad Society rules.

Read the schedule carefully for all classes, but designers should be even more rigorous in referring back to the "Law of the Show."

And then there are the speakers. Rich Follett will present a refresher course on growing African violets. Glenda Williams will speak on the natural nature of trailers. Joyce Stork will present the design presentation as Mary Husk who was initially scheduled, will not be able to attend. Dale Martens will answer everything we ever wanted to know about Sinningias. And Mary Corondan will provide a review of the newly revised AVSA *Handbook*.

We'll have tours, an auction, food, and a judging school. We seriously need more judges. Tests are open book now so you don't have to memorize the whole manual. If you're not a judge already, consider taking the judging school even if it's just to audit.

And who can forget about the sales room? I've heard a few folks confess that the sales room is their very favorite part of conventions. I won't offer my own opinion about that, but I do enjoy running into my friends there and maybe picking up a few new plants. Only a few, of course. A few dozen maybe?

Y'all come!

California Victory  
Lyndon Lyon  
Greenhouses



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**CANCELLED**

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Convention Director

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On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am sorry to report that the long-awaited 2022 convention of Dixie African Violet Society has been cancelled. As you know, it has been my responsibility as Dixie's Convention Director over the last fifteen years to search out hotels and negotiate the best deals with hotel management.

I was recently at the hotel and learned that the hotel's food prices were just too high and unreasonable. In addition, the two Tennessee clubs who had initially agreed to serve as Hosts for this convention withdrew their offer. As a result, the entire Board of Dixie African Violet Society was informed of the situation and polled for a solution. The Board felt it was in the best interest of Dixie to cancel the convention now rather than proceed with the very real possibility that it would incur a much greater cost. By cancelling now, the financial impact to Dixie was the loss of our original deposit of \$1,200 which was paid in 2019. We did not incur any additional charges as we were at least 90 days out as stated in the contract. I have received confirmation from the hotel that our contract has been cancelled.

Future meetings of the Board will be held at next week's AVSA convention with discussions on how to go forward with Dixie and conventions. I feel very confident that a solution will be made to hopefully have a convention in 2023 and beyond.

I want to THANK EVERYONE who has supported me over the last 15 years I have served as Convention Director. I have enjoyed working with every club and all Dixie members.



**Cajun's  
Christy**

**Belinda  
Thibodeaux**



## 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 (AVM) filled with great growing information
- Regular columns include
  - For Beginners
  - Question Box
  - In Search of New Violets
  - Gesneriad Advice
  - Registration of new cultivars
  - 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. Each issue contains commercial ads as well as an Index of Advertisers. Members have access to this information on AVSA's website

[www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

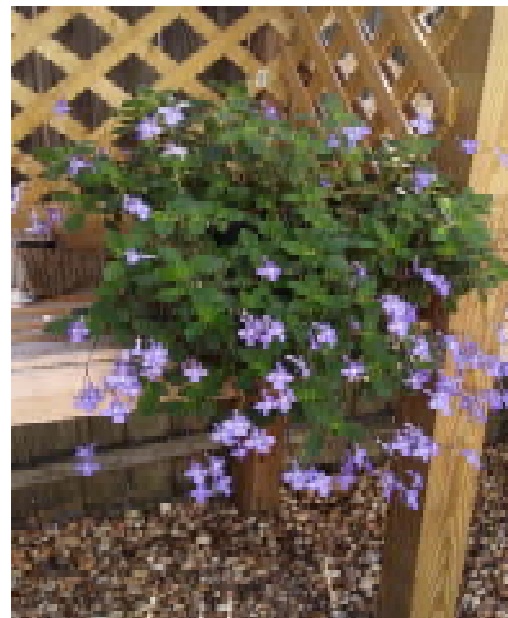
AVSA holds annual conventions in various regions of the country. All members may participate in these exciting events which feature judged shows open to all registered AVSA members. After judging, shows are open to the public. Informative presentations are made by experts in African violet culture. Commercial members also display their newest introductions and have booths where plants and plant-related products are sold.

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

AVSA  
P.O. Box 22417  
Beaumont, TX 77720

**Last, but not least, 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 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.**



Streptocarpella 'Concord Blue'  
by Mary Beth Bryant, St. Pete, FL







**LOUISIANA STATE  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
May 2022

by Becky McMeel

Hello Violet Lovers!

Are we all loving the Spring weather? We are so dry down here in the deep south that hubby has to water the garden every day! I know that is not the case in other locations as Mother Nature is on a permanent rampage, it seems! Someone needs to have a talk with her, don't you think?

Louisiana Lagniappe AVS met in person at the McMeel residence and decided to attend the LSU Spring Garden show, as well as have their club show and sale in April. All I can say is ...we sold out of what we had in 2 hours at LSU, despite the fact that it was freezing in the arena! Unfortunately, no photos were taken.

The show and sale were well attended, and when the doors to the show opened, people flocked in and, in 45 minutes, our sales room was wiped out! The new African violet club, from Opelousas, were the first ones in the door, and were scooping up plants left and right, and very interested in whatever information our club members shared with them. I see La. Lag doing future programs for them! It was such a joy to see and befriend their club members! I foresee only good things for them! Thank you, Chris Brooks, for starting the new club!

La Lagniappe has decided, for 2023, to do the LSU sale in the spring and our show and sale in the fall. It allows members to grow lots of plants for both venues. It appears that people are more than ready to get back to normal following the pandemic, and buying plants is high on the list!

Here is hoping to see a lot of you in Little Rock next week!

Happy Growing!

Becky McMeel



Members of LLAVS and Acadiana AVS



Awards Table



Best Design-Susie Smith  
Underwater Arrangement  
"At the Beach"



Best Dish Garden - Design Sweepstakes  
Becky McMeel

**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.22) or a copy with check payable to Dixie AVS to:  
Johnnie Berry, Membership Secretary  
287 Fennel Way, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30331  
[johnniepearl@comcast.net](mailto:johnniepearl@comcast.net)



Ma's Moody Monday

Olive Ma Robinson

**GEORGIA STATE  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

by Phillis Hinkle  
[pchinkle@bellsouth.net](mailto:pchinkle@bellsouth.net)



Greetings from  
The Peach State,

We are thrilled to be back for in person meetings. We have programs planned for the remainder of the year which includes a show in September. This will be the first experience of entering a show for several members. We are going to have a novice class to encourage participation. We also have a project plant with a class for them as well. Our project plant is Optimara Ingrid.



Even though we are back to in person meetings our April program was on Zoom. We connected with Olga Maggar in British Columbia. She was a wealth of information on the Russian hybrids. She shared several hybridizers and their plants.

There were many beautiful pictures as well as information about the person. Good Q&A segment.

The Rome African Violet Study Group is still meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month. They have welcomed a new



gentleman member. They are having a Mother's Day sale on May 7 from 9-3. This is in conjunction with a yard sale at the garden club offices where they meet. Diane Mathis told me an interesting story about 2 sisters in their club. They live in both sides of a duplex. One is able to grow beautiful plants in natural light, while the other can't and has to use artificial light to grow them. Location, location, location is also important for African Violets.

Hoping to see many of you soon.

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### WELCOME TO DIXIE!

by Johnnie Berry,  
Treasurer and Membership Chair  
[johnniepearl@comcast.net](mailto:johnniepearl@comcast.net)

#### New Members

LA Lagniappe AVS (formerly Sundowners AVS)  
Julie & Robert Clark, Tallahassee, FL  
Stuart & Kathy Swayze, Sun City Center, FL  
Ethel M. Williams, Nashville, TN

#### Renewing Members

Mary Corondan  
Jo's Violets  
Linda Price  
Julie Mavity- Hudson  
Nashville AVS  
Marian & Greg Zoller  
First Lakeland AVS  
Belinda Thibodeaux  
Margaret Jean Madison  
Catherine Carter  
Brenda Brasfield  
Cathy Akers  
Jillian Cain  
Betty Ferguson

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! (Membership Application on p. 22)

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)

### ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Betty Ferguson  
[bettywithviolets@gmail.com](mailto:bettywithviolets@gmail.com)



#### Arkansas Director's Report

The Central Arkansas African Violet Society is excited to welcome you to Little Rock for the 2022 AVSA Convention. Only three of our active members have ever participated in a national convention. Most of our new members have yet to even attend a local show. Long time members, Frankie and Renee, are scheduled with Penny Smith-Kerker from AVSA and Joe Bruns this coming week for a Zoom meeting to prepare to do show entries. Alice has taken care of advertising. Show Chairman Danny Tidwell says behind the scenes tasks have been taken care of and all should run smoothly.

I learned when I visited an imaging center in my county a couple of weeks ago that our community still has African violet growers who are not involved in our club. Your community probably has, too. The waiting room windows were lined with big, gorgeous, blooming African violets, including Russian/Ukraine beauties a patient had given the clinic.

After the national convention, our club will be planning a local fall show, and that will be my immediate focus. Our new members are really gung-ho over the fancier varieties of African violets and on learning to grow their new plants so I hope to, well, strike while the obsession is hot.



## FLORIDA STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



**First Lakeland African Violet Society** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 10 am at Lake Pointe Village, 277 Lake Erie Drive, Mulberry, FL.

On Saturday, June 25, 2022, the club will be joining The Begonia Society at 6401 North 54<sup>th</sup> Street in Tampa, for a special program on African violets brought by Bruce Pearson of Tropical World Nursery in Loxahatchee Groves, Florida. The public is invited.

[www.firstlakelandafricanvioletsociety.com](http://www.firstlakelandafricanvioletsociety.com)  
[www.tropicalworldusa.com](http://www.tropicalworldusa.com)

**Tampa African Violet Society** had its annual show in late February at a new venue in North Tampa. Although it was a smaller show than usual, the entries were beautiful and there were many member-grown sales plants. We were overjoyed that so many people came to see the show and most went home with plants from the sales tables.

TAVS has always had two meetings per month – a day morning meeting and an evening meeting – about three weeks apart. Shortly before the pandemic, we lost our meeting space for the night meeting. As a result -- and also because some of our members were no longer able to travel at night, and the fact that we are able to have speakers by Zoom who otherwise would be unable to travel to Tampa -- our night meetings will continue to be by Zoom on the first Thursday of each month. Our day meetings will continue to be in-person on the third Friday of each month at 10 am at a local library.

We're now in the initial stages of planning our annual show which will be the end of February in 2023. [www.tampafricanviolets.com](http://www.tampafricanviolets.com)

## DIXIE AVS AFFILIATES REPORT Second Quarter 2022

by Robbie McMeel  
[rmcmeel@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmcmeel@bellsouth.net)

Well, it looks like SPRING has finally sprung. I see a lot of activity in the show circuit at this time. It is nice to see clubs getting together again and having their shows and plant sales. I know that our club had its spring sale and will be having its show soon. It is great to see friends again, other than viewing everyone via a computer screen.

I want to remind all clubs to send me reports of their shows, so that the results can be posted in the newsletter. I know a lot of clubs had ribbons for the Dixie classed, but were not able to use them because of show cancellations.

As I have mentioned last year, I received permission from Ken Muzalewski, hybridizer of the Hunter series violets, to register some of his plants with DAVS. I am happy to report that Becky has registered 33 plants. These encompass standards and miniatures plants. So, anyone growing any of the Hunter series violets, the plants are listed in the varieties list on the website and can be put into the Dixie Classes.

I hope that all of our members are doing fine and staying safe. Becky and I look forward to seeing everyone again this year.

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

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## 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:

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.

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## Is It a Real Addiction?

By Betty Ferguson

[bettywithviolets@gmail.com](mailto:bettywithviolets@gmail.com)

"Hi! I'm So And So. And I'm an African violetoholic." We've all laughed during introductions when a club member introduces her/himself in such manner. You may have been the one to introduce yourself as an African violet addict—and/or as a Gesneriad or a houseplant or begonia or bonsai or iris or a carnivore addict. If you are guilty of all of the above, you've earned the grand title of Plantoholic, which should provide you the greatest of respect at any meeting.

At some point, probably after spending too much money on too many plants and with too little time and too little shelf space, have you asked yourself if you seriously qualify as an addict?



**The Big Book for African violet growers with N-Vecherniaia Zvezda (N-Evening Star)**

The self-quiz below will help you determine the severity of your addiction. I assume you have an addiction or else you wouldn't be hanging out at this joint.

- Have you guiltily (or gleefully) snuck plants into the house while family members weren't watching?
- When not shopping for African violets or actively involved in your violet hobby, have you ever found yourself obsessing over buying or being around violets?
- Do you often feel guilty for buying so many plants or spending so much time taking care of the ones you already have?
- Have you lied about how much money you spent in the salesroom?
- Have you ever engaged in dangerous behaviors while you were under the influence of plants, such as sneaking a broken-off leaf into your pocket?



- Does your disgruntled, better-than-thou spouse nag, “Don’t you have enough flowers already?”
- Have you ever tried to stop easing into the garden center of Home Depot or Lowes (when you were really there for a tool) but found that it wasn’t possible for you?
- Do you make trips to town solely to look (shop) at garden centers?
- Have you ever risked relationships by begging for a leaf or a cutting?
- Have you overdosed on too many plants?
- Have you ever blown your entire allowance or even struggled with the temptation to spend it all on a newly released chimera or other It’s-the-Rage violet?
- Do you quickly minimize the screen of your computer or phone when viewing plant sites whenever your boss or a family member enters the room?
- Have you ever neglected your home responsibilities such as dusting or cooking gourmet meals to work on your plants?
- Have you ever thought you couldn’t enjoy life without African violets and other gesneriads?
- Have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms during lockdowns or in the winter when vendors aren’t shipping? Or when Home Depot, Lowe’s and Walmart are loaded with Christmas junk instead of plants and supplies?
- Have you ever paid a whopping fee for winter shipping on a plant you absolutely couldn’t survive without?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions—or knew you should answer yes but didn’t, you might need to add another type of meeting to your agenda, and I don’t mean the local succulent society. Denial is a trait of addiction. Any “no” answers will be construed as the symptom of denial of your problem behavior.

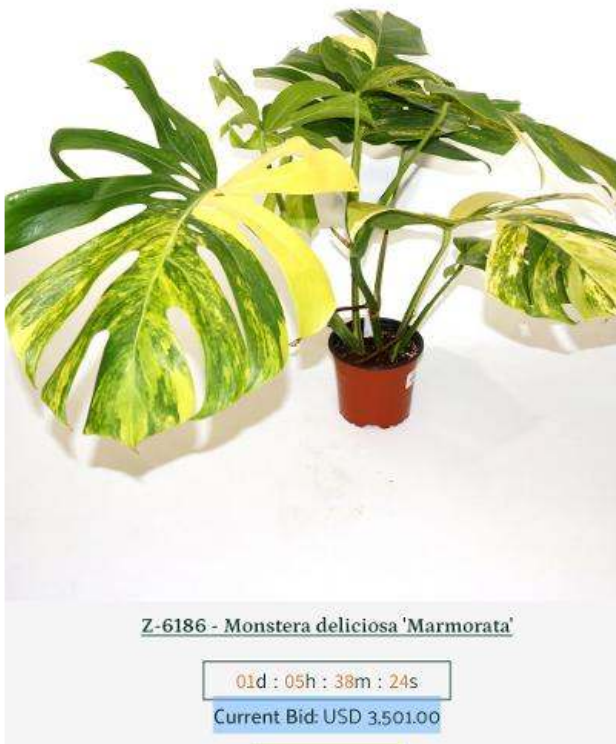


Mac’s Misty Meadow

Addiction is a complex and chronic brain disease that affects every part of a person’s life more and more as the condition progresses. But you can neutralize the effects of your nagging conscience, including all the pangs of guilt you experience, and neutralize other peoples’ neediness by engaging in the following self-help activities.

- ✿ Tell your spouse to be glad your hobby is African violets and other gesneriads, not collecting rare orchids or expensive variegated monstera—unless they really are part of your addictive behavior. [See picture below.]
- ✿ Admit you are powerless over African violets—your life has become unmanageable. And you love it that way.
- ✿ Use cash when you shop locally and at club and convention sales rooms. That way your spending can’t be traced, and you don’t have to see it on your bank or credit card statement.
- ✿ Make a searching and fearless inventory of your plants, certainly not of yourself.
- ✿ Practice assertiveness when family or friends complain that you love your African violets more than them or your boss doesn’t understand your needs. Tell them firmly to just get over it.

- ✿ Do lots of online trades to keep from paying good money for plants. Cross your fingers and hope that such trades won't bring diseased plants and pests.
- ✿ Accept the fact that you really can't enjoy life or have fun without African violets. It's just who you are.
- ✿ Ignore the dusting and fancy meals. The dust will settle back down on your furniture by tomorrow, and your family needs to learn to fend for themselves.



As your AV sponsor, admitting the exact nature of my own ~~wrong~~ pleasurable behaviors is an important step. I've recently perused the following websites: Jo's African Violets, Violet Barn, Steve's Leaves, Mountain Orchids, Dave's Violets, Hirt's Gardens, the AVSA website, the Gesneriad Society seed fund, the American Begonia Society website, bonsai websites and possibly more that I'm not admitting. Plus, I've hit most (if not all) of the garden centers in my area and have more planned in other cities.

Due to the fact that I suffer from some degree of denial, I'm not going to admit how much money I've spent, but I have saved up plenty of cash for

the AVSA Convention sales room during the week of May 29 – June 5 in Little Rock. I hope you have saved up, too, and that I see you there for a fun, fall-off-the wagon event.

Wait! There's one more very important step of healing and recovery for us all.

- ✿ Be careful about asking God to remove your shortcomings, i.e., your violet collection. You certainly don't want a Job-like devastation of thrips and INSV. Instead, ask Him to bless you and your addicted friends and club members in our work of protecting the lovely earth He created.

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## Let's Meet our Vendors and Hybridizers

by Robbie McMeel  
[rmcmeel@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmcmeel@bellsouth.net)

In this installment of "Let's Meet our Vendors and Hybridizers", we will meet a gentleman that is well known in the south for his love of African Violets, Mr. Jere Trigg.

Jere's passion for growing plants started back in 1960. He started growing vegetables in his backyard, along with landscaping around his house. This was something that he did as a young man with his mother and father. Now with his love for violets, he no longer grows his



vegetables, so that he can spend more time with his violets.

About 40 years ago a co-worker of his gave him his first African Violet. Not wanting to kill the plant he bought some books to learn how to care for the plant and this started his journey on his African violet road. He learned how to propagate from leaves from this single plant and before long he was purchasing other violets and started tinkering in hybridization. He started hybridizing violets because of the challenge of producing an improved version or something never seen before, which he considers both exciting and rewarding. At one point he did grow other Gesneriads, Episcias and Streptocarpus, along with violets, but he stopped growing them so he could devote all of his attention to growing and hybridizing violets. Two plants that he is most proud of and are both his favorites are Jere's Star Burst and Jere's Roll Tide. He has a lot of other named plants, but only one is registered with AVSA at this time, Jere's Roll Tide, but he is in the process of registering 10 more plants. Also, he has 20 plants registered with DAVS.



Jere Trigg with one of his favorites

Jere lives in Spanish Fort, Alabama, hence his plant Jere's Roll Tide, as he is a big Alabama fan. He got permission from the University of Alabama to name his plant as such and even sent one of them to Coach Saban's wife. He has a few other hobbies that he enjoys -- fishing and watching sports like college football,

basketball and softball. His hybridizing has led him to sell plants as a mean to support his hobby and making high quality plants available at a reasonable price for others to enjoy. Plants can be purchased off Facebook Marketplace or you can contact him via his email address at [jatrigg@msn.com](mailto:jatrigg@msn.com). He stated that he enjoys the challenge, the suspense, and excitement at the prospect of producing new color combinations or a desirable new characteristic never before seen. Jere has 2 sons that are not interested in plants at this time, but hopes they may later in life. He tends his violets daily with his companion "Belle", a Shih Tzu puppy, given to him by a dear friend. Jere is a member of AVSA, DAVS, The Early Bird Violet Club of Birmingham and the Baldwin County Master Gardeners.

He also belongs to the Facebook groups African Violet Nerds, African Violets Buddies, and African Violet Addicts. Like a lot of violet growers, Jere enjoys talking violets and will pass on the information he has learned over the years on how to grow them, take care of them and hybridizing.

In closing, I had the pleasure of meeting Jere at one of our Dixie shows a few years ago and truly enjoyed talking with him. I hope to have him give a talk at our next Dixie show, to share his knowledge to all participants.

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## DIXIE REGISTERED PLANTS

### By Ken Muzalewski – Hunter's Violets

**#1869 - Hunter's Chipmunk Cheeks** (K. Muzalewski) Single-semi-double white pansy/pink eye. Medium green, plain. Miniature.

**#1870 - Hunter's Vixen** (K. Muzalewski) Single-semi-double coral –pink pansy. Dark green, pointed. Semiminiature.

**#1871 - Hunter's Bella** (K. Muzalewski) Semi-double white pansy, fuchsia thumbprint. Green foliage. Miniature.



**#1872 - Hunter's Blizzard** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semi-double-double white pansy. Medium green foliage. Semi-Miniature.

**#1873 - Hunter's Itsy Bitsy** (K. Muzalewski)  
Single/semi-double lavender pansy, purple edge sticktite. Green foliage, Miniature.

**#1874 - Hunter's Antidote** (K. Muzalewski)  
Single-semidouble lavender frilled pansy/purple fantasy, random green edge. Variegated dark green and cream, ruffled. Standard.

**1875 – Hunter's Asystike** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble-double medium-dark pink frilled star. Variegated dark green and cream, serrated. Standard.

**1876 – Hunter's Blue Northern** (K. Muzalewski). Semidouble light blue two-toned pansy. Variegated dark green and white, quilted. Standard.

**1877 – Hunter's Bunny Tracks** (K. Muzalewski) Single-semidouble pink pansy/blue fantasy. Dark green. Plain. Semiminiature.

**1878 – Hunter's Candy Cane** (K. Muzalewski)  
Single chimera fuchsia sticktite wavy bell/white stripe. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature.

**1879 – Hunter's Chickadee Chirps** (K. Muzalewski) Double pink pansy/white-green edge. Medium green, plain. Miniature.

**1880 – Hunter's Drunken Floozies** (K. Muzalewski) Double pink pansy/raspberry sparkle edge. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted, serrated. Standard.

**1881 – Hunter's Elk Ivory** (K. Muzalewski)  
Double light pink star/white-green edge. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted, wavy, serrated. Standard.

**1882 – Hunter's Exit Wound** (K. Muzalewski)  
Single red sticktite pansy/darker eye, blue overlay. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, ruffled. Large.

**1883 – Hunter's High Country** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble-double white frilled star/variable green edge. Variegated medium green and white, ruffled. Standard.

**1884 – Hunter's Hog Wild** (K. Muzalewski)  
Single-semidouble blue ruffled star/pink and white fantasy. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, quilted, serrated. Standard.

**1885 – Hunter's Kashmir** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble lavender frilled pansy/purple edge. Variegated dark green and cream, ruffled. Large.

**1886 – Hunter's Lightning Strike** (K. Muzalewski) Semidouble blue frilled pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated medium-dark green and cream, quilted, serrated. Standard.

**1887 – Hunter's Momma Jo** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble lavender wavy pansy/purple band, white edge. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted, ruffled. Large.

**1888 – Hunter's Mother's Love** (K. Muzalewski) Double pink ruffled pansy/white-green edge. Variegated dark green and white, quilted, serrated. Standard.

**1889 – Hunter's Muy Grande** (K. Muzalewski) Single-semidouble wine star/pink fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted. Large.

**1890 – Hunter's Non-GMO** (K. Muzalewski)  
Single-semidouble pink frilled pansy/raspberry sparkle edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, quilted. Standard.

**1891 – Hunter's Pink Camo** (K. Muzalewski) Double white pansy/pink eye, rays. Medium green, pointed. Semiminiature.

**1892 – Hunter's Remember When** (K. Muzalewski) Semidouble-double blush

pansy/white-green edge. Variegated dark green and white, quilted. Standard.

**1893 – Hunter’s Rut Crazy** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble blue wavy star/white and pink fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted, serrated. Large.

**1894 – Hunter’s Sky Busting** (K. Muzalewski)  
Double chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe. Variegated medium green and white, pointed. Standard.

**1895 – Hunter’s Slippery When Wet** (K. Muzalewski)  
Double light pink frilled pansy/darker eye, white-green edge. Variegated medium green and white, serrated. Standard.

**1896 – Hunter’s Smoke on the Water** (K. Muzalewski)  
Double blue star/raspberry band, white edge. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted. Standard.

**1897 – Hunter’s Storm Clouds** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble-double white pansy/blue eye. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature.

**1898 – Hunter’s Sweet Emotion** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble lavender pansy/purple edge. Variegated dark green, white and cream, quilted. Standard.

**1899 – Hunter’s Tranquility** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble purple two-tone pansy/darker band, white edge. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted, serrated. Standard.

**1900 – Hunter’s Twilight Glow** (K. Muzalewski)  
Single semidouble purple ruffled star/wine eye, variable white edge. Variegated medium green and white, quilted, serrated. Standard.

**1901 – Hunter’s Whitetail Fawn** (K. Muzalewski)  
Semidouble-double white and blue pansy/darker eye. Medium green, pointed. Miniature.

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## DIXIE REGISTERED PLANTS

### By Belinda Thibodeaux – Cajun’s Violets

**#1865-Cajun’s Gilded Strawberry** (B. Thibodeaux)-Single Sticktite Raspberry Ruffled Star. Thin dark raspberry edge. Variegated green and white. Standard.

**#1866-Cajun’s Hot To Trot** (B. Thibodeaux)  
Single Sticktite Fuchsia Pansy. Variable pencil thin white edge. Variegated green and white. Standard.

**#1867-Cajun’s Solaris** (B. Thibodeaux) Semi-Double, ruffled purple star. Pencil thin deep purple edge. Variegated green and white. Standard.

**1868-Cajun’s Femme Fatale** (B. Thibodeaux)  
Large double, deep blue star. Variegated Green, white and pink. Standard.

**#1902-Cajun’s Plum Crazy** (B. Thibodeaux)  
Double Medium purple star. White ruffled edge. Green. Standard.

**Cajun’s Pandemic Blues** (B. Thibodeaux)  
Double white star, purple markings. Variable thin green edge. Variegated Green and White.



Cajun’s Hot to Trot



Cajun's Solaris



Cajun's Pandemic Blues



Cajun's Femme Fatale



Cajun's Gilded Strawberry



Cajun's Plum Crazy

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## Sports: Blessing or Curse?

By Bill Chaney La Pine, Oregon  
(With author's permission)

Sports are plants (or sometimes only a part of a plant) that are different from the original. If you have paid good money to buy a leaf on eBay and the resulting babies produce a plant that has blooms quite different from what you expected, it can be a big disappointment. However, if the blooms are beautiful and different from the original, you might be fortunate



enough to have a sport that can be propagated or even introduced.

### About Sports.

All plants grow by cell division. When cells divide, they must produce a copy of their chromosomes. Sometimes during this process, a mistake occurs. All cells that divide and grow from this cell with the altered chromosomes will have that same alteration. Most often, that change in the chromosomes affects some part of the plant that is never noticed. But sometimes that change in the chromosomes causes a change in the bloom or leaf. We call the plant (or affected plant part) a sport.

Some plants produce sports more often than others and some plants produce the same sport on multiple occasions.



*Photo of Kilauea showing normal chimeric blooms on the left and a blue and white chimeric sport on the right. Photo by Erna Berko and used with permission.*

The AVSA maintains a list of registered sports and the variety from which they originated. If you study this list, you will notice that most of the sports seem to be discovered by the hybridizer of the original variety. That is because the hybridizer is likely to have propagated more plants than anyone else. Sports are part of a natural phenomenon that occurs at a very low frequency, so the more plants you propagate, the more likely you will encounter a sport.

### Sport Growers

There is a person on the list who has discovered and named more sports than anyone else. His name is Stan Ko and he lives in Hong Kong. Stan has reported that he propagates plants from leaves in the normal fashion, but he chooses the smallest and weakest baby plants and subjects them to stressful conditions to shock them and encourage sports. He grows these tiny, weak plants at higher-than-normal temperatures and in a more acidic medium than normal. Stan has seen up to 20 percent of these babies grow to be sports.

One of the most commonly seen types of flower variations in sports is a chimera pattern. In a chimera bloom, often one portion of the petal is missing the color that was seen previously across the entire petal, or the color of the petal becomes concentrated in a stripe in the center of the petal. Jere Trigg of Alabama has produced many beautiful standard varieties, and several are chimeras. (See photos.)



*Jere's Chantilly Lace (top) and its sport (bottom), a chimera named Jere's Star Burst. Photos by Jere Trigg*

## Not All Sports Are Chimeras

Certainly not all sports are a chimera pattern. They do usually involve a loss of color or even a change in color. Jere produced a beautiful seedling of Jere's Roll Tide x Powder Keg that has a solid red sticktite star bloom with attractive foliage. He has named it Jere's Frankly Scarlett.

During the normal leaf propagation of this variety, an attractive sport emerged with a "tie-dyed" appearance, which he has named Jere's Serendipity.



*Jere's Frankly Scarlett (top) and its sport Jere's Serendipity. Photos by Jere Trigg*

Some sports, like chimeras, cannot be propagated from leaf cuttings like most varieties. This is because the genetic modification that causes the altered flower color pattern is only present in the parts of the plants that directly

lead to the bloom, such as the bloom stalk. These varieties can only be propagated by using the bloom stalk or from suckers on the plant. In either method, the chance of getting a true blooming chimera is high, but there is no guarantee.

## Bloom-Stalk Propagation

Bloom-stalk propagation can be accomplished by rooting the bloom stalk in a fashion similar to rooting a leaf. A new plant arises from either the base of the bloom stalk or sometimes from the axil of the tiny leaflet on the bloom stalk. It is also possible to encourage platelets to form in the leaf axils by using a plant hormone.

The hormone group that causes these platelets (cytokinins) to form is different from the rooting hormone with which many gardeners are familiar. One such cytokinin is called 6-benzylaminopurine (BAP) and it is a synthetic growth hormone that stimulates cell division and the formation of shoots. It is often used by orchid growers in propagation and is sometimes sold as Keiki cloning paste.

A grower must scratch or insert the cloning paste into the tissue of the leaf axil while the bloom stalk is still on the plant. The developing shoots can be removed and rooted when they are large enough to handle (see photos below).



*A bloom stalk being treated with BAP. Photo Erno Berko*

Sometimes a sport will occur at a point in the plant that results in a single bloom stalk that exhibits a chimera pattern. If that bloom stalk is



not propagated, that chimera sport could be lost forever. Bloom-stalk propagation can also be extremely useful in those situations in which a valued chimera plant is reverting to its non-chimera form. Propagating a bloom stalk that is



still showing the chimera pattern can often produce a true-blooming chimera plant. ***The resulting babies it produced (stalk treated with BAP). Photo Erno Berko***

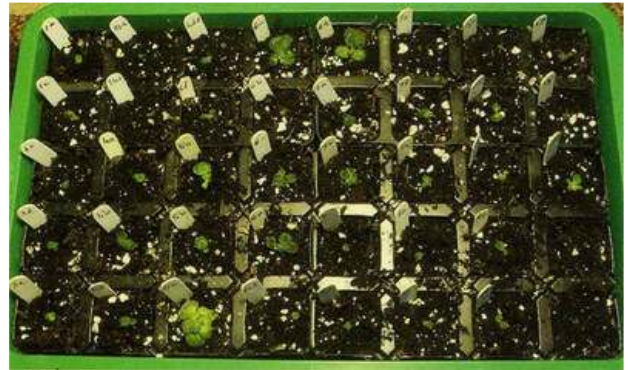
Whether a sport is a blessing or a curse depends on your goal, but like hybridizing, having a unique plant is exciting. So, the next time you are potting up babies, before throwing away those tiny weak ones, consider giving them a little shock. Place them in a warmer spot or make their mix a little extra acidic, and hope that you end up with a beautiful sport. And if you spot a bloom stalk with a decidedly different bloom that you like, give bloom-stalk



propagation a try.

Separated Babies transferred to a common pot

These babies were separated



Then, a tray after rooting.  
All photos by Erno Berko

**COPY DEADLINE  
FOR AUGUST ISSUE  
July 15**

## the other Gesneriads *Streptocarpus*\*



*Streptocarpus* 'Falling Stars'

The name *Streptocarpus* was formed from two Greek words: streptos (meaning twisted) and karpos (meaning fruit). It was given this name because of the way the seed pod twists and opens spirally to release its fruit. *Streptocarpus* is native to Africa but, according to Dr. Harold E.



Moore in *African Violets, Gloxinias and Their Relatives*, a few species have been found in Madagascar, Thailand and Burma.

There are three distinct kinds of *Streptocarpus* plants – those that grow in a rosulate or rosette form, the unifoliate (having just one leaf), and caulescent (with a stem). The most popular of these is the rosette type with its strap-like leaves and colorful blossoms of white, lavender, purple, pink, red, or any shades in between.

Most unusual in appearance is the unifoliate or single leaf *Streptocarpus*. This single leaf in some species can reach a length of three feet and a width of one foot. The flower stalks arise from the midrib of that leaf. Due to its size, the unifoliate form is not practical for the hobby grower, but it can be seen in botanical gardens where it is grown for interest in its unusual form.

The caulescent *Streptocarpus* is an upright, branching form, sometimes separated to a subgenus, *Streptocarpella*. The flowers of *Streptocarpus* have a long or short tube with an open-faced flaring of the lobes with the lower lobes normally jutting out below the upper—very similar to the blossoms of *Achimenes* and *Sinningia*.

The four basic requirements for growing *Streptocarpus* (or “strops” as they are often called), are cool temperatures, plenty of light, perfect drainage and plenty of moisture and humidity.



*Streptocarpus* ‘Stella’

The temperature needs vary with different species. Many of the plants are found in nature at an elevation of up to 5,000 feet and others are found in lower areas. Most of the species are naturally forest dwellers. In general, they prefer cooler temperatures than other gesneriads (except alpinists) and will tolerate temperatures as low as 40 degrees without being harmed. Temperatures above 90 degrees will cause leaves and flowers to droop—even with plenty of soil moisture and high humidity.

*Streptocarpus* plants need stronger light than African violets, but never full summer sun. However, they will tolerate full sun in a greenhouse in the winter. In the summer, streps can be grown outside under trees or on the north side of the house—unless you live in a very warm climate (like Florida). They can also be grown in shallow hanging baskets outdoors, under a tree. For those like myself who live in a very warm area of the U.S. and find that streps are not happy with the climate God gives us, grow them in your air-conditioned house, on a fluorescent lighted stand.

Perfect drainage is a must for success in growing streps. They have a very shallow root system and over-potting and poor drainage will cause the plant to die. Start a *Streptocarpus* off in a small pot and increase the pot size as the plant grows. Pots with side drainage holes work very well. Plants will bloom better when root bound in their pots. *Streptocarpus* are heavy feeders and need a lot of nitrogen. Remove



spent flowers and seed pods for more bloom.  
*Streptocarpus* ‘Gloria’ – AVA of Australia photo

Streps should never dry out completely. Allowing them to do so will cause the leaves to go limp, the tips of the leaves to turn brown, and some leaves may die off. However, the soil should never be soggy as that will cause the problem of crown rot. The higher the humidity, the better the plants will grow. Increase humidity by placing plants on pebbles or perlite in trays and mist with a fine spray of warm water.

A good soil mix for growing streps is 3 parts peat moss, 2 parts coarse perlite, and 1 part coarse vermiculite. To this mix add 1/2 part activated charcoal.

by Carol Schreck – reprinted from The Florida Connection, quarterly publication of The African Violet Council of Florida

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## Upcoming Events

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

July 4 - July 9, 2022 - **Gesneriad Society 65th Annual Convention**, “Gesneriads in the Pacific Gateway,” Hotel Murano, Tacoma, Washington.

**November 3-5, 2022 – Lone Star African Violet Council Annual Convention, “Violets Cruise Texas Rivers.”** Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Houston Intercontinental Airport, Houston, TX.

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## And the Winners are. . .

**Tampa African Violet Society, “Violets Celebrate the Wonders of Space”** February 25-26, 2022:

Best in Show Horticulture and Best Semiminiature, Jolly Dear; Best AVSA

Semiminiature Collection, Jolly Dear, Rob’s Antique Rose, Rob’s Boogie Woogie, won by: **Glenn Shelton** from Pinellas Park, FL.

Best Miniature, Imp’s Blue Arsenic, won by: **Jim Boyer** from Palm Harbor, FL.

Best Gesneriad, Aeschynanthus humilis, won by: **Nancy Kast** from Dade City, FL.

Best Design and Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement, “The Goldilocks Planet,” won by: **Pat Rutzke** from Seffner, FL.

Best *Streptocarpus* and Best *Streptocarpus* by a Novice, Streptocarpus Full Moon Sport, won by: **Mary Beth Bryant** from St Pete, FL.

Best Novice, Ma’s Pink Beetles, 2<sup>ND</sup> Best AVSA Standard Collection, LiK-Tanets Flamingo, Ma’s Arctic Sky, Rebel’s Splatter Kake, won by: **Sandi Soto** from Tampa, FL.

2nd Best Design, Best Container Garden and Best Dish Garden, won by: **Pamela Van Durme**, Clearwater, FL.

Best Standard and 2nd Best in Show Horticulture, Buckeye Exotic Dancer; Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement, “The Space Race”; Best Terrarium; Best Natural Garden; Best AVSA Standard Collection, Tiger, Buckeye Exotic Dancer, Frozen in Time; Horticulture and Design Sweepstakes. Won by: **Mary Lou Harden** from Seffner, FL.

### RE-ROOTING PLANTS

Plants that have been divided, have grown long leggy petioles, are irregular in shape, or have long necks (because of lost leaves at the bottom of the crown) can be re-rooted. Remove and discard the outer leaves and follow directions under suckers. If the plant has a long neck, remove the outer leaves and roots, cut off plant leaving about an inch of stalk attached. Gently scrape stalk, dust with sulphur or another fungicide, let stand for a few hours, and then insert in rooting medium. When plant has grown new roots, plant it in its individual pot.

AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, p.18.

## LOOKING BACK AT PREVIOUS DIXIE CONVENTIONS –



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## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

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

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

So happy to see that many of our affiliates are returning to in-person meetings and having plant sales and shows! I know you'll enjoy reading about what some of our affiliates are doing.

The AVSA convention is about to get under way. I'm unable to attend this year – first time in several years – but I'll be anxious to see pictures from the show and hear reports on all the workshops.

As all of you are well aware, the pandemic took its toll on AVSA, Dixie, their affiliates and most local clubs. Some smaller clubs just didn't make it. So, I encourage each existing club and all our affiliates to financially support all African violet and Gesneriad clubs and societies. They are needed now—more than ever.

Consider the benefits of growing plants – and especially African violets and the other Gesneriads. Most of us grow for the joy we get from seeing a beautifully blooming African violet. And isn't that why we grow these plants and often become addicted to them! We've witnessed the response by customers who visit our shows and plant sales. They are often almost completely overcome by the loveliness of a beautifully grown African violet.

So. . .I urge you to join me in determining to get back to business – both you individually and your club – let's be proactive in supporting and promoting our clubs. Let's plan for our next show and plant sale. And let's use every avenue available to us to increase our membership.

I know you'll enjoy the very interesting articles in this issue. Please remember that I'm always looking for good articles and information about your club.

Wishing everyone a beautiful, healthy and safe summer! And . . .if you haven't paid your dues, please do it NOW!

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