



THE DIXIE NEWS

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

November 2022
Vol. 70, No. 4

President's Message

Betty Ferguson



bettywithviolets@gmail.com

Happy Holidays, Dixie Members and Friends!

I hope a golden-brown turkey lights on your Thanksgiving table—baked, that is, or at least a big fat hen lands there. I hope that herd of reindeer traverses the earth safely to your house without needing any diesel at all and that Santa is a wise prepper and puts back lots of presents for your family before parts became unavailable. And I hope your 2023 is happy and blessed and all your needs are met. One more thing--I hope that your violets and other gesneriads all bloom just in time for your next show or sale.

This year, aren't you thankful to be around plant lovers again and maybe even share some hugs? I'm thankful that I don't have to stand six feet from the nice people in checkout lanes and I can start a friendly conversation with nearby strangers.

Yet, the "new normal" has brought changes to our lives and to many of our plant societies. You probably recall that in my last President's

Message I reported on Dixie's board discussions of positive changes for Dixie's future. We want you all involved in the process, too. **We'll be holding a Zoom general meeting for all members on Tuesday, November 29, at 8:30 pm, Eastern time.** Please mark your calendar now before you forget and attend if you possibly can. I have missed you all and would love to spend that time visiting and catching up. However, to keep our meeting concise and as short as possible, please send me your recommendations, announcements, or any business to be discussed to me in advance. My contact info will be below.

Now for a bit of chit chat, which I'm itching to do. In October of this year Morning Consult, a global decision intelligence company, asked 2,120 U.S. adults which season they liked the best. Favoring spring myself, I was surprised to read that 41% of U.S. adults chose fall. Spring and summer each received 24% of the total favorite vote, while only 11% of respondents said winter is their season of choice. (Only 4% of Baby Boomers prefer winter.) The survey respondents listed the following as the reasons for their autumn preference: fall foliage, the weather and Thanksgiving. Only a handful rated back-to-school as a reason for preferring fall. (I remember looking quite forward to school starting back when I had kids at home!).

Although I still have okra plants in my garden and a few Texas Big Boy peas that survived our first frost, I'm already planning for spring and

CONTENTS

President's Message – Betty Ferguson	1
Contents	2
AVSA News	3
Become a Dixie Member	3
Georgia State Director's Report – Phillis Hinkle	4
Welcome to Dixie! – Johnnie Berry	4
Arkansas State Director's Report – Betty Ferguson	5
Florida State Director's Report	6
Louisiana State Director's Report – Becky McMeel	8
Rosettes Available	9
African Violet Burnout Strikes! Betty Ferguson	10
Notice of Proposed Bylaw Amendments	11
Copy Deadline for February 2023 issue	12
Renew Your Membership!	12
The Other Gesneriads: Sinningia Prudence Risley – Mary Lou Harden	13
Upcoming Events	14
Preventive Measures - Routine	14
Looking Back at Previous Conventions	15
DAVS Officers	15
State Directors, Standing & Special Committees	15
Publication Deadlines	16
From the Editor – Mary Lou Harden	16
DAVS Membership Application	17
Commercial Members	17
Commercial Ads	18

President's Message, continued from p.1

sent off two seed orders last night. I do like the slower pace of autumn and winter though with fires dancing in my wood stove. The darker season gives me an opportunity to repot and groom my African violets and to bring my violet Excel file up to date. I dream of pulling out my crochet yarn and needles and my watercolor paints. I think the Christmassy Optimara Harlequin would be fun to paint. (By the way, did you know that the color white is actually a combination of all primary colors, not the absence of color?) Most importantly, I look forward to family get-togethers with their laughter and cheer.

I hope you, too, have plenty of warm family time and that you'll find time during the autumn and winter break God has provided for us to cozy up and enjoy your violets and other hobbies.

With happy seasonal wishes,

Betty

***Don't forget to mark your calendar.
November 29 –
8:30 pm, Eastern time***

Betty Ferguson
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501-944-5292

JOIN US!

2023 AVSA CONVENTION

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel

165 Courtland St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

MAY 28 – JUNE 4, 2023

SHOW AND SALESROOM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:
FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.,
AND SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.





**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

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.**



**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

GEORGIA STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

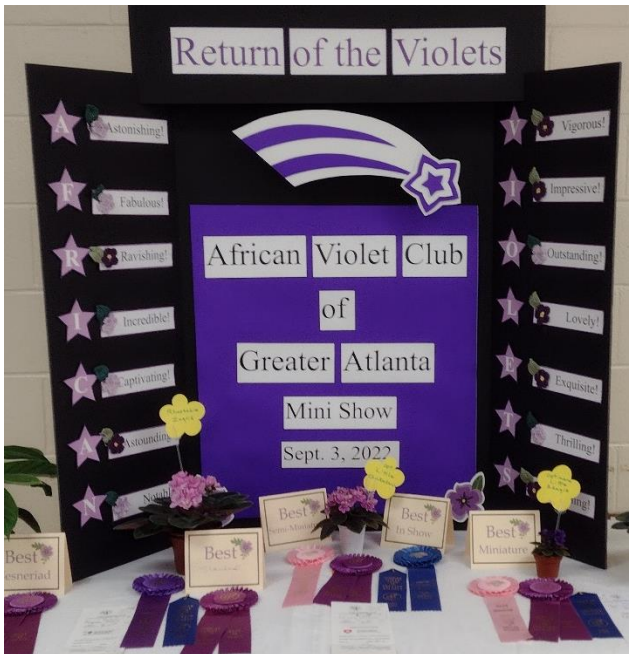


by Phillis Hinkle
pchinkle@bellsouth.net

Greetings from the Peach State,

This year has gone by quickly. The Fall season in Georgia has been beautiful!

In September we had our first show in 3 years. It wasn't an AVSA affiliated show, none the less it was a great success. Coming out of the pandemic we had several new inexperienced members and felt everyone needed to get their feet wet again. The focal point was amazing as well as all the design elements to showcase the plants. We are hopefully planning to have an AVSA sponsored show in 2023.



We have chosen a project plant for this coming year. Sarah McGaha was a former president and club member. She hybridized the trailer Opera Doc and we will be celebrating her memory by growing this lovely trailer. Thanks to the Violet Barn we have enough plants for everyone.

The Rome African Violet Study Group sends good news. They have 5 new members. These

new members are participating and enriching the meetings. They did not have a full plant sale this year, but are planning to have a Mother's Day sale in 2023.

Good Growing and looking forward to seeing everyone in Atlanta in 2023.

Phillis Hinkle



Brazos Belle

WELCOME TO DIXIE!

by Johnnie Berry,
Treasurer and Membership Chair
johnniepearl@comcast.net

New Members

Barbara McLane, Tavares, FL
Thomas Gibbs, Lafayette, LA
Christopher Brooks, Opelousas, LA
Acadiana African Violet Society,
Opelousas, LA.

Renewals

Kathy S. Akers, Summerville, SC
Hill Country African Violets, Boerne, TX
MrsStrepStreps, Tucker, GA



ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



by Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com

Central Arkansas African Violet Society members recovered from any show burnout we may have experienced from the national convention in time to hold a local show in September. Our theme, "African Violets Weather It All" made for an easy design schedule to write and fun designs to create using lots of natural plant materials. But...



"African Violets Weather It all" winners table



Best in Show, Rob's Gundaroo
by Alice Brown

Although autumn had arrived, the date of our show seemed to blow in with the speed of a March wind. Even our ever-sunny show chairman clouded up when he asked shortly before the show how many plants we'd each enter. Our dark and foggy responses ranged

from, "None" to "It depends" to "Maybe a few" with one bright response of, "10 or 12. I hope."



The Grooming Table



The Judges—scrutinizing my underwater design

But when show time thundered upon us, we scrounged through our shelves and produced enough plants for 100 entries by seven members, including eight designs. As surprising as a Christmas Day snow in the South, an abundance of sale plants appeared on the sales tables.

Our advertising chairperson did her job well, as normal, and community plant enthusiasts swept in and descended on those sale plants and ooh-ed and ahh-ed over the exhibits. I brought home gorgeously made rosettes, but the thrilling part for me was interacting with our guests, answering their questions and advising them that a little water on the leaves really won't kill their plants. If it did, no plants would survive nature's rains. And as God waters from the top as well as the bottom, it's okay to water either way.

We all smiled at the enthusiasm of one visitor who appeared ecstatic over her purchases. Even with my diagnostic skills, had I run into that young woman downtown or on the university campus, I would have never forecast that she'd be so drawn to the plants. Nor that she would return to the

show the next day! At our shows we pass out club, AVSA and Dixie info and hope our guests come to our next meeting, but we were met with another surprise when that new grower showed up at our October meeting with two friends in tow.

One of our newish members was able to secure a perfect show room for us with no charge at the nursing home where she is employed as community activities director.

Our club focus is now on our upcoming spring show, which we'll hold in a covered pavilion in the park come rain or shine.

FLORIDA STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Carolee Carter
caroleeviolets@gmail.com



After a long lapse of local shows, our Florida affiliates are starting to get in gear again! Spring should be so much fun for us to travel to reunite with our friends and salivate over beautiful show plants! And, that also means we can buy more plants!

Here's what's been going on with our Florida affiliates.

African Violet Council of Florida

The African Violet Council of Florida will hold its Fall meeting on Nov. 5. This Zoom meeting will feature a talk by Joyce Stork, former AVSA President, on 'Culture, Pest or Pathogens.' The presentation will be followed by a short Q& A session and a business meeting. Plans are underway for a Spring Display/Sale in Orlando. Details to be announced later.

Blooming Violets of Marion County

Blooming Violets of Marion County kicked off its second year this past August and welcomed back over 30 members. Meeting at the United Way of Marion County on the 1st Saturday of the month from 10:30-12:30, President Laura Perdomo enjoys the camaraderie, knowledge, refreshments and simply the fellowship with like-minded African violet enthusiasts.



For the rest of 2022, a program on pests is planned, as well as a Holiday Meal in December. We would love to do something in the Spring to show the public we exist that would include a plant sale. We have a while to go before we work up to a show, but we can at least display some beautiful plants for the public, answer some questions, grow our membership and offer some plants for sale. The learning curve is shooting upward!



Laura gave a PowerPoint overview of African violets in August, covering history, gesneriads, and general culture. At our September meeting along with a demonstration on repotting, all members were given a project plant 'Amour Elite' that we will bring back every couple of months to see how our growing conditions affect how the same plant will grow.

We did not meet in October because of Hurricane Ian, which fortunately did minimal damage to our area compared to other areas.

If you are interested in more information about our club, contact Laura Perdomo at thepeacockcottage@gmail.com.

Bloomin' Violets & Gesneriads of Palm Beach

We're getting ready for the Mounts Botanical Sale, and waiting for last-minute approval that we are an approved vendor. So, we are now hurriedly trying to get violets to sell! The event will be November 5th & 6th (Saturday and Sunday) at Mounts Botanical Gardens in West Palm Beach. The club is trying to attract new members and spread the word about growing violets!

Central Florida African Violet Society

We are still holding our monthly meetings and trying to reorganize after the pandemic. This spring we will have our display and sale, with the date/location to be set and published as soon as it is approved.

First Lakeland African Violet Society

Our first plant sale this year was at Munn Park in downtown Lakeland on October 22. It was sponsored by the Lakeland Garden Club and is an annual event. There were over 60 vendors participated including the Garden Club of Rose Garden Club, Camilla club and several others, including vendors who sold herbs, ferns, orchids and more. The second sale was at the Presbyterian Church at the Highlands craft fair. This was smaller, but they had a pumpkin patch as well as face painting and lunch. Vendors sold crafts from Jewelry to wooden signs for the front door for Christmas and Halloween. Many of the young children wore their Halloween costumes, and everyone had a good time. The weather was perfect. Both sales were successful and fun. We

do have another craft sale on December 3rd at St. Stephens Episcopal church in Lakeland. This is their first craft fair since 2019. We are waiting for confirmation of what time they will be open.

We had our monthly meeting on Saturday, October 29. We are also planning our show the second week in February (February 10 and 11, 2023), "Violets are Tea-rrific."

Heart of Jacksonville AVS

Heart of Jacksonville AVS is having our share of health problems, immediate members and extended family included. Our injured reserve list might be bigger right now than the Jaguar's football team's list! Luckily, we keep in close contact and try to help where we are able. . . at home, as well as filling in with club duties.

Our new program chair, Shipra Panda, has already lined up some successful programs. Sandra Brinson spoke to the hearts of most of our audience about windowsill growing. Next month was the chaotic (but much beloved) hands-on potting of mini violets contributed by Cathy Carter. We have at least one more of those hands-on programs planned, as they are so popular and instructional at the same time.

As we have many new members, we are also planning a group order to Optimara. Might as well show them the wonderful world of mail order right away! We are told the secret is to put in the order WAY ahead of time for a Spring shipment date. We hope to order in January for an April shipment.

We are proud to announce that we will have our annual display and sale, March 24 & 25, 2023. Watch for the flier in the next Dixie News!

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Members of Tampa AVS participated in the Plant Festival at the University of South Florida's Botanical Gardens. The Festival is held annually in the Fall and the Spring the second weekend in October and the second weekend in April. Over fifty vendors from many locations in Florida participate. The Festival is a great way for the Club and its individual members to sell plants and supplies, engage with the public and gain new Club members.

At our October day meeting, we had a hands-on workshop to show members how to create Natural Gardens. Some members brought their own container – some used driftwood, others used sea shells of various sizes. The Club furnished some containers as well as different types of plant materials, moss, and blooming violets so that all members who attended could participate. It was a great success. We had lots of fun and found that we have some very creative members!

At our recent night meetings, which are by Zoom, we've enjoyed some great presentations by Robbie and Becky McMeel of Houma, LA.

Our Show Schedule for next February has been approved, so our focus during the next four months will be preparations for our annual show.

LOUISIANA DIRECTOR'S REPORT 4th Quarter

by Becky McMeel
beckymcmeel@gmail.com



**WELCOME TO THE
ACADIANA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY,
formed in November 2021 in South Central,
Louisiana.**

The Acadiana African Violet Society is a group of African violet enthusiasts from the South Central area of Louisiana known as Acadiana. We began meeting in November of 2021. We hold our meetings on the first Saturday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Hope Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, located at 434 South Main St., Opelousas, Louisiana.

Our usual format is to have a violet program followed by a houseplant of the month, business meeting, and then door prizes. Refreshments are provided and we invite anyone interested in houseplants and especially African violets to attend.

If you use Facebook, our page can be found by searching Acadiana African Violet Society. We

also have a private Facebook group by the same name for anyone in Acadiana and the surrounding area to join and learn more. In the group we Facebook live the educational portions of the meeting, post handouts from the meetings, and discuss violets and other topics in between our monthly meetings. We hope you will join our



friendly and enthusiastic group at our next meeting! Here are a few pictures from our last meeting where we had a repotting workshop.

Happy Growing!

Christopher Brooks, AAVS President.
brookscj@hotmail.com>



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.



The Alps
Photo: AVA of Australia

African Violet Burnout Strikes!

by Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com

You've experienced it the past, or you'll experience it in the future. Or you may be caught in an episode of burnout right now.

The
Diagnosis:



Merriam-Webster defines **burnout** as: "exhaustion of physical or emotional strength or motivation usually as a result of prolonged stress or frustration." For African violet hobbyists, burnout, with its exhaustion of motivation, frustration, and sometimes stress, is all too real. All too often it results in dead plants and lost club members.



The Symptoms:

o You avoid looking at your plant shelves with the same intensity you avoid mirrors – unless you're a young, sexy grower, that is.

o Finding your new issue of the *African Violet Mag* in your mailbox makes you gag. And if you're in a current burnout episode, you may not be reading this article at all because you didn't even open your *Dixie News*.

o The garden centers at Lowe's, Home Depot and Walmart have lost all their charm even if new Optimara violets have arrived in your area. And you feel absolutely no temptation to rescue the perishing.

o Leaves, cuttings and rhizomes from your trade four months ago are still in their Ziplock bags. Somewhere.

o Watering your plants is truly emotional and mental torture because so many are dying or already shriveled and brown.

o If you see another thrips or mealy bug, you're sure you'll totally lose it and need a massive dose of Ativan and Haldol and probably a straitjacket, too.

o You have buckets of dirty flowerpots, some many with dead plants still in them, cluttering your garage. And more on your back porch.

o You find it easier than ever, when you do manage to push yourself into your violet room, to throw away NoIDs. Why are **they** the ones that thrive despite our neglect and abuse?

o Club members, if they manage to get past your front door, swear you have INSV, but your plants really do look that bad from inconsistent watering.

o You look for excuses to miss local club meetings and pray that, when you do attend, you're not called on for the prayer because your mood is so bad. Honestly, you hope you're not called on to do anything at all.

How many times have I wished I had chosen a hobby like toy trains or vintage Barbies—something I could toss into the basement when I get tired of it and pull it back out when I feel motivated and have time to mess with it. But it's plants I love. Plants, not Barbies or trains, absorb my focus to the point that I accumulate far too many. Then, when life gets too busy to water regularly—usually followed by pests and disease, I tend to reach that point of burnout.

If a feeling of dread and disgust crashes into the pit of your stomach whenever you even think about African violets, here are some remedies you may want to try for your burnout.

The Remedies:

- **Set aside weekly time to enjoy your plants.** I've started setting aside an afternoon from my day of rest to care for my plants. I've added, "Spend 15 minutes in plant room" to my daily To Do List a couple of times a week. If it's on



THINGS TO DO TODAY	
Date _____	COMPLETED
1) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
6) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

my list, and I get the reward of checking the box when I've completed that 'task,' I'm more likely to get around to doing it, especially since it's

short and easier than I had imagined. Even if I miss a day, it's not like missing a week or two. We were taught to save our dessert for last, and the To Do List technique enables me to have my dessert without feeling guilty. Plus, it ensures the dead plant situation doesn't occur.

- **At the end of each plant session, spend a couple of extra minutes tidying up your work area. Make sure you have water available for your next session.** A neat area with available water encourages me to step into my plant room.

- **Reduce the size of your collection.** As you groom and water, move extras of each variety and your least favorites into a special place for sharing at the next club meeting. Even boring club meeting take on a freshness when we share.

- Plant scientists say bad bugs aren't drawn to healthy plants. **Remind yourself that an ounce**

of prevention is worth a fortune of Avid and Marathon.

- **Invite a new grower in to help you groom and water.** New growers' enthusiasm always motivates me.
- **Place your plants into a terrarium type environment to reduce drying.** Just wrapping my shelves with a clear plastic drop cloth with an accessible 'door' helps.
- **Place your African Violet Magazine on your pillow and leave the current Dixie News open on your computer or phone for motivation.** Add to your To Do List, "Take a 10-minute break and read the current *Dixie News* or *African Violet Magazine* or an internet forum.
- **If worse comes to worse, take a couple of leaves from your (surviving) plants. Put them into zipper bags with a little moist sphagnum moss.** Hang them with clothes pins on your increasingly naked shelves. Give away the rest of your plants even if they look bad. They'll appeal to the rescue spirit of other growers.

Notice that throwing them all in the trash or taking a complete break from your African violet hobby wasn't listed as a remedy. Nor was throwing them into the basement like a harem of Barbies or just slamming the plant room door shut. With a pound of cure, the love bug will soon strike again.



Cajun's
Code Blue



Optimara Harlequin

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DAVS BYLAWS

As published in the 3rd Quarter 2022
issue of *The Dixie News*

NOTE: Proposed amendments to authorize electronic meetings, including hybrid meetings, in conformity with the laws of the State of Georgia, highlighted in red.

ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers, state directors, directors at large, chairmen of standing committees, editor of *The Dixie News*, and the immediate past president.

SECTION 2. Votes.

1. A vote by mail or by use of an electronic service designated by the Board of Directors for the meeting is authorized.
2. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a two-thirds (2/3) vote is required for action by the Board of Directors at a meeting at which a quorum is present in person, electronically or in combination.
3. A verified report of any action taken by mail or by use of any electronic service by the Board of Directors at an authorized meeting shall be made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

SECTION 1. The annual meeting and show shall be held each Spring or Fall, either by invitation from one of the regional states or as determined by the Executive Committee and Convention Director. The time and place for the annual meeting and show shall be announced at the regular business meeting if the details are then known, and will be published in The Dixie News no less than six months prior to the convention.

A special meeting may be called by the president or the Board of Directors in the event of an emergency.

SECTION 2.

A. Meetings of DAVS membership, its Board of Directors, Executive Committee and all subordinate groups subject to these bylaws, and any committees which may hereafter be formed, may be held electronically, in whole or in part, as long as all participants can hear each other simultaneously and can participate during the meeting.

B. When authorized by the Board of Directors, and subject to the guidelines and procedures as the Board of Directors may adopt, members not physically present at a meeting of the Society may, by means of remote communication:

- a. Participate in a properly noticed meeting of members, and
- b. Be deemed present in person and vote at a meeting of members, whether the meeting is held at a designated place or held wholly or in part by means of remote communication, provided that:
 - (i) The Society implements reasonable and adequate procedures to verify that each person deemed present at the meeting by means of remote communication is a member, and
 - (ii) When any member votes at the meeting by means of remote communication, a record of such vote or such other action shall be maintained by the Society.

SECTION 3. Twenty-five percent of the members registered and attending the annual convention shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting.

Three officers and five members shall constitute a quorum at Board of Directors' meetings. A majority of members present shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.



Blue Dragon

**COPY DEADLINE
FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE
January 15**

**DON'T FORGET TO
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



Canadian Clone Cleopatra
by Robbie McMeel

the other Gesneriads: SINNINGIA

WHO WAS PRUDENCE RISLEY???



Sinningia 'Prudence Risley'
Grown and photographed
by Mary Lou Harden

Prudence Risley Residential College for the Creative and Performing Arts, commonly known as Risley Residential College, Risley Hall, or just Risley, is a program house at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

But who was this Prudence Risley?

In 1911, Mrs. Russell Sage donated \$300,000 (roughly 9.5M in 2022 adjusted for inflation) to the University for the construction of a women's dormitory. At her request, the building was named after **her husband's mother, Prudence Risley**. The building was opened to students in 1913. It

was unusually luxurious, with sculptures and expensive furnishings in common areas, many of which were donated by Cornell co-founder Andrew Dickson White.

James Steuerlein was the extremely successful hybridizer of S. Prudence Risley. Of his new introduction, Steuerlein says that he was a lucky horticulture major at Cornell, living in what had then become an "ARTS" dormitory during his sophomore to senior years (1982-1985). In his own words, he writes: "Since Cornell was known as the BIG RED, and this sinningia is big and red, it gave me the opportunity to pay tribute to "my old school". Both her mother and father came from a little packet of "mixed gesneriads" seed, compliments of our Gesneriad Society. The seed parent to 'Prudence Risley' is some sort of lavender speciosa slipper type. This lavender slipper speciosa was originally thought to be a 'Lavender Queen' and is now labeled "LQ", but I have since selfed this slipper glox, resulting in lavenders, purples, whites, pinks and dark rose shades. Plus the foliage types were very diverse, some were dark with red reverse, some were apple green.....some were large to very large...some were very compact.....No doubles.

"The pollen parent might have come from the Apricot Bouquet lines. The father, which I will refer to as "Mystery Bouquet" seems to be a cross between S. tubiflora and S. pendulina, or maybe it's a seedling of apricot bouquet. I have also selfed this father plant and it resulted in flowers ranging from orange-red to white, some of the white ones look a bit more tubiflora-like, and one seedling was very much like the S. pendulina I had back in the 80's.

"'Prudence Risley' is just a lucky break, I guess, as she was one of about 15 seedlings, about half of which never bloomed or grew right. The rest of her siblings had various quirks, usually slow and boring overall, and all some shades of pale pink. But 'Prudence Risley' seems to be a free blooming and vigorous plant. The red is an unusual darkish red. S. 'Prudence Risley' first bloomed on Valentine's Day 2008. Now the tuber is baseball sized. It is growing in a ten-inch tub and can get 10-12 inches tall, growing from several branching shoots to make a nice big bouquet. I think it prefers to be chopped back after a heavy bloom, but I have known the

branches to grow on and branch more and re-flower... but usually with fewer flowers and a messier overall appearance. I think the stems get old and woody and tired, so better to snip and make cuttings. Each time she grew back the show was better than before. The most recent time was November when I moved her from the outdoors, cut her back and put her under lights."

. . .And now you know the rest of the story.



Upcoming Events

November 11-12, 2022 – Mid-Atlantic AVS Annual Show and Sale "Violets with Us Throughout the Years." Friday, November 11--Sales 9am-5pm; Show 1-5pm; Saturday, November 12--Sales & Show 9am-4pm. Baltimore Delta Hotel by Marriott, 245 Shawan Rd, Hunt Valley, MD 21031. Information: Sandy Pine, convention chair, pines2@comcast.net.

February 10-11, 2023 – First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL, AV Show & Sale, "Violets are Tea-rrific!" Friday, February 10—Sales 9:00am-4:00pm; Show 12 Noon-4:00pm; Saturday, February 11, Sales & Show 9:00am-3:00pm. Christ Lutheran Church, 2715 Lakeland Hills Boulevard, Lakeland, FL 33805. Information: Mary Jane DiLorenzo, mjילו92@gmail.com.

February 24-25, 2023 – Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL, AV Show & Sale, "Violet Invasion." Show Hours: Friday, February 24—Noon-5:00pm; Saturday, February 25—9:00am-3:00pm. Plant Sales Hours: Friday, February 24—9:00am-5:00pm; Saturday, February 25—9:00am-3:00pm. Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, 5030 East Busch Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33617. Information: Celeste Christman, Show Chair, CelesteChristman@c21be.com.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES – ROUTINE

Some preventive measures to follow for growing beautiful African violets:

1. Thoroughly inspect plants periodically and all new plants prior to purchase.
2. All newly purchased plants, plants suspected of carrying pests or diseases, and plants which have been exhibited in a show, should be isolated from six to eight weeks, preferably in a separate room. Use separate tools and watering containers for these plants to avoid contaminating the rest of your plants. Inspect these plants carefully before placing in your African violet collection.

AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, p.27.



Dean's Aquarius

**LOOKING BACK AT PREVIOUS
DIXIE CONVENTIONS**



Newly elected officers, March 2010
 Bob Green, President;
 Lynne Wilson, Vice President;
 Laura Walker, Recording Secretary;
 Martha Dyson, Corresponding Secretary



**WHO COULD FORGET THIS FAMOUS
PHOTO FROM DIXIE'S 2013 CONVENTION**
The squirrel's in the box!

Yes, that's Dixie's esteemed president, Betty Ferguson, assisting hotel personnel in capturing a squirrel who just wanted to attend the workshop!

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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

Here we are, approaching the end of another year. . .how can that be?! The month of November is always a good time to reflect on our accomplishments during the year. I think we've made—and are continuing to make—great progress in our attempts to once again normalize our clubs and their activities. Increasingly more of our affiliates are having shows or are in process of planning them. That's a good thing because we must let the public know what we're about. It's through our plant sales, plant displays, conventions and shows that we're able to get the word out about the wonderful world of African violets and their cousins. And that's often the way we get new club members. Yes, all of these events take time and energy. . .but they are worth doing!

Thanks to everyone who has furnished articles, photos and news for this issue. You are what make our newsletter so informative and enjoyable! We love hearing what other clubs are doing – it's a great way for all of us to get new ideas for our own clubs.

Let's have a great turnout for the Zoom meeting on November 29. We need to hear from all our Dixie members and have a discussion on our next steps.

Meantime, I send best wishes to all for a wonderful Thanksgiving and the Christmas holiday season.



Buckeye Seductress

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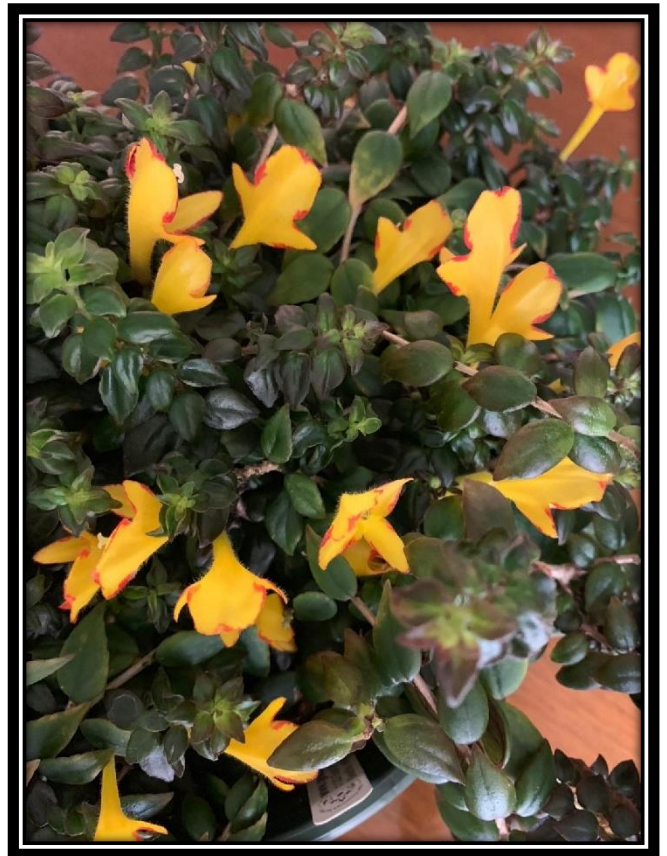
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