



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)

February 2024
Vol. 72, No. 1

President's Message

By Betty Ferguson



Hello cold Dixie family
and friends!

And a hello to you way far south folks who only got tornado warnings. Your Dixie president is sitting here at my desk in sweatpants over long handles, a long-sleeve tee shirt under a fleece shirt under a fleece jacket, and a gray toboggan on my head. And I'm still cold. Outside my east window is a white blanketed yard and a white covered street and outside my west window is a glistening white backyard with a thousand little beggar birds gobbling up sunflower seed and millet. It was 3° when I hauled myself out of my warm bed this morning to make sure my five hens didn't resemble Tyson frozen Christmas hens.

Usually when the weather dudes tell us we'll get snow here in central Arkansas, we say, "Yeah, sure. Like last time when we just got cold rain." But just the same, we all rush to the store for extra milk, TP, and chili makings—just in case the weather guys are right for a change. (Imagine, if you were an accountant and only got it right as often as climatologists get it right what would happen.). They were right this time.

Mary Lou usually takes about two weeks to do all the editing and fixing to produce our fantastically beautiful, fact-filled, and fun *Dixie News* issues. By the time you're opening your newsletter spring is likely to be making itself seen, at least playing cat and mouse games with us. You folks way down south may be putting in your gardens.

I hope your holidays were as refreshing and cozy as mine were. They came and went so fast! Remember how long it used to take for Christmas to finally roll around? Everything seems to be going faster. I barely get up in the mornings before it's bedtime again, and I haven't even started cleaning that junky closet or started my Dixie articles yet. I did start an article early (for me) this time. I emailed some of our top winners from our October Dixie show asking them to tell us how they grow their beauties or develop designs. I think time is passing so fast that we don't have time to sort through all the junk that arrives in our email boxes, and we miss the things that matter. And probably for that reason, I got only one response, which was from Phillis saying (my wording) she wasn't operating at peak performance right now and would get her answers in for the next issue. I'll try again then. In the meantime, I fixed up a "Dixie Show Quiz and Word Search" for cozy evenings in February.

And, if you haven't sent in your annual dues to Johnnie, do that first.

Betty

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Sinningia ‘Party Dress’

DO YOU WANT NEW MEMBERS?

All of us want and need new members! Here’s a reminder of one thing you can do. Go to the African Violet Society of America’s website www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org and click on “Participate” and “Find an Affiliate Club.” Find your State and your club. Your club’s information should be listed there, including where and when your club meets, your officers and contact information. You can also advertise your special events, such as a plant sale or show.

Problem is that many AVSA affiliates are not updating their information and you’re therefore losing opportunities to attract new members. And if your last update is prior to 2020, we’re wondering whether your club is even still alive!

So PLEASE, PLEASE. . . get your information updated!

Optimara
Little Trio



**DON’T FORGET TO
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
(Membership Application on p. 15)**

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



JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

An AVSA membership offers the following benefits:

- Six full-color issues annually of the African Violet Magazine (AVM) filled with great growing information
- Regular columns include
 - In Search of New Violets
 - A featured Gesneriad
 - Registration of new cultivars
 - 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 \$35 per year. Register online or send check with contact information to:

AVSA
P.O. Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720

Last, but not least, SUPPORT AVSA. AVSA needs the support of its individual members, its affiliates and commercial members. **Donations can be made online or mailed to:** AVSA Office, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. 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.**



AVSA 2024
CONVENTION
April 21-28, 2024
DoubleTree by Hilton
2100 S. Priest Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282

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.19**) 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,

Things have been pretty quiet for us which can be a good thing. Our December meeting was our annual holiday party. We had the best time with 3 tables of wonderful goodies and drinks. We also had our annual rousing rounds of Violet Bingo created by our own Laveta Hilton. Winners could choose as a prize from plants, leaves, and other fun items.

Our January meeting was a zoom with Glenda Williams. She is a wonderful source for growing trailers. She shared many growing tips as well as what to look for and consider when potting them properly. Many members were ready to try growing them after the program with some of the uncertainty out of the process.

We have a busy year ahead. This will be our club's 50th anniversary!!!! This is quite an accomplishment. There were some years with 50-60 members and shows to rival AVSA. There were also lean years when a handful of us refused to call it quits. We now have a nice solid group of members that are helping us move more into the 21st century of technology and violet growing. This will be a time to CELEBRATE!!!!

Hope to see many of you soon.

Phillis Hinkle

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(Membership Application on p. 15)
Please send check payable to DAVS to
Johnnie Berry, Membership Secretary
287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331
johnniepearl@comcast.net

WELCOME TO DIXIE!

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

New Members

Vicky Richard Allen, Lake Alfred, FL

Renewals

Robbie & Becky McMeel
James Boyer
Brenda Posey
Kathy Spissman
Marvin Spissman
Wayne Geeslin
Stuart Swayze
Genelle Armstrong
George Ramirez
Tampa AVS
Heart of Jacksonville AVS



Streptocarpus 'OD Geshart'



Suncoast
Peppermint
Kathy

Lyndon Lyon
Greenhouses

DESIGNER'S CORNER

LET'S DO A DESIGN!

by Mary Lou Harden

mlhard@verizon.net



Parade Floats & Marching Bands

As you know, there are designer jeans, designer dresses, designer glasses and designer furniture. However, our focus is not going to be on the object, but rather the subject – The Designer!

Are you a Designer? A Designer Wanna-Be? Or are you someone who, when asked to make a design, says:

- I don't have a creative bone in my body, or
- I don't have all the 'stuff' needed to make a design, or
- I don't have time, or
- I wouldn't know where to start?

Well, it's true – if you don't start something, you'll never finish it!

So... how about LET'S DO A DESIGN! I'll give you some information about the design division

which I hope will help you understand what it's all about.

We start with the Show Schedule which, in most shows, has two sections: (1) Horticulture and (2) Design. The Design Division has the following three sections:

1. Interpretive Flower Arrangements, in which we use fresh-cut African violet **blossoms**;
2. Interpretive Plant Arrangements, in which we use African violet **plants** (usually blooming); and
3. Container Gardens, consisting of Dish Gardens, Natural Gardens and Terrariums, using plants.

Following are some of the Rules for the Design Division:

- Read and follow the Schedule – the Schedule is the law of the show
- The design must be created and entered by the Designer/Exhibitor
- Keep all mechanics and soil completely hidden
- Elements of the design cannot touch or lean against the sides or back of the niche
- Don't include prohibited items – Artificial plant material, live or dead creatures, succulents, national flags
- Most schedules require a 3x5 card listing all plant materials used, including the name of the African violet
- Plants used in the design division do not need to have been grown by the exhibitor—they can be purchased as late as the opening day of the show.
- For any additional rules, exhibitors should check AVSA's Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges.

INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

These designs require fresh-cut **African violet blossoms** with other materials. Accessories and draping are usually permitted. Most schedules have at least two of the following categories:

1. **Flower Arrangements** – limited by size
2. **Underwater Arrangements** – the arrangement is completely submerged in water in a clear container
3. **Kinetics** which have actual or implied movement

- a. **Mobiles** which are suspended and move by air currents
- b. **Stables** which are stationary with implied movement, and
- c. **Sta-mobiles**, which are fixed but with moving parts.

INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

These designs require one or more **blooming African violet plants** with other plant materials. The plants must be removed from their container, the rootball then encased in material (usually plastic) that can be concealed. Accessories and draping are usually permitted. Check the Schedule for niche size.

CONTAINER GARDENS

These are miniature gardens or scenes in a **shallow container** with one or more blooming African violet plants, along with other plants, which are sometimes plants in the Gesneriad family. **All plants must actually be planted in the container.** No dried or cut plant material is permitted. Most show schedules include three kinds of Container Gardens:

1. **Terrariums** – Transparent containers with covers
2. **Dish Gardens** – Use shallow containers
3. **Natural Gardens** – The container must be natural, such as a piece of driftwood or a Seashell.

Occasionally a Show Schedule will include **Bottle Gardens** – which are transparent containers with a very small neck (opening).

The gardens need to appear well established.

Scale is one of the most important elements in design, whether flower arrangements, plant arrangements or container gardens.

This may seem like TMI – TOO MUCH INFORMATION! However, I suggest you focus on just one of these. Perhaps try a dish garden this year. Then spread your wings and next year plan to tackle a plant arrangement. Designing is challenging but also a lot of fun. And it's so exciting when you are awarded your first ribbon! So, please take the challenge and **LET'S DO A DESIGN!**

ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com



The holidays intruded on our CAAVS' third Saturday of the month meetings. Thanksgiving interrupted in November, but we had a cheerful Christmas party in the group dining room at Whole Hog barbecue restaurant. Whole Hog has become a Christmas ritual for us. Sometimes a break from business is good for the soul and good friendly chats are just what we need. Some years we play dirty Santa, but we all agreed this year that none of us needs more stuff in our houses. And we're more careful lately about how we spend our money.

Today's thermometers didn't rise about freezing and some of our roads are still icy, but ten faithful members attended today's meeting. Diane Riley presented our program, "Bloomstalk Propagation," giving a thorough and delightful demonstration of how it's done.



Diane Riley – "Bloomstalk Propagation" demo

FLORIDA STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



African Violet Council of Florida by Linda Price, President

AVCF had its fall meeting on September 30 by Zoom. Stephen Covolo-Hudson presented an excellent and informative program on the subject of Hybridizing.

Our spring meeting will be Saturday, May 4, 2024, by Zoom. Program and speaker are pending.

A Fall Show is being planned for Friday/Saturday, September 27-28 in Lakeland, FL,

Central Florida African Violet Society by Linda Price, President

The Central Florida AVS met on Wed., January 17. Mary Jane DiLorenzo, Senior AVSA Judge from First Lakeland AVS gave a presentation on designs for AVSA shows. She emphasized simplicity and ease of preparation to encourage novices to participate in AVSA shows.



The CFAVS is having their annual show and sale on March 1-2 at the Beardall Senior Center, 800 S. Delaney Ave., Orlando, FL 32801. Sales room opens at 10 AM. Show room is open on Friday, from noon to 4 PM and Saturday, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

First Lakeland African Violet Society by Mary Jane DiLorenzo

First Lakeland African Violet Society is very busy getting ready for our show on February 2nd and

3rd in Lakeland, FL We have been preparing for our show "Buzzin' around Violets". Then on March 9th we will be participating in Spring Obsession in downtown Lakeland at Munn Park. We can't wait to see our friends and family.

Heart of Jacksonville AVS by Bobbi Johannsen, President

The Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society took what seemed a long break over the holidays, but is gearing up for a busy Spring season. It started with a January 21st program that was a Dawg Show. And I emphasize the spelling of dawg. Not because I'm a Georgia fan, but because we're in the South! For those that do not know, this is a chance to educate by showing what NOT to do with your plants and what can be done to prevent it from happening in the future. HJAVS has held them before, but we borrowed an excellent idea from Carolee Carter's club (Blooming Violets of Marion County.) In their Dawg Show, they even made a schedule with specific categories, and rules (such as "the plant must still be alive!"). We borrowed a few of their classes and here are pictures and descriptions of the classes:



1. Swaying Palm Trees
An African violet with a long neck



2. Crowned Queen
A non-trailing violet with the most crowns



3. Physical Fitness Buff or Reject
An African violet reaching for the sky or falling to the floor



4. Too Big for its Britches or Pants are Falling Off -- An African violet that is either over or under-potted



5. Unplanned Circles
An African violet displaying the worst symmetry



6. Bizarre Mutts
An African violet or other Gesneriad that defies description



Winners' Table



Decisions! Decisions!

We have a lot of newbies, and they tend to be afraid to bring plants into our big show. I was amazed that they were not intimidated **at all** to bring in their dawgs! We had judging and discussed the "winners." It was a good chance to do a small "show", even though the plants were the opposite of what we are looking for. Everyone was

surprised that even some of our long-time growers had



dawgs! But that's the point of this exercise, and a great opportunity to learn what to do to prevent these outcomes and how to fix them. Old ribbons were altered by Linda McQueen (she added dawg faces!) and were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Some other prizes were also awarded, such as supplies and trips to the raffle table. Hopefully the members will make the necessary changes to their growing regime and not be so intimidated by the show process in the future.



The next weekend we participated in a first time Camellia festival. It was in an area of town we don't usually reach, but the



turnout was fantastic. The Camellia blooms were beautiful and many of our faithful violet followers

stopped by to see us. We hope we get invited to do this one again!

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Tampa AVS has enjoyed some excellent and informative Zoom programs during the past three months. Laura Perdomo of the Peacock Cottage in Ocala, FL, gave us a quick tour of her shop, showing us the many African violets and other Gesneriads, as well as other plants and supplies she has available. Jeanne Katzenstein of Sarasota, FL, introduced us to the Gesneriad family, and Bobbi Johannsen, of Jacksonville, FL presented "Spa Day for your Violets."

At our in-person day meetings, programs included "Growing & Grooming for Show" and a Design Workshop featuring Dish Gardens.

Our priority now is focusing on our annual show, "Art Through the Ages," scheduled for February 23-24, 2024, in Temple Terrace (Tampa), Florida. Details can be found on our Facebook page as well as our website:

www.tampafricanviolets.com.

In the meantime, however, we will be setting up a display at the Florida State Fair which begins Thursday, February 8, in Tampa. We will also be giving four demonstrations at the Fair, providing growing tips, repotting and overall care of African violets.

LOUISIANA DIRECTOR'S REPORT February 2024



by Becky McMeel
beckymcmeel@gmail.com

Hello from a very cold bayou state! One of these days we will be able to start off our articles with a positive weather outlook! Hope all of you are staying safe and warm in this polar vortex.

Louisiana Lagniappe AVS

Louisiana Lagniappe has decided to not meet in the months of May and June. This will allow time for members to take a break and refresh their mindsets for future flower activities. Like the

saying goes -- Absence makes the heart grow fonder. And so it also goes for LLAVS.

The January meeting was postponed due to weather and illness. We will meet in February to decide our show theme, and to discuss the upcoming LSU Spring Garden Show and Sale in March. The sale has always been an overwhelming financial success for the club, and it is also a great opportunity to acquire new members and spread violet love.

That is about it for LLAVS. Some of our members are making plans to attend AVSA in April in Tempe, Arizona! Hoping to see all of you there!

Till then, Happy Growing!

Becky McMeel, La. Director

Acadiana African Violet Society

by Chris Brooks

Here's what's new on the Bayou! Our December meeting was our annual Christmas treats potluck. Everyone brought their favorite salty or sweet treat to share. As a Christmas present to ourselves member Thomas Gibbs presented everyone with the completed ceramic self-watering planters that we glazed at our November meeting. They had been fired and were ready for beautiful plants to be added. We ended the celebration with a winter "dog show" the winner (or loser) received a healthy and happy plant to replace their "dog".

In January we were all busy creating hats for the AVSA hat contest. Glue guns, hats, and lots of plant material were in high demand as we all worked hard to produce a worthy entry. There were several beautiful entries and some funny ones as well. It was a fun program that really got the creative juices flowing!

Until next time, that's the update from the bayou state!

PHOTOS AT RIGHT: Ceramic Planters; Hats preparation and Hats Finished product



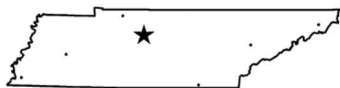
AAVS
Treats



**TENNESSEE
STATE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

by Marian Zoller

marigregz@gmail.com



Hello fellow DAVS members.

You would hardly believe we are in the south. As I sit here at my warm kitchen table in Memphis, I have a lovely view of about 6" of snow and a temperature of 5 degrees outside. The sun causes the snow to sparkle and it is beautiful. I haven't heard from the other clubs in Tennessee but I guess they have similar situations. I would love to hear from them so their activities can be added to this report.

I have taken advantage of being confined in the house by working with my violets and assorted gesneriads. One thing I've decided is that I have more plants than I need or that I can care for properly. I found comfort after re-reading Betty Ferguson's article in the November 2022 issue of Dixie News titled "African Violet Burnout Strikes". Now I know that I'm not the only one who gets overwhelmed. So, I am trying to take her advice to devote a short period of time to violets often rather than let it become a much-delayed big work session. I'm also getting rid of plants that are not doing well and decreasing the size of my collection. Thanks, Betty, for your excellent article.

MAVS had an interesting program on "Soil and Water pH" given by Beth Baker. Then in December we enjoyed lots of fun with a delicious pot luck Christmas lunch and party that was open to members and family. We played "Dirty Santa" with Les Tivers playing Santa and cracking jokes.

We are looking forward to our first actual show since Covid on April 12-13, 2024. The theme will be "Let the Good Times Roll" (one of our members, John Rainey, is homesick for Louisiana).

If the weather cooperates, we will have a Chinese auction and plan our show at our next meeting on January 20. I want to thank our wonderful member Judy Gray for her and her husband's work creating our 2023-2024 yearbook. It is so

helpful having all the information in one place.

DIXIE AVS AFFILIATES

by Robbie McMeel

rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

JUST A REMINDER TO ALL AFFILIATES. In the past, an affiliate needed to mail in the show schedule to me along with the money for the ribbons. NOW, however. . .if your club is having Dixie classes in your show, you can simply email me a copy of your schedule which will save some time. Of course, if you need to order ribbons, you will need to mail a check .Hopefully, this will help expedite the procedure.

I hope that we will have a great showing of Dixie Registered Plants in the collection classes. If you don't have the Dixie Ribbons, please contact me, so that a set can be sent to your show chairs. Cost of the ribbons is \$10.00 per set and this is only to cover the postage to get them to you. Dixie has rosettes for Best and 2nd Best Standard Collection and Best and 2nd Best Collection in the Semi/Miniature Collection.

In the future, please try to grow Dixie Collections for both. There are a lot of great Dixie registered plants to choose from. To find out what they are, go to Dixie's website and there is a PDF file with all of the Dixie registered plants. If you are unable to get this list on the website, please let me know and I will be more than happy to get you a list in the mail. If there is any plant that you would like to show in a Dixie class and it has not been registered with Dixie, please contact me and we will see what can be done with getting the plant registered.

Robbie McMeel

DAVS Affiliates Chair

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 payable to

Baltimore African Violet Club
Carolyn Epstein
14317 Yosemite Court
Rockville, MD 20853

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.



Live Wire



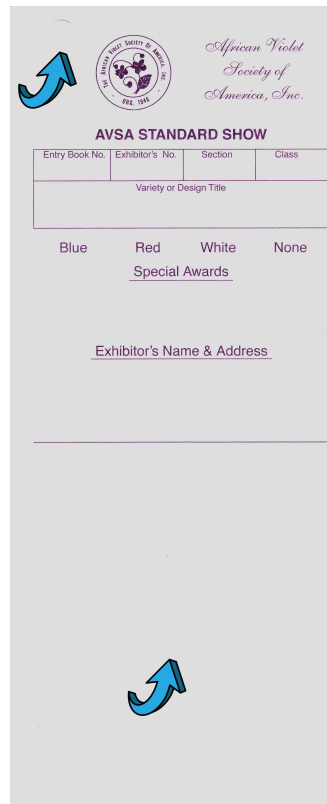
Episcia 'cupreata La Soledad Bronze'

ALERT TO SHOW ENTRIES CHAIRMEN



Concerning AVSA'S Entries Program Entry Cards

by Ken Barbi, kenbarbi@verizon.net



At a the recent MAAVS Annual Show in Gettysburg, PA, their Entries Chairman had a problem using the AVSA Entries Program's Entry Card printing of new AVSA Entry Cards. Dixie Clubs need to know about it before AVSA publishes an Alert in the March 2024 AVM

These new cards being sold by AVSA no longer have perforations allowing the separation of the exhibit name from the main card. You will need a pair of scissors or a paper cutter on hand to do that. Don't cut this piece off before you

print the cards because your printer will print the name inside the printer which will eventually **foul** your printer.

Additionally, the new cards have a pre-punched hole on the top left of the card where one might want to tie a ribbon. The problem we encountered was 15% of these **holes fell out** in the printer when the cards got printed. The **older previous** cards came with the hole completely punched out. Our experience was after printing about 200 cards, the **punch outs fouled our printer, damaging the laser toner cartridge and the drum assembly.** We didn't realize this until the end of the show which was too late. Unfortunately, we had to replace the printer as a less costly option.

the other Gesneriads: EPISCIA (EP – ISH – A)

by Mary Lou Harden
mlhard@verizon.net

Why do I LOVE Episcias? you ask. Let me count the ways! After all, this is Cupid's month when our hearts turn to Love! So, I'll share with you some of the reasons why I absolutely LOVE growing Episcias! So, just take a look at the following pictures and tell me what's NOT to love about Episcias! You will find pictures of Episcias scattered throughout this issue.

1. First, they are SO easy to grow! Put down (pot up) a stolon, keep the soil evenly moist, and within a few days the stolon will have put down roots and is on its way growing to adulthood! Sometimes I will dome a tray of starter plants, and, if it's only one or two plantlets, I will lightly cover with a piece of Saran Wrap. However, if you're starting your babies in a closed environment, you should remove the cover within about two weeks. Otherwise, the humidity buildup may damage the plantlets.
2. Episcias usually have beautifully patterned foliage in various shades of green, copper and mahogany. Veins in their leaves are often pale green or silver, creating interesting contrasts.
3. The flowers, which may be red, orange-red, yellow, white, pink, blue or lavender, are usually described as "beautiful," but sometimes they are said to be "exquisite" or even "spectacular!" Following is a photo of my very favorite Episcia – 'Star of Bethlehem.' How would you describe these flowers without using one of these adjectives, and especially so when contrasted with that dark green foliage?



Episcia 'Star of Bethlehem'

4. They make a beautiful appearance in hanging. Baskets Several stolons can be planted in one basket.
5. They can also be grown as a single-crown plant. If you remove all the suckers as they appear, it will force the center leaves of the plant to grow larger.



Episcia 'Pink Dreams'

6. Episcias are fibrous-rooted. Like African violets, they can't tolerate too much water. They like to be kept evenly moist. Wick watering is fine, but put perlite or sponge rock in the bottom of the pot. And they perform much better when repotted every 4-5 months. Since they have shallow,

fibrous roots, they are often grown successfully in the squatty pots (pan pots) and even plastic saucers that are only an inch or two deep. You can pin stolons down onto the soil and they will take root.

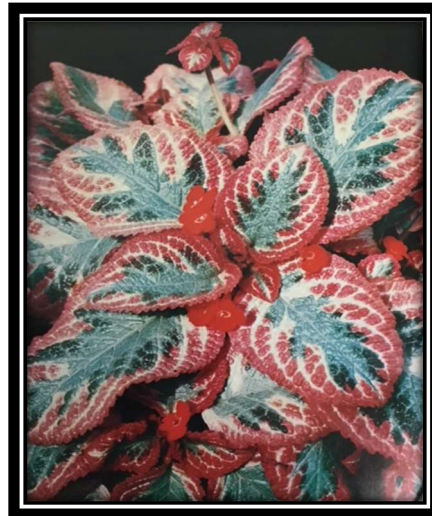
7. They like high humidity. Especially when putting down stolons, it's good to place them in a plastic bag or some kind of terrarium.
8. Episcias come from Mexico to Brazil and everywhere in between. They come from warm areas and must have warmth. They cannot tolerate temperatures below 56 degrees F. When cold, their leaves quickly shrivel and turn black.
9. Other common names are "Flame Violet" and "Peacock Plant."

For more information about Episcias and more photos, please visit [The Gesneriad Reference Web](#). It is an excellent resource for all things Gesneriad.

So. . .if you haven't tried growing Episcias, I hope you will accept my challenge at the beginning of this New Year to get at least one or two of these beautiful and easy-to-grow plants and continue to maintain them in your collection. You'll be glad you did!



Episcia 'Pink Smoke'



Episcia 'Cleopatra'



Episcia 'Alyce's Aussie'



Episcia 'Toy Silver'

Upcoming Events

February 2-3, 2024, First Lakeland African Violet Society, Annual Show & Plant Sale, "Buzzin' around Violets". Christ Lutheran Church, 2715 Lakeland Hills Boulevard, Lakeland, FL 33805.

February 23-24, 2024, Tampa African Violet Society Annual Show & Plant Sale, "Art Through the Ages." Temple Terrace United Methodist Church, 5030 East Busch Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33617. Contact: Sandi Soto, Show Chair ssoto4@tampabay.rr.com

March 1-2, 2024, Central Florida African Violet Society, AVSA Judged Show, "Art in Bloom." Beardall Senior Center, 800 S. Delaney Ave., Orlando, FL 32801. Sales room opens at 10 AM. Show room is open on Friday, from noon to 4 PM and Saturday, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

March 9, 2024, Frist Lakeland African Violet Society, African Violet Plant Display & Sale at Spring Obsession, Munn Park, 201 East Main Street, Lakeland, FL

April 12-13, 2024, Memphis African Violet Society Show & Plant Sale, "Let the Good Times Roll." Contact: Marian Zoller at marigregz@gmail.com

April 13-14, 2024, Tampa African Violet Society, Plant Sale at Spring Plant Festival, University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, 4202 E Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33620.

April 21-28, 2024, AVSA Convention, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe, AZ.

April 30, 2024, African Violet Council of Florida Spring Meeting, Orlando, FL, place TBD. Contact: Linda Price, President, 407-462-5923. laprice41@yahoo.com



Episcia 'Pink Panther'

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A DIXIE SHOW WORD SEARCH

Answer the following questions, then find the answers in the word search section. All answers may be found in the AVSA Handbook for Judges and Growers.

African Violet Show Time Quiz and Word Search
(Quiz answers on p.20)

1. The _____ of African violet shows is to challenge and encourage club members to grow better plants and to stimulate the general public to cultivate the hobby.
2. The _____ is the law of the show.
3. One of the following cannot be Best in Show. Which one?
 - * Saintpaulia species
 - * A semi-trailing trailer
 - * Primulina with no ornamental value
 - * New cultivar
 - * Unusual container violet
4. According to our AVSA Handbook, which chairman or committee is responsible for finding a place for the show?
5. A trailer is judged on _____ rather than symmetry.
6. A _____ is a suspended arrangement which has asymmetrically balanced parts capable of moving independently.
7. In judging gesneriads other than African violets, which of the following qualities should score 35 points?
 - * ornamental quality
 - * condition
 - * cultural perfection
 - * bloom
8. This chairperson has complete supervision of all chairs and committees, making sure that each performs his or her required duties in a cooperative and harmonious way.
9. _____ judges are inexperienced or apprentice judges.
10. A trailer must have at least _____ crowns.

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



Sinningia 'Peach Glow'

DID YOU KNOW? "Commercial growing of African violets in the United States began in 1926 when Armacost & Royston of West Los Angeles, CA, imported seeds from Benary in Germany and Sutton in England and introduced the plants to the US trade. In the next 20 years interest in the African violet increased among commercial and amateur growers to the point that in 1946 a national society was formed.
AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors & Judges, p.10

DAVS OFFICERS

Betty Ferguson, President
9009 Oaklawn Cove
Little Rock, AR 72206
501-944-5292:
BETTYwithVIOLETS@gmail.com

Robbie McMeel, Vice President
201 Greenwood Street
Houma, Louisiana 70364
985-868-0439
rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

Johnnie Berry, Treasurer
287 Fennel Way, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331
404-287-8753
johnniepearl@comcast.net

Laura Walker, Recording Secretary
11048 Big Canoe
Big Canoe, GA 30143-5142
706-579-1871
violetsofbc@windstream.net

Greg Zoller, Corresponding Secretary
4815 Oak Lane Cove
Arlington, TN 38002
marigregz@gmail.com

EDITOR OF THE DIXIE NEWS
Mary Lou Harden
902 W. Old Hillsborough Ave.
Seffner, FL 33584
813-689-8700
mlhard@verizon.net

INTERIM CONVENTION DIRECTOR
Robbie McMeel
201 Greenwood Street
Houma, Louisiana 70364
985-868-0439
rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

WEBMASTER
Kenneth W. Barbi
1809 View Top Court
Annapolis, MD 21409-5873
410-757-5044
kenbarbi@verizon.net

STATE DIRECTORS

ALABAMA—Michael Jackson205-283-4022
. superiorprintal@aol.com

ARKANSAS—Betty Ferguson 501-944-5292
. BETTYwithVIOLETS@gmail.com

FLORIDA—Carolee Carter.352-342-0363
caroleeviolets@gmail.com

GEORGIA—Phillis Hinkle 770-469-6460
. pchinkle@bellsouth.net

KENTUCKY—Penny Wichman. 859-689-5570
. pennypwic@aol.com

LOUISIANA—Becky McMeel. 985-868-0439
. beckymcmeel@gmail.com

MARYLAND--

MISSISSIPPI—Brenda Brasfield.662-895-2002
. brendabrasfield@comcast.net

NORTH CAROLINA—Linda Abplanalp. 336-584-9236
. bilans@clearwire.net

SOUTH CAROLINA—

TENNESSEE—Marian Zoller.901-372-0283
. marigregz@gmail.com

TEXAS—Ruth Goeke. .979-836-9736/979-830-2126
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-----------	------------------

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

Hello, Dixie Members and Friends,

As we enter a new year filled with a fresh spirit, optimism and opportunity, I hope we will take advantage of every opportunity placed before us to promote Dixie and the wonderful world of African violets! It's up to each of us to "start spreadin' the news" – no, not about New York – but rather about the joys, blessings and satisfaction we have and receive when we spend our time and energy growing and caring for these incredibly beautiful violets!

As you know, Dixie is planning another fall show and we're looking forward to meeting again in Birmingham at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens which turned out to be a perfect setting for last year's show. Although we won't know for a few months what dates will be assigned to us, please just make plans to be available for the fall show.

Please continue to promote Dixie both individually and every time your local club meets. Many of our members grow not only African violets, but lots of the other Gesneriads. So, there's something for everyone in Dixie!

Thanks to everyone who furnished articles and photos for this issue. There are some very clever ideas for programs which your club may want to consider!

Best wishes to all for your upcoming shows and other events. And remember to always be a blessing to someone!

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

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