



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)

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President's Message



By Betty Ferguson

bettywithviolets@gmail.com

Howdy Dixie folks!

Spring has sprung! It seems I was just sitting here only a couple of days ago heavy laden in winter clothes whining to you about the freezing temperature from hell that descended on Arkansas along with our beautiful snow. But my garden has English pea vines clinging to their hog wire trellis, asparagus shoots, garlic peeping from between oak leaves, potato onions, and red, white, and purple potato plants. It's finally time to drag out all the tropicals I drug inside six months ago. And my violets are recovering from their episode of winter's Seasonal Affective Disorder. (That's the depression that occurs to humans, and apparently to plants, too, during the dark, dreary days of winter.

Michael and Robbie have been working through some issues the Birmingham Botanical Garden has dropped in our laps. Robbie will tell you about that. Becky has the backdrop for the 2024 winners' table all planned out, and we're working on the design schedule. We hope you'll be as excited over our show theme as we are—"Treasures from Grandma's Attic." Since our focus will be on treasures from the past, be sure

to put extra effort into growing and showing off your species and vintage violets.

We have great news about a new Texas State Director, although it is disappointing that Ruth Goeke is no longer involved in Dixie or with violets. We all enjoyed being around Ruth and love her. However, the Dixie Board approved my request that we invite Jo Schrimsher to take the position. I guess I came close to voluntelling her that she is "It." She accepted! Welcome aboard, Jo! Jo will be back with us at our fall convention with lots of pretties for us to buy. Bypass the piggy bank and tuck away lots of green bills under your mattress or in a special convention packet for sales room shopping.

Michael Jackson, Danny Tidwell, and I judged the outstanding Memphis club show April 12. Brenda Brasfield, our Mississippi State Director, not only won Best in Show and Second Best in Show AVSA collections, but she also carried home a Dixie rosette for her Dixie Collection of Standards. Geneva Stagg's trailer, Jersey Girl Trail, won Best Trailer. Marian and Greg Zoller had lovely gesneriad entries. Congratulations, Dixie members! Be sure to send Mary Lou pictures and a little article or paragraph about your spring show or club activities.

I'm looking so forward to seeing each of you again in just a few months and hope you can attend this year if you had to miss last year's mini-convention.

Betty

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UPDATE ON THE DIXIE SHOW FOR 2024

by Robbie McMeel
rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

As we discussed at the show last year, it was decided that we have our show again at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG), and we decided to try having the show in September, so as not to interfere with any other fall shows. As per BBG's rules, submission for rental request can't be made until after the New Year begins. Michael tried to submit for dates with BBG for September but that did not work out, as everything in September was taken, but they do have September 11, 12, & 13th open which is a Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, if we would like to rent BBG for those days for our show.

Since last year BBG has had some changes as they have lost a few of their workers that they have decided not to replace. This move has left them shorthanded and the person we had contacted in the past is no longer handling the rentals and the contact person for the rentals is very hard to get in touch with. Also, remember that a board decides who gets the rentals and what dates, so this leaves us, Dixie, at their mercy.

Along with the personnel movement, they have decided not to open Saturday, but they will open on Saturday if the Auditorium is rented. So, this means that we can have our show on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday on the dates we are given. At this time, Michael has submitted for dates in October but we will not know anything from them until their May meeting. So, at this point we are at the mercy of BBG to grant us days for our show.

If anyone knows of a different venue that can accommodate our needs, please let me know. I thought we had a good thing happening with the BBG, but it does not look that way if we can't get at least around the same dates yearly.

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



Optimara Harlequin



**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 2025 CONVENTION
“VIOLETS ARE ‘WORLDS OF FUN’”
May 25-June 2, 2025
Doubletree by Hilton Overland Park
10100 College Boulevard
Overland Park (Kansas City), KS

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,

The African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta sends its greetings. We hope your spring has been a good one.



Our May meeting will be a plant sale open to the public. We have never had one that wasn't a part of our shows. This will be an adventure for us.



We have really enjoyed the programs we've shared the past months. We enjoyed a program on grooming a plant for show. Symmetry is that aspect of grooming that can be a challenge. We concentrated on the triangle of 3 leaves and the

number of rows of leaves. We practiced finding the 3 leaves as they overlap each other.



Something that was very interesting to us all was a program of "fertilizers". We had a panel of 6 members who each shared their fertilizer choices as well as the source of the water they use. It was helpful, especially for new members, to review the numbers on the fertilizer bottle and what they represent.

We are planning a September show and will be celebrating our 50th anniversary at that time.

Happy growing.

Phillis Hinkle



Radiant
Glow

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(Membership Application on p.17)

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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

Tracie Dye, Ocala, FL
Maurine Flynn, Snellville, GA
Susan McCluskey, Helena, AL

Renewals

Central Florida AVS
Cathy Carter
Blooming Violets of Marion County
Phillis Hinkle
Karen Buchanan
Linda Price
Sandi Soto
Kim Halbert
Carolee Carter
Martha Spyridon
Sandra Campbell
Brenda Brasfield
Ruth Goeke
Mary Corondan
Laura Aplin
First Lakeland AVS
AV Council of GA
Memphis AVS
Jo's Violets



Optimara
Anika

DIXIE REGISTERED VARIETIES

Becky McMeel, Plant Registration Chair
beckymcmeel@gmail.com

This variety was registered April 13, 2024, by
Vicky Richard:

Vicky's Purple
Dragonfly (11422)
4/13/2024
Single-semidouble
white ruffled
wasp/dark lavender
center, lavender
streaks and edge.
Light-medium
green, plain, heart-
shaped, pointed, glossy/pink back. Miniature



DESIGNER'S CORNER

**DISH GARDENS FOR SHOW. . .
OR JUST FOR PLEASURE**

**PART 1, THE BACKGROUND
OF DISH GARDENS**

by Betty Ferguson

*For appreciation of artistic creation to
occur there should be an emotional
interaction between the art object and the
viewer. This requires communication
between the art object and the viewer.
(Robert Steven)*

No doubt you've heard the phrase coined by
Aristotle, "The more you know, the more you know
you don't know." Albert Einstein stated it this way:
"The more I learn, the more I realize how much I
don't know." Learning the background and history of
an art always helps me better understand the
principles of design necessary to ensure an
emotional interaction between my art object and
the viewer.

The roots (of course, no pun intended) of our
African violet dish gardens can be found in
bonsai, *penjing* (pen-jing) and *saikei* (sigh-kay).

You're already familiar with bonsai, the Chinese and Japanese art form using cultivation techniques to produce small trees in containers that mimic the shape and size of full-size trees.

Penjing is the Chinese style of miniature landscapes in or on a flat tray, much like our modern dish gardens, and saikei is the Japanese style.

Bonsai

Bonsai literally means plant in a pot, but the art form is far from simple. Bonsai artists spend years cultivating a masterpiece as a tree matures to the point it resembles an old but miniature tree. A pot may contain a single tree, several trees or a forest of trees.



Bonsai forests, saikei and penjing, and our dish gardens allow immature plants to be used immediately. The trees themselves are similar to but less elaborately shaped than mature bonsai trees.



Penjing

We're not sure when Penjing miniature tray landscape gardens were first created in China. The earliest-known graphic dates from 706 A.D. and is found in a wall mural on a corridor leading to the tomb of a Chinese prince. Excavated in 1972, the frescoes show two maid servants carrying penjing with miniature rockeries and fruit trees.



The descriptive word penjing applies both to individual bonsai trees and to detailed miniature landscapes which include trees, other plants, rocks, soil, often water, and miniature figurines of people, animals, and other items, such as bridges, buildings, vehicles. The miniatures help show scale.

Penjing seeks to capture the essence and spirit of nature through contrasts—the concept of yin and yang.

“...dominance and subordination, emptiness (void) and substance, denseness and sparseness, highness and lowness, largeness and smallness, life and death, dynamics and statics, roughness and meticulousness, firmness and gentleness, lightness and darkness, straightness and curviness, verticality and horizontality, and lightness and heaviness.” (Day Moor)

Penjing landscapes make a social or artistic statement and tend to tell a story. Examples: a figurine of a woman with baby on her back, stooped from her day's work and carrying a hoe as she trudges down a dirt path. The man figurine

in the landscape gingerly carries his hoe and walks upright. The statement might be: A woman's work is never done.

Saikei

Like Chinese penjing, saikei is the Japanese art of creating a miniature living landscape. Saikei literally translates as "planted landscape." This art form also utilizes living trees and combines them with rocks, soil, possibly water, other vegetation with similar climate and cultivation



needs, sand or gravel. Like penjing, the design is kept true to scale as much as possible and increased depth of view is created with optical illusions such as those used in a stage setting. For example, smaller trees may be planted behind larger trees to suggest distance, a technique also used in bonsai forests.



Another example of saikei by Brandon Bender of the Debreceni Bonsai Club of Hungary.

Although Imperial embassy personnel and Buddhist students from Japan had returned from the mainland with miniature landscape souvenirs since the 6th century (*Wikipedia*), the school of saikei was actually founded in Japan after World War II. The war had decimated the ages old bonsai trees, and post-war economic conditions made the purchase and cultivation of a real bonsai almost impossible for average Japanese households. The objective of the founder of the art of saikei was to age and thicken up the trunks of young nursery stock while enjoying the young plants.

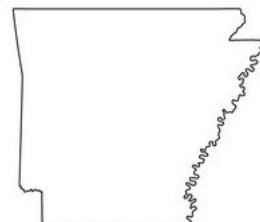
Saikei was a way for inexpensive plants and stones to be brought together in a pleasing arrangement, easily accessible to the average person. A saikei must contain rocks, which may play the role of mountains, cliff faces, stone outcroppings, stream beds, shorelines, or other aspects of the landscape. They are the skeleton of the landscape, and appear prominently. Saikei are not required to make a social statement as penjing is and saikei has fewer rules than penjing. Saikei tends to be relaxing, as you can imagine post World War survivors would need, whereas pinjing captivates the magical and speaks of dragons and exaggeratedly harsh mountains.

African Violet Dish Gardens

To create our finest dish gardens for show or just for our own pleasure, it's helpful to learn some of the principles of Asian tray gardens and apply to them to our dish and other container gardens. Further information and inspiration on bonsai, saikei and penjing can be found on the internet or in books from your library.

ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com



Central Arkansas African Violet Society continues to enjoy the hospitality and convenience of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in a safe area of Little Rock. Like bees to a hive, some members continue to drive in from distant towns in the state.

For our February program, Danny Tidwell showed an enlightening (no pun intended) slide presentation by Mary and Tom Corondan on lighting for African violets. In March I talked about design for show focusing on plant and flower arrangements.

Our board accepted an invitation for April by the Hot Springs Garden Society to provide an information booth, but we won't be selling plants. Buying plants? You bet! The "problem" is that the sale conflicts with our club meeting. So, what did members decide to do? We'll hold our meeting at the Hot Springs sale. Now, that's what I call catching two meetings in one location.

We're gearing up for our spring sale in the park the first weekend of May and hoping for fair weather. The plant community has learned they can find us there.



**FLORIDA STATE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
CAROLEE CARTER**



**African Violet Council of
Florida**

President Linda Price reports that The African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF) will hold its spring meeting by Zoom on May 4th. Guest speaker will be Glenda Williams, current AVSA 1st Vice President. Her talk is entitled "Fun with Trailers."

A General Assembly will follow Glenda's presentation. New officers will be elected and assume office for 2024-2026. One important function of this new board will be to organize and prepare for the Fall General Assembly and Show "Violet Treasures" to be held on September 27-28, 2024, in Lakeland, FL.

Blooming Violets of Marion County

The Blooming Violets of Marion County continues to have fun, learn and grow in number, with membership now reaching around 40! The Project Plant this year is 'Wrangler's Dixie Celebration', and members have had a good time bringing in their plant to show how it grows in different conditions.

We had a "Dawg Show" a couple months ago, and that was fun to bring in plants to exhibit in fun categories that exhibited different areas and growth that usually require grooming and some



TLC. It serves as a good learning tool to see what to do if your plant is in the same situation.





Abundant raffles, solid programs, delicious food, and sweet violet friends continue to be the cornerstones of our club. We are having a mini "show" during our upcoming May meeting to have members just bring in a couple plants that look GREAT so we can see how we are all growing and what looks beautiful before we take our break during the months of June and July. We hope to have a "real" show next year!

Central Florida African Violet Society

President Linda Price reports that The Central Florida AVS (Orlando) recently held their first annual show, Art in Bloom, in four years. A lot of work, but a lot of fun!

Dennis Brooks won several prizes including Best in Show (Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress), Second Best in Show, Best Miniature, Best Trailer, Best Standard and Best Gesneriad! Tammy Cambre won Best Semiminiature and Horticulture Sweepstakes. Elvie Blakely won Design Sweepstakes.

First Lakeland African Violet Society

President Mary Jane DiLorenzo reports we had our annual show on February 2nd and 3rd. Then we participated in the City of Lakeland's Plantae-Palooza Garden Festival & Plant Sale, highlighting Lakeland's volunteer clubs and the work we do. Then, the next weekend we participated in the Garden Club's Spring Obsession. This was held in Munn Park in Downtown Lakeland with over 60 vendors participating. We were able to meet a lot of people in Lakeland and have gained several new members. Our 2nd quarter (April through June) is much slower. We will be planning next year's sale, choosing a project plant, and of course having our monthly meetings. No club sales are

planned for the summer. This is our time for planning our annual show in February.

Heart of Jacksonville AVS

Heart of Jacksonville AVS was very pleased at the success of their display and sale on April 5-6, 2024. Several first-year members pitched in to help and saw what all the talk was about. Fun! We had many BEAUTIFUL specimens of Gesneriads and a gorgeous focal point to show some of them off. If only there were more room!

Part of that success were the many terrariums and dish gardens entered. The club program just



prior to the display was to create them! The program led by Shipra Panda started with several of our members traveling to Central Florida

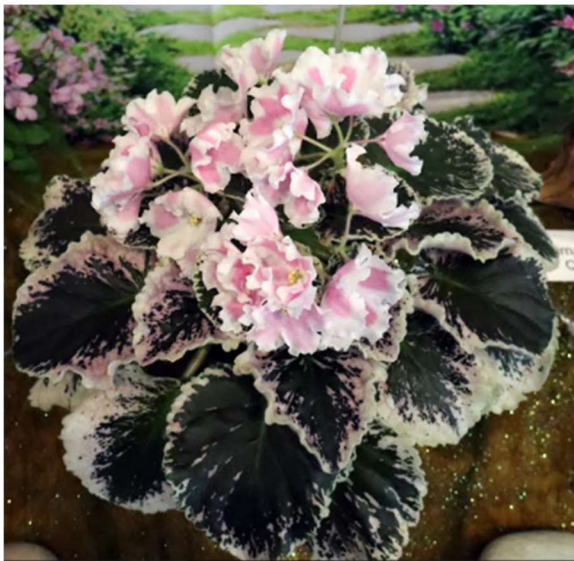


Foliage and Fern (cfferns.com). They bought all the "Pixie" plants we would need (plus several plants THEY needed). Cathy Carter shared her overabundance of minis. Many people brought additional accessories such as moss, rocks and charcoal. The members were very creative in finding suitable containers and some created

BOTH a dish garden and a terrarium! This is definitely something we will do again!



K's
Saga
Wand



Carolina Elegant Affair



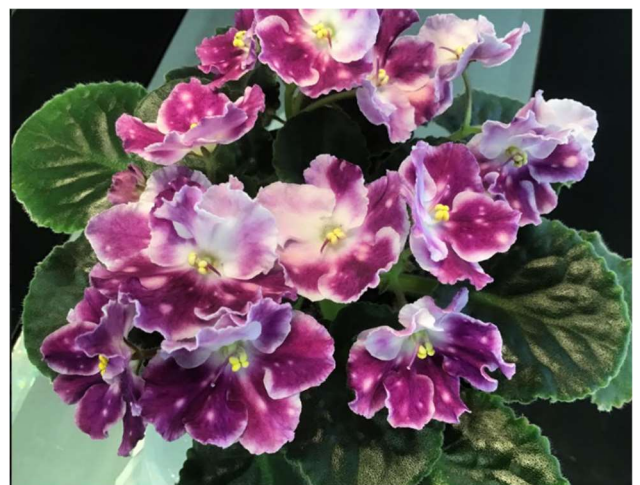
Optimara Little Trio

One other item of information to share from the Jacksonville club, is the registration of a violet named Sharon Gartner. The story is . . .

Sharon Gartner gave a program on hybridizing to our club long before covid. The next year we did



a program on planting the seeds from the hybridizing effort. Many of them grew, but, alas, Sharon's untimely demise prevented her from seeing the final results. Her good friend, Nancy Sacco, pursued one promising seedling through the many required generations until she was satisfied that it was stable....and beautiful!! It is now registered on AVSA's First Class! Many plants have been shared with nearby members in Florida. We are now working on getting the stock out into the world, so Sharon can be remembered forever!



Sharon Gartner

Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

Vice President Mary Lou Harden reports that Congratulations are in order! Members of TAVS just made it through our busiest time of year! In February we participated in the Florida State Fair, setting up a booth with beautiful African violets and lots of educational material. During the two-week event, we presented four demonstrations, giving instructions on how to successfully grow African violets.



Just a week later, we were busy setting up our annual African violet show and plant sale in North Tampa. This year's theme was "Art Through the Ages." We were pleased to receive AVSA's Standard Show Achievement Award. A list of our award winners is on page 16 of this newsletter.

Now we have just concluded our participation in the University of South Florida's Spring Plant Festival at its Botanical Gardens. We share space with the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society (TBGS) for this two-day event. Happily, we sold out of most of our plants and supplies. We'll now prepare for the Fall Plant Festival in mid-October.

Meanwhile, we've had some great programs, some by Zoom and others in person. Chris Brooks, President of Acadiana AVS, LA, presented an interesting program about the effects of water and temperature on African violets. Gladys Cook of Tallahassee, FL, presented "Growing Violets My Way and Choosing the Right Container." And Richard Craft

of Las Vegas, NV, gave a great program on "The ABCs of N-P-K – Violet Feeding Basics." Members of TAVS and TBGS at our show, bidding



Farewell to long-time members/ friends, Nancy & Jerry Kast, who are now living in North Carolina.

LOUISIANA DIRECTOR'S REPORT February 2024



by Becky McMeel
beckymcmeel@gmail.com

Louisiana Lagniappe AVS

Happy Spring everyone! Were you able to view the solar eclipse? We got a quick peek through breaks in the clouds. And now we are dealing with relentless wind! Sigh....

The February meeting of the LLAVS was held at the home of Robbie and Becky McMeel. The club members decided on their show theme, which will be "Thankful for Violets" and will be held Saturday, November 16th, 2024 at the Baton Rouge Garden Center. The program presented was "Propagating Violets" done by D.J. Blanco.



February meeting



LSU Spring Garden Sale in March

In March, LLAWS attended the annual LSU Spring Garden Sale. Violets were scooped up in record time and taken to new homes!

The April meeting, held at Wil Allen's home, was well attended. The program, presented by hybridizer Belinda Thibodeaux (Cajun's), showed how to plant African violet seeds. 5 brave volunteers planted seeds, which they got to label and take home.



April meeting

The club will take a break from their meetings in the months of May and June.

Enjoy the photos!

Till next time! Happy Growing y'all!

Becky McMeel



April meeting – How to Plant AV Seeds

Acadiana African Violet Society

by Chris Brooks

brookscj@hotmail.com

Acadiana AVS has had a busy beginning of 2024. February was all about diagnosing problems with our African violets before it's too late to save them. Hopefully this program will help our members to keep some of their favorite plants out of the trash! We also had a program on creating a worm bin and using worm castings and tea in the garden. This includes in our favorite houseplant too! It was a show and tell presentation with live red wigglers. I'm glad our group members aren't squeamish!

March was about the importance of sterilizing tools, hands, and equipment. If we are going to spend our hard-earned money on lovely plants, we should all be willing to protect that investment by sterilizing between plants as we care for them. This also goes for using sterile pots and other equipment. This is especially true with what we now know about disease transmission.

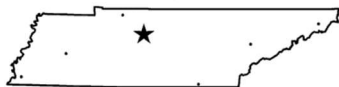
April's meeting covered the care requirements for miniature African violets. They are mini but mighty! Meaning they need more of the things we give standard African violets. They need a little more light, more frequent repotting, etc. We also discussed rose care in the deep south and planned for our upcoming sale to be held on May 4th at our local garden festival, the Sunset Herb and Garden Festival. We hope for it to be a big success!

Two of our members enjoyed a trip to the AVSA National Convention in Phoenix. It was a nice trip for my wife Catherine and myself with lots of sight-seeing, time with violet friends, and all the excitement that comes with attending convention. I think that it was a great success with good member attendance and lots of locals attending as well. It is still good to be back home in Louisiana though! Until next time, that's the update from Acadiana.

TENNESSEE STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Marian Zoller

marigregz@gmail.com



Hello fellow DAVS members.

As I write this, we have had a mild spring with wildly fluctuating weather. The most consistent thing has been the wind. Thank goodness that does not affect our gesneriads growing much.

The Memphis African Violet Society did have our Chinese Auction fundraiser in January. Many things, valuable or maybe not, changed hands. All had fun and some money got raised for the club.

In February and March we got serious with wonderful programs about dish gardens and designs presented by Geneva Stagg. This was an effort to get more participation in the design categories of the show.

In April we did successfully have our first AVSA show since Covid (about 5 years). The theme was "Laissez les bons temps rouler" or "Let the Good Times Roll." The decorations were wonderful.

A big thanks to Kathy Hildebrand and Geneva Stagg for staging. We had 95 entries. We were fortunate to have three out-of-town judges. They were Michael Jackson, Danny Tidwell, and Betty Ferguson. The big winners were:

Brenda Brasfield: Best in Show, "Buckeye Colossal," Best Semi-Mini, "Rob's Fuddy Duddy," Best Mini, "Toronto Belle."

Geneva Stagg: Best Trailer, "Jersey Girl Trail," Best Gesneriad, "Petrocosmea minor," Best Dixie Collection, "Cajun's Sundowners," "Tommie Lou" and "Cajun's Coujon."



Geneva Stagg
With her Best Trailer
at
Memphis Show

Jersey Girl
Trail



Geneva Stagg with her Best Dixie Collection

DIXIE AVS AFFILIATES REPORT 2ND Quarter 2024

by Robbie McMeel

rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

Well, Spring has finally sprung. I have been getting some requests for ribbons, so hopefully I will be able to post some winners soon. I know that we have been grooming our plants all winter getting ready for the spring and summer shows. I

hope that we will have a great showing of Dixie Registered Plants in the collections. 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.

Listed below are the results from the Memphis African Violet Society:

Memphis African Violet Society, Memphis, TN
Show Chair – Brenda Brasfield

Theme – “Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler”

Gold Rosette – Best Dixie Collection – Standard
Brenda Brasfield – Olive Branch, MS

“Cajun’s Sundowners,” “Tommie Lou,”
“Cajun’s Coujon”

Congratulations to Brenda on her fine plants!

If any affiliate has any questions or suggestions regarding anything, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Let’s keep Dixie in all of our shows.

Respectfully, and keep up the good growing,

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.



by Robbie McMeel
rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

What’s the AVSA VIRTUAL CIRCLE?

The Virtual Circle is a series of Zoom presentations offered as a benefit of AVSA membership

How do I sign up?

Registration is available on the front page of AVSA’s Website.

Is There A Cost?

There is no charge for AVSA Members, but donations are always welcome

To all members of Dixie, I would like to introduce you to the new program that AVSA has launched for its members and non-members. It is the "AVSA Virtual Circle." You may have received an email about it, or heard some members speak of it, but if you don't really know what it is, read on and I will tell you all about it.

The AVSA Virtual Circle consists of presentations by members, growers, vendors, designers, on subjects like fertilizer, different soil compositions, lighting, and different methods of growing, to mention just a few. Presentations are similar to those that are normally presented to members who attend the convention. A lot of AVSA members are unable to attend the conventions due to travel constrictions, health, or affordability. These virtual presentations will give these members the ability to attend the same types of presentations they would be able to hear if they were attending the convention. These are free to all AVSA members and a nominal cost for non-members.

To sign up for the presentation you will need to log into the AVSA website, www.avsa.org, click on the AVSA Virtual Circle icon and it will bring you to the area to register and follow the instructions for registration. After registering, all you need to do is to wait for an email with the Zoom link to the presentation. AVSA will post on its website, when the presentation will be so that you can make plans accordingly.

At the Zoom presentation on January 13, 2024, the show chair explained different aspects of the convention, including the tours, that was to be held in April in Arizona. For anyone going to the convention for the first time, this was a great help to them and let them know what to expect.

As this is in its infancy, the committee members are working diligently to provide interesting topics for the members. They do ask attendants what they would like to see presentations on for the future. So, you can email members of the committee on your ideas, so that they can be considered for the future.

Just remember that during the presentation, there are no questions allowed, so that the presenter can give their presentation with no interruptions. Questions are allowed at the end for anyone that may have one.

If anyone has any questions about Virtual Circle, please let me know and I will do my best to answer or to get you the correct answer.

DAVS AWARDS COMMITTEE

Marian & Greg Zoller (marigregz@gmail.com)

It is almost time again. The DAVS convention is getting close. We would like to ask for your donation to the awards fund. We would like to fill those envelopes with as much green as we can so please drop us a note and a check at your earliest convenience.

Since our last Dixie News, we received one donation and we would like to thank: Carol Campbell

You can send your donation to:

Marian and Greg Zoller
4815 Oak Lane Cove
Arlington, Tn. 38002

We appreciate your consideration. Until we see you at the convention we remain

Sincerely,

Marian and Greg Zoller



Ness' Crinkle Blue
AVA of Australia photo

the other Gesneriads: Kohleria*



What's not to love about Kohleria?

If you've never grown Kohleria, NOW is a great time to start! Let me tell you a little about this wonderful genus.

Kohleria was established as a genus name in 1848, long before the discovery of Saintpaulia in 1892 in Africa. Kohlerias are found in Colombia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Trinidad, Guatemala, Mexico, as well as other South and Central American countries.

Kohlerias are easy to grow. They can be propagated by planting their scaly rhizomes, by tip cuttings, by seed, or by leaf cuttings. As rhizomatous gesneriads, they do have a period of dormancy, but it is a much shorter time than it is for Achimenes.

When the plants are restarted after their dormant time, the new growth must be given very strong light immediately to prevent leggy growth. If you are planting a rhizome that has not yet broken

dormancy, fill the pot about three-quarters full with your soil mix, dampen it, and lay the rhizomes on top of the soil. Then place the pot in a clear, covered plastic box. Once you notice that the rhizomes have sprouted, fill in with more soil so that the rhizomes are covered and place the container where it will get a lot of light. Using this method, the rhizomes are less likely to rot since they are on a soil surface where air can reach them.

Kohlerias like high humidity and fertile, well drained soil. The same soil that gives you success in growing African violets will be a good one for Kohlerias. If the humidity drops, Kohleria leaves will curl up. Air circulation is also very important for their good growth. Differences in the number of rhizomes produced, the leaf size, as well as the flower production are the results of the age and health of the rhizomes, as well as the growing conditions.

*Adapted from a presentation given by Carol Schreck to Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society.

USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES. Use of the proper chemical in the right situation can be a great help to African violet growers. Improper use or use in the wrong situation can result in harm to plants, people and pets. Before purchasing or using a pesticide, be sure you have identified the problem. A fungicide will not do anything for insects, and an insecticide will not control crown rot or powdery mildew, and neither will help if the problem is due to a poor growing environment. Check the product label. Be sure the produce is labeled for use on African violets or at least house plants and for the specific problem you wish to control. Even when the active ingredient is the same, concentrations, solvents, carriers, and other factors may not be the same, and this can make a great difference in a product's effect.

AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors & Judges, p.25

CONGRATULATIONS, WINNERS!

Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL - Annual Show

“ART THROUGH THE AGES”

February 23-24, 2024

Sandi Soto: Best in Show, Best Standard: “Buckeye Exotic Dancer,” 2nd Best in Show, Best Semiminiature: “Rob’s Slap Happy,” Best AVSA Standard Collection: “Suncoast Lavender Silk,” “Kaylin Marie,” “Buckeye Exotic Dancer,” Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5a clone grandifolius No. 299, S. 5b clone confusa Mather E, S. 5b clone grotei Silvert, Best Species: S. 5b clone confusa Mather E Sweepstakes Horticulture: 18 Blue Ribbons

Mary Lou Harden: Best Trailer: “Rob’s Vanilla Trail,” Best Other Gesneriad: Streptocarpus hototogisu, Best Design, Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement: “The Mask of Tutankhamun” 2nd Best Design, Best Container Garden: “A Natural Garden, Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement: “The Starry Night” Best Dish Garden, Best Terrarium Sweepstakes Design: 11 Blue Ribbons

Mary Beth Bryant, Class 29, “California Sunset”
Glenn Shelton, Class 33, “Rob’s Antique Rose”
Jim Matula, Class 40, “Jolly Mel”

Upcoming Events

July 1-6, 2024, Gesneriad Society 67th Annual Convention & Show, “Gesneriads Meet in St. Louis,” Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel, 1335 S. Lindberg Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131. Contact: Mel Grice at melsgrice@gmail.com. www.gesneriadsociety.org

September 27-28, 2024, African Violet Council of Florida Annual Show & Plant Sale, “Violet Treasures,” Christ Lutheran Church, 2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd., Lakeland, FL 33805. Contact: Mary Jane DiLorenzo, 863,647-1517, or AVCF President, Jim Boyer, at jasb39@gmail.com.

October 12-13, 2024, Tampa AVS at the Fall Plant Festival, University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33620.

DAVS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual	\$15.00 year
Individual Life	\$175.00
Affiliate Club	\$20.00 year
Commercial	\$25.00 year
Dual	\$20.00 year
(2 members at same address)	

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



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

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Kenneth W. Barbi

From the Editor. . . Mary Lou Harden

mlhard@verizon.net

Hello, Dixie Members and Friends,

Here is your 2nd Quarter issue of *The Dixie News*. Thank you to everyone who assisted by sending club news, articles and photos.

In this issue you'll find information about AVSA's Virtual Circle which I hope you'll check out. It's just another opportunity to hear from others about their growing methods and hopefully you'll get some new ideas.

As you know, Dixie is planning another fall show and we're looking forward to meeting again. Be sure to read Robbie McMeel's article on page 2 about location possibilities. Although we had hoped to return to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens which turned out to be a perfect setting for last year's show, that may not be possible. Let's come up with some suggestions for an alternative location.

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!



Yukako

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Payments: PayPal (preferred), Credit Card (I have a Square) or Check. Any questions or larger quantities, just email me at mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net



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