

# The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



February 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Jeri Anderson*

A very Happy New Year to everyone. May your new year be filled with lots of good cheer and beautiful blooming violets.

Our upcoming show will be on the weekend of March 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> which is only 10 weeks away. Now is the time to find the 'Growing for Show Calendar' in your notebook and catch up. Don't know about you, but I'm behind the schedule.

The January meeting program is on the 'Classification Process' so please make an effort to attend and take notes so you will be ready to enter your plants in the show.

## ELECTION TIME

No, not THAT election, it's time for our local TAVS election. We will need two people from each group to serve on the Nominating Committee. One person from the last committee should serve as chairman. It would be a good idea to read over the 'Guidelines for Officers' section of your notebook to see which office you could fill. As our membership drops a bigger percentage of members are needed to serve. Clubs of all types go under when their membership stops volunteering to help. So, find a position that you could fill and run for office.

## GREETING TO EVERYONE

*Cindy Baker*

Here is wishing all my friends The Merriest of Christmas' but more importantly, may you all have a healthy and happiest of times and may many of you that have not done so before, win lots of blue ribbons. I do miss seeing you but right now, my plate is full...and not from food. So many of you will always hold a special place in my heart.

*Note: This wonderful message came too late to make the December newsletter.*

## CLASSIC ROCK & ROLL

*Kathy Bell, Show Chair*

If you have been coming to the meetings you know we lost our space at the TCC and thanks to a lady that comes to our shows and sales we have a new place. We do have to pay for it, therefore we are cutting down our show & sale time.

Our new place is Golden Pins Lanes at 1010 W. Miracle Mile and we enter on the east end of the bowling alley. We will set up March 17<sup>th</sup> and our show & sale will be March 18<sup>th</sup>. The room is 2000 square feet, well lit, and has some tables. We will need members to bring tables. As we get closer I will give more details.

Because our club is getting smaller we will need every member to help. That means signup for a chair position, work the show and sale, have show plants, sale plants, etc. This doesn't mean just do one of these FUN jobs, we will need you to do several FUN jobs to pull this off.

I will have the signup sheets at the meetings and if I'm not there Jeri Anderson will have them to pass around. At the back of the signup sheets there will be a brief description of the chair jobs which gives the helpers an idea of what needs to be done too.

Let's pull together and put on a great show!!

## DESIGN CONTEST

*Kathy Bell*

Now that we know where and when we are having our show and sale it is time to come up with a cover for our show schedule.

The deadline will be January 27<sup>th</sup> and send them to Jeri Anderson, we will vote at the February meetings.

Show theme this year is 'Classic Rock & Roll'  
Golden Pins Lanes  
Back Alley Private Party Room (enter on the East side of the building).  
1010 W. Miracle Mile  
Tucson, AZ  
March 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Good luck and show us your talent!!

## What's the Best Tool For Growing African Violets Well?

*Joyce Stork, AVSA Growing Tip*

It's arguably the garbage can!

Before you start throwing tomatoes, I don't necessarily mean that you need to throw whole violets away. But you should be removing fading flowers and leaves as soon as they show any sign of aging, and throwing them away. Grooming is the great secret of growing.



Keep the garbage can handy and empty it immediately after every grooming session

Does the leaf have a crack or is it losing green color? It won't get better. Toggle it from side to side until it breaks cleanly from the main stem, and throw it away!

Is a leaf smaller than the leaves growing above it? It's actually keeping the plant from growing bigger. Throw it away!

Do you have a secondary crown (often called a sucker) growing between the leaves? Carefully prod it out and if you don't want to grow a new plant, throw it away!

Are the flowers dying? Is the last flower on the stem gone? Pull or trim it away from the main stem. Throw it away!

Does the violet look sick, have bugs, or worry you? If you don't know how to solve the problem quickly, throw it away!

It's time to repot. What should you do with the old soil? Throw it away! (And remove this waste quickly because disease and pests may thrive in dirty corners of plant rooms.)

So many violet problems may be solved with the garbage can. It really is the best tool (in my opinion!) if you want perfect violets.

## December Potluck



Yummy desserts.



Good friend

**TAVS CALENDAR**

**General Meetings**

Wed., Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. .... Night Division, †  
Wed., Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. .... Day Division, †  
Thurs., Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 p.m. .... Northwest Division, \*

**Spring Show & Sale ‘Rock & Roll’**

Sat., March 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Golden Pins Lane  
1010 N. Miracle Mile

**AVSA National Convention**

**‘Gateway to the Tropics’**

Orlando, FL  
May 28– June 4, 2017

**Newsletter Deadlines**

**Tues., Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>** .....Deadline for December  
**Tues., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** .....Deadline for January

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† The Cascades, 201 N. Jessica Avenue.  
In the Third floor Fit Center.

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\*The Inn at The Fountains, 5830 N. Fountains Ave.,  
behind (south of) The Fountains Retirement Village,  
2001 W. Rudasill. In basement meeting room.

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+ Foothills Mall, 7401 N. La Cholla Blvd.  
NW corner of Ina and La Cholla

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