

# The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



February 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Jeri Anderson*

As February arrives our focus turns to our spring show. It's that nervous pre-show season when everyone is hoping their plants will be ready *on schedule*. I remember the year that Julie Shulick brought a perfectly beautiful plant for show-and-tell at our eastside night meeting. It was supposed to be shown in the show, but sadly didn't bloom on schedule. Good luck to everyone and their plants.

By now I'm sure that all of our AVSA members have received their January-February issue of the African Violet Magazine. The smaller size certainly didn't mean less information! Those of you who haven't joined AVSA are truly missing out.

The design for our ad which will appear in the national convention souvenir book will be the saguaro with the violet flowers, submitted by Maria Frisby.

We have gained a new member that I don't think you'd have to introduce yourself to, as you probably already know Bob Ernstein. Bob has been actively helping TAVS for some time now, so it's about time he joined as a real member. Welcome Bob!

The NW afternoon group is still in need of a Secretary. If you are a member of that group, please consider filling the position.

## VIOLETS OUT OF AFRICA

*Cindy Baker, Show Chair*

It is Almost Showtime!

That's right. It is just around the corner. So far we are pretty much on track. But there are still a few positions we need filled.

We need another person to help Terry Richey with the awards. She said she would do the gifts, but we still need someone to do the ribbons. If you have gifts of monetary value, or other gifts you would like to give, please contact Terry Richey ASAP.

I have some ribbons and more are on order. We need someone to sort them and give them out at the show after the judges are through with their judging.

The other two people we need are for placement. As the plants are sent through entries they will place them in the correct section on the tables. It is a pretty easy job.

We will be having our next Show Chairs Meeting on February 5, 2010, at 6:00 pm, at Baker's Distinctive Home Furnishings, 2303 E. Grant Road, just west of Tucson Blvd. I would really appreciate you making this meeting. I will try to make it short as I can. So if you are the chair for any of the positions, or you want to fill any of the open ones, please be there.

Everyone is needed and if you have not signed up to help, even for a couple of hours at the show, you still have time to do so. We need all of you for a great show.

This is also a great time to start grooming your plants, deciding what you want to show, and filling out the classification form. Please try to enter at least one thing if you are an active member because as a member you count in the overall score of our show.

Don't hesitate to call me at if you have any questions or want to help with anything.

**CORRECTION:** The show schedule Class 47, African Gems should read 1 no more than 6 can be entered in this class per individual. (See 19 under Show Rules).

## IF IT WEREN'T FOR LOW CLASS... I'D HAVE NO CLASS AT ALL!

*Wayne Tomczyk, Classification Chair*

That title is for all of you Hee Hawö lovers out there.... IF YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH! The good news is you DO have class(ifications) if you plan to represent your club in the Spring show. All you have to do is take the classifications forms we have provided to you and list the plants (or design entries) you hope to bring to the show. This allows us to pre-print the labels and supplies we will need to get your plants on the judging tables.

Please list the name and hybridizer, at a minimum..... I should be able to determine the rest. Also remember to mark them if you plan to enter them as a collection.

Then send your form(s) to the address or e-mail at the bottom of the form and Anne-Lee and I will do the rest. LET'S HAVE A GREAT SHOW in 2010!!!!

## GOODIE BAG WORKSHOP

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at Bakerø Distinctive Home Furnishings, 2303 E. Grant Road, there will be a workshop to assemble the goodie bags for the AVSA convention. Approximately 500 gift bags will be done. We hope you will be able to help.

### TIPS

*Allan Reith*

Itø Showtime. For the next six weeks it is all about the show. For those of you who have mentors, I hope you have met with them by now, and you should schedule a meeting with your mentor about a week before the show to check your plants and to get some last minute grooming tips.

By now Iøn sure you have fertilized your plants at least twice with a bloom booster (high phosphate) fertilizer. Your lights are on at least eleven hours a day and should be increased fifteen minutes a week up to twelve hours.

Grooming is going to be the important thing now. Hopefully all your show plants are blooming or at least have buds. No more disbudding now. Keep those leaves clean by using a soft brush. Check those baby leaves (leaves smaller than the ones above), and remove as necessary.

Is there a leaf that could move over a little to fill a gap? You can move it over ¼ inch a week with a plastic straw until it fills the foliage gap as well as possible.

Last of all, start thinking about plants you want. The show is a great opportunity to add plants to your collection.

## FOR SALE

Anne-Lee Tomczyk: Oyama pots for sale ó 4ö and 2.5ö only \$1.00 each.

Anita Harold:

•1 plant stand- 2 shelves w/ 8 trays. 4 4ft light fixtures and bulbs. Dimensions 48" H x 53" L x 23" D. \$152.00

•1 plant stand 4 shelves w/ 4 trays. 4 light fixtures and bulbs. Dimensions 70" H x 25" L x 12' D. \$167.25

Both were bought from Indoor Garden Supplies 2years ago and both have wheels attached for ease of movement. The taller one has seen less use that the smaller one so the price difference. If anyone wants to see a picture check the website

[www.indoorgardensupplies.com](http://www.indoorgardensupplies.com). Sorry to say I don't

have the item number but with the dimensions you should be able to find them.

## TAVS CALENDAR

### General Meetings

Wed, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. ....Night Division, †  
Tues., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. .... NW Night Division, \*  
Wed, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. ....Day Division, †  
Thurs, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 p.m. .... Northwest Division, \*

### Show Chair Meeting

Fri., Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. .... Bakerø Furniture+

### Goodie-bag Workshop

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. .... Bakerø Furniture+

### Spring 2010 Show 'Violets out of Africa'

March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, mall hours.....Foothills Mall ‡

### Board Meeting

Wed., Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m..... Bakerø Furniture+

### AVSA 2010 National Convention:

April 11<sup>th</sup> ó April 18<sup>th</sup>, Raleigh, North Carolina

### Newsletter Deadlines

Thurs., Feb. 18<sup>nd</sup> ..... Deadline for March  
Thurs, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> ..... Deadline for April

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† The Cascades, 201 N. Jessica Avenue, Fourth floor.

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

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‡ Foothills Mall, corner Ina Rd and La Cholla.

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+ Bakerø Distinctive Furniture Store  
2303 E. Grant Road, just west of Tucson Blvd.

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