

# The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



March 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Jeri Anderson*

We are all waiting to see our spring show. Who's plant will win "Best in Show" who will have the most interesting design? Are the women going to win more rosettes than the men again?

For those of you AVSA members I'd like you to read the article on page 22, "Grooming and Judging Your Plants Before Show". This is a very nice article with good tips on how to check your violet before entering it into the show.

Right after our spring show the next push is to come up with ideas for our summer programs and next year's regular meeting programs. Be sure to let Stephanie Griffith know if you have any ideas or would be willing to present a program. Remember, you do not have to be an "expert" on a topic, but be willing to research and present your findings.

Cindy Baker reported that she did some shopping at "Green Things" nursery and got her 10% discount just by letting them know she was a member of TAVS.

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*

Well it is now SHOWTIME! This is a good time to start grooming your plants and making sure they are pest free.

We will be setting up earlier but the entries will start around 6:30 p.m. and you can be there around 6:00 p.m. If you are going to wait until Saturday morning you need to be there at 7:30 a.m. Also the placement people, "the ones who said they would help put plants where they belong on the tables" need to be there on Friday night and Saturday morning. The judging is starting on or around 10:00 a.m.

It is also the time when the chair people call the helpers on their list and set up times as when they will serve. Some workers have said they will be there the entire day or days.

I really want to say thank you to all of you who have agreed to work. This is what makes a club "Our Club". We are still in need of people to help with the Education Booth and with Hostess Duties. Please

contact Ruth Connors for the Education booth and for Hostess the contact is Joyce Byers. I think the sales area is pretty well covered.

I also want to remind you, we will be having a leaf bagging at Baker's Distinctive Home Furnishing, 2303 E. Grant Road. IF YOU **WILL** BE THERE, please e-mail or call and let me know. This is an important part of the show. We sell leaves from your plants for \$1.00 each and it is profit to the club. When we get together, we wrap, identify and bag each of the leaves. Bring with you as many leaves as you can. If you are going to do this at home, let me know and how many you are going to do.

I will see you all happy and smiling at the show. Remember we are there to inform the public and get them interested in growing African violets and other gesneriads. We also want them to join AVSA. So if you have extra magazines you don't want anymore let Ruth Connors know as we use those to give to the public.

## ENTRIES, ENTRIES, ENTRIES

*Wayne Tomczyk, Classification Chair*

### Get Your Name on the List!

Jeri Anderson, Cindy Baker, Kathy Bell, Joyce Byers, Retha Cook, Ali DeFriese, Tom DeRousse, Barbara Fuller, Rose Garcia, Stephanie Griffith, Marie Maas, Lori Mariani, Judy Millstone, Wileta Myers, Susan Polleys, Allan Reith, Barbara Reith, Terry Richey, Jan Shrader, Jan Spirk, Anne-Lee Tomczyk, Wayne Tomczyk, Ann Williams.

This is the list of TAVS Members who have submitted entries for the upcoming Violet Show "Violets Out of Africa" Our show (AND club) are rated by the AVSA according to how many members participate in the show. As Allan Reith is always reminding us.... "Just enter one plant!". The show is less than two weeks away. Take a look at your plants.... surely you have at least one plant worthy of entry in the show.... OR, you can enter the design division and do not even need a complete plant (just some blossoms) to enter here. If you want to get your name on the list, send me your classification form by this Friday and I will make sure your entry is processed. Many thanks to all of you who have already signed up to represent your club.

## PROGRAMS IDEAS WANTED

*Stephanie Griffith*

Summer is fast approaching and we are working on the summer program now. We want to make the topics relevant to your interests. In the past there have been some 'hands-on' activities, identification of blossoms and foliage, growing techniques, visits to growers, etc. Please send me your suggestions now so we can get things organized for June, July and August.

Also, by way of future programs, we need suggestions for our next calendar year. This needs to be finished by the summer but planning starts now.

## TIPS

*Allan Reith*

It's SHOWTIME. Your plants have now done all they can do, the rest is up to you. Grooming is the only thing left to do, but it is most important now.

Start by cleaning those leaves. A soft brush (you ladies all must have makeup brushes) will get rid of the dust. I find just blowing on the leaves will help a lot. You can use a soft (real) sponge that is moistened with warm water for the harder to remove dirt. Support the leaf with two fingers while you wipe the leaf from the stem to the point.

Which leaves to remove or leave? A badly damaged leaf should be removed. If a leaf has only a small damaged spot (-1 point) you may wish to leave it on the plant if it will leave a large hole in the symmetry (-3 points).

Are there leaves that are smaller than the ones above them (-1). If the small leaves are longer than the ones above them, remove them. If the small leaves are shorter stemmed than the larger ones above, carefully lift them until they are laying on top of the larger ones.

Remove all spent blossoms (-1) and, except for trailers, remove all suckers (plant will be disqualified). You should not have necks (-3) at this time. If you do, they may be covered with soil or you may be able to press the plant down into the existing soil a bit and then top with more soil.

## “TYME WITH VIOLETS”

*Peggy Mooney, AVSA Cookbook Chair*

Our cookbook, with 650 recipes, is in process and will be ready for sale at AVSA National Convention in Raleigh, NC April 11 - 18, 2010

If you want to buy a cookbook and plan to attend the Convention, you may order and prepay. Your

cookbook will be waiting for you in Raleigh and you can save the shipping cost. Orders can also be placed now and shipped as soon as they are ready.

The cost of this beautiful cookbook is \$15.00 + shipping of \$5.00. There is no discount for multiple orders but shipping will be calculated per-order. Make check payable to AVS Springfield, mail to:

Peggy Mooney  
1016 Broadway Ave  
Secane, Pa 19018

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Pa is looking forward to hosting the Philadelphia 2011 Convention. This fund raiser will help us make it a memorable event. Thanks for your support in this effort.

## LOOKING FOR

Judy Millstone is looking for *Pima Stars*. It is a single chimera white/blue stripe, edge.

## FOR SALE

Anne-Lee Tomczyk: Oyama pots for sale 6 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 than 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.

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Mirror design displayed by Susan Anderson at the Desert Sun African Violet Club's show last weekend.

## TAVS CALENDAR

### General Meetings

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

### Leaf Bagging

Thurs., Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. .... Baker's 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. .... Baker's Furniture+

### AVSA 2010 National Convention:

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

### Spring Potluck

Saturday, Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. ó 2:00 p.m. at The Inn at the Fountains\*

### Newsletter Deadlines

Thurs, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> ..... Deadline for April  
Thurs., Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> ..... Deadline for May

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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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+ Baker's Distinctive Furniture Store  
2303 E. Grant Road, just west of Tucson Blvd.

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