

The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



March 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jeri Anderson

Hopefully everyone will have at least one plant or design to enter in our March 18th show. A lot of work goes into getting a show put together and I know that many of our club members have signed up to help. Go team!

March brings lovely warm weather to Tucson and we want to go outside and work in our gardens. Remember to wash your hands after working on your outside plants and perhaps change clothes before working on your violets to prevent bringing in those little bugs. Thrips and mites love to come inside to dine on your beautiful violets.

We have a new member, Denise Miller-Dolan; at the moment she is attending the night meeting. Be sure to introduce yourself if you see her at our show or later at our potluck.

Remember to say "Yes" when the nominating committee calls and asks you to take a position on the TAVS board.

Our March meeting topic is 'Pack 'N Go...' also known as how to pack your plants for transporting to our local shows and/or across country to national conventions.

There are still hotel rooms available for the AVSA Orlando convention. The closer it gets to convention time the faster the rooms go as people take advantage of the special room rates and the early booking discount.

THANK YOU

Gail Powell, Visitor to NW meeting

Thanks to all of you for having me at your last meeting - the info was all interesting and the help with my plant was great (and the food was good!) I have most of the little plants in water and some in pots of soil. Hope they all make it!

FUN IDEA

Rose Garcia

Celebrate Birthdays by bringing in leaves for the birthday people of the month.

CLASSIC ROCK & ROLL

Kathy Bell, Show Chair

How are your plants doing??

Make sure you get your Classifications form into Jeri Anderson by March 4th! Put all the plants you think might be blooming by March 18th and even some that you aren't sure, you just never know what they will do. Sometimes they surprise you. If our weather gets warmer they will come into bloom faster.

Those who are selling let me or Meichele Juve know about how many you are bringing so we have enough tables.

Anyone who has extra 6 or 8 foot tables and can bring them Friday let me know. We will need some extras.

Just remember we CANNOT do in our new home is have FOOD or WATER or other BEVERAGES. Remember they are a business. They will provide us with water and if you don't want to eat there you can eat in your car or go somewhere. They are being so good to us we need to follow their rules.

If you haven't signed up to have some Violet Fun the sign up sheets will be going around again at the March meetings.

NEEDED: Show plants!! Sales Plants!! Leaves!! Workers!! FUN!!!!

I've gotten phone calls about our show; when and where it is located. This is a good sign!

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

See you at the SHOW!

EDUCATION TABLE

Lois Rose, Education Chair

We could still use a couple of people to sign up for the Education table at the show and sale in March. We will need lunch relief and help closing down too. Call Lois to volunteer. 520-310-5200

Gesneriads – A Family Portrait



*To TAVS Members and Guests
From time to time I would like to include information from the African Violet's family of "cousin" plants in the wonderful Gesneriad family. I hope you find it informative and please pass on some feedback to our editor or myself.....Thank You.....Ken McGowan*

What is a gesneriad?

The gesneriad (pronounced either "guess-NARE-ee-ad" or "jez-NARE-ee-ad") family contains over **3,200 species of plants**. The best-known member of the gesneriad family is the African violet (*Saintpaulia*).

Was the gesneriad family named after someone?

The family was named for Swiss botanist Konrad Gesner (1516 – 1565).

How are gesneriads classified?

A distinction is made between "Old World" Gesneriads (those from Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia), and those from the "New World," (South and Central America). The former are said to belong to the sub-family Cyrtandroideae, the latter to the sub-family Gesnerioideae.

Where are most gesneriads found?

Most gesneriads are from tropical and subtropical regions and are often found growing in humus-filled depressions or rock crevices, on humus-covered forest floors or epiphytically on tree branches. Some gesneriads (known as "alpines") are also found in colder, temperate areas, and can tolerate several degrees of frost. **Gesneriads are found on all continents except Antarctica.**

Special Note: the picture above is "Episcia cupreata (species)" produced in 1847 (van houtte). Captioned below the episcia is was noted in that time as "Achimenes cupreata" and later renamed to episcia.



K's Lilac Infusion – grown by Tom DeRousse
Photo by Carol Watson

TAVS CALENDAR

General Meetings

Wed., Mar 1st, 7:00 p.m. Night Division, †
Wed., Mar. 8th, 10:00 a.m. Day Division, †
Thurs., Mar. 9th, 2:30 p.m. Northwest Division, *

Spring Show & Sale 'Rock & Roll'

Sat., March 18th, 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

Thur., Mar. 23rd Deadline for April
Thur., Apr. 20th Deadline for May

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

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