

The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



November 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jeri Anderson

As I am typing this, my windows and doors are open and the refrigeration unit is off so it must truly be fall. Our fall meetings have gotten underway and we've had a very successful violet sale and yard sale so we are a busy, busy group of people.

The motion to do project plants next year passed. But since our treasury now has sufficient funds it was decided that TAVS will pay for the project plants. People do have to sign up for their plant just so we know how many to order and hopefully prevent too many leftover plants. We already have 34 people signed up to receive project plants. Be sure to let me know right away if you want a plant and didn't get signed up.

Two people have stepped up to be mentors for new TAVS members. Susan Polleys will help on the east side and Jan Shrader will help on the northwest side of town.

Don't forget to get your recipe for the Philadelphia 2011 AVSA convention submitted to Peggy Mooney by **November 15th**.

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

THANK YOU

Ruth Connors, Education Chair

I want to give a big thank you to those folks who worked the Education table at our fall sale. I told you it would be a lot of fun. The Spring Show and Sale will be coming up soon!! I do hope you will join the Education table again. Again, a big Thank You to everyone.

Joanie Rivard and her fun daughter, Annabelle, Terry Jennings, Judy Oyen, Jeri Anderson, Anita Harold, Maria Frisby and Marge Benson. If I have missed anyone I apologize, my notes mysteriously disappeared.

SHOW CHAIR

Cindy Baker

Hey, it is Showtime!

That is correct. It is that time of year again when we start thinking of the show "Violets Out of Africa" in March 2010. Start thinking about what you need to do for your plants. Decide upon the ones you want to groom for show and keep an eye out for other good ones you will want to enter. It is also time to think about which of the designs to enter if you choose.

Also, I will be asking for your advice on the schedule. I will be putting that together and we will need theme ideas as to what to put on the schedule for the various items. Look at your schedule from last year and you will know what I am talking about.

We still need chairpersons for Judges Clerks, Awards Chair, we need two for that position and a Hostess Chair. Please call me if you have any questions to what these jobs are. This is a "WE" club and we all can help out even in the smallest area. If you are new to the club, a great spot for you is to help hostessing. It is a great helping out job and we really need you.

Looking forward to hearing from you. This is going to be a G-R-E-A-T show. I can just feel it.

TIPS

Allan Reith

Yes, it's time to get ready for the show. Here are a few questions to ask yourself so you are ready:

What plants might go to the show? Do they have old, yellow leaves? Remove them.

How many plants do you want to enter? I have found that I usually end up taking about one third of the plants to the show that I was preparing to take. Along the way some will not make it be show worthy. You might consider selling those at the show.

When were they repotted? If they have not been repotted in the last four months, you probably should report them by December first. This will get them in prime shape for the show.

How long are your lights on? They should be on about ten hours a day now. In late November you can start increasing your light time by 15 minutes a week.

How often do I turn my plants? They will grow to one side if you do not turn them at least once a week. This is true under artificial lights, but even more important if you are growing in natural light.

Are all the crowns on my trailer the same size? Remove all old leaves, and all long stemmed leaves. If any leaves are blocking the light from crowns, remove those leaves and get the light on those small crowns so they can grow.

Are my pots clean? Many times the edges of the pots are yellow. The top edges of the pots show and will look bad to the judges. Just slip that plant into a new pot of the same size.

How is my symmetry? It's best to start with plants that are nicely shaped now so that you do not have to remove leaves later on. If you remove leaves now there is a lot of time for space to fill in. If there is a bad (yellow, broken, spotted) leaf, get rid of it now.

And you're off for those blue ribbons!

YARD SALE FOR AVSA

Kathy Bell

As you know we had our yard sale on October 17th and 18th to raise money for AVSA's Booster Fund. We raised \$367.10 YEAH !!!

We had a lot of nice items for sale and we probably would have made more money if it had not been the HOTTEST weekend for the month of October. In fact, we even broke records for the hottest day on Saturday. I'm not sure about Sunday. On Saturday it was 96 degrees and about the same on Sunday; a little too warm for many shoppers. Even though it was a lot of work everyone had fun and it was for a good cause. I want to thank my mother and club members for all their help either for the items they donated or for working at the sale or for both! Thank you all so very much.

I want to send out a special thanks to one of our members, Barbara Fuller, who was our best shopper and purchased a load items some of which were for her, but most of which were for her family. So the moral of the story is: if you have a yard sale make sure you let Barbara know!!!!

FOR SALE

Nancy Davis: Four plant stands, 73 inches high, 12 inches wide. Four trays per stand. Purchased from IGA Supply. Price negotiable for one, several, or all!



Jan Shrader -s program about terrariums