

# The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



November 2008

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

### MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

*Jeri Anderson*

Are you thinking what I am thinking? How can it already be time for the holidays? Time flies when we are having a good time.

TAVS is having a good time this year with new members joining every month and the new NW Night group taking off. In fact, the NWN group will be meeting at The Inn at the Fountains come January. This gives NWN a permanent home and room to grow. It is my understanding that Cindy Baker started the original NW group and has now gotten the NWN group going. A big Hear, Hear for Cindy!!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the December potluck.

### GROWING TIPS

*Allan Reith, Sr.*

Rumor has it that the NW group is going to try for 100% participation in the show. Can the other groups equal that?

Remember to keep the dust off your plants. This lets them grow stronger because they can use the light better. A nice soft brush will do nicely for this. Make-up brushes work quite well, or a soft artists brush will also do.

Are you growing under lights? If so, are you starting at 10 hours a day? You would then increase your time slowly (15 to 20 min. a week), not all at once. This will bring you to 13 to 13 1/2 hours a day by March. That is about all the light you want to use. Too much light will bring tight centers, not a good thing.

Your lights should be 12 to 14 inches above the top of the plant for standards and 7 to 9 inches above the top of your minis and semiminis.

At twelve weeks before the show (Dec 13<sup>th</sup>), it is time to use some bloom booster (10-52-10) fertilizer on your plants. You could do this three times, at 12 weeks, 10 weeks, and 8 weeks before the show.

Have you finished repotting? If not be sure to attend the December potluck. There will be a great party, as always, great food and maybe a little instruction.

### DECEMBER POTLUCK



A previous year's dessert. Note the use of violet blooms.

Our December potluck is open to all TAVS members and their guests. The potluck is being held at The Inn at the Fountains, 5830 N. Fountains Ave, December 13th, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to share, enough for 6 to 8 people. Be sure to include the correct serving utensil for your dish. Remember to have your name on your serving dish and utensil to prevent mix-ups. The club will provide plates, cups, flatware and beverages.

We also have a gift exchange (value less than \$10). If you bring a gift you will receive a gift. It's fine if you choose not to participate in the gift exchange. We always have a good time.

### SHOW TALK

*Kathy Bell*

Now is the time to repot your plants for the show. I want to encourage everyone to show a plant or a design. If you need help, contact your mentor or someone in the club to help you.

If you attended the November meetings you received your show schedule and handouts. After the holiday rush is a good time to decide which plants you want to enter. This year you have a classification paper or online form to send to Anne-Lee and Wayne. They are due February 1, 2009. Put down any plant that looks good, you will be surprised how fast they can come into bloom.

Still looking for updates from you on your project leaves!!!!

I have a Hostess, Yea!! Wileta Myers from the Northwest group is going to chair the position for me. Thank you, Wileta.

At the November meetings it was announced that we will be selling on Friday night. We will be set up and ready to go by 7:30 p.m. It will be limited sales since all the growers may not have their plants there Friday night. This is nothing new, we have done this for years without any problems with the exception of last year, a little miscommunication. One of the reasons we need to sell on Friday night is members who do designs need to get plants, and I hate to turn down a sale. Also it allows members to purchase plants before the Saturday morning rush.

If you are going to sell plants please go over the growers guidelines they are in your notebook. I noticed that there were some plants being sold in solo cups at our last sale. Our guidelines say clean white pots. Please follow the guidelines they are there for a reason. Thanks.

I have heard some concerns about not having enough plants for Sunday and if we don't we don't. Once at El Con we had over 1000 plants on the tables and ran out by 2:00 Saturday afternoon. Sunday isn't a big selling day and if growers want to hold a tray back and bring it in on Sunday that might be a good idea and then we would have some fresh plants. We are also going to have a different set up for checking in your plants for classifications and entries which will keep them out of the sales area.

Looking for awards for the show, cash and items will be greatly appreciated. You can also designate the class for your award to be in. Please contact Cindy Baker if you have an award.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.

Happy Holidays and I'll see you next year.

### **EVERYONE IS ENTERING AT LEAST ONE ITEM IN THE SHOW, RIGHT???**

**TAVS Spring Show March 7 & 8, 2009**

*Anne-Lee & Wayne Tomczyk*

Please begin setting your "Show" plants aside and thinking about your "Design" ideas for the Spring Show. It is very important to the Club that everyone participates with at least one entry. Make copies of the Classification Sheets, if you like, and start writing in your "possibilities". You might have to change them along the way, but that's okay we all do. By January you should have a pretty good idea of which plants you will enter. Please either e-mail, or mail (at the bottom of your form) your entries by February 1, 2009. Wayne and I need time to check your entries.

ENTER 6 ENTER 6 ENTER  
**CHALLENGE OF THE SEXES**

*Allan Reith, Sr.*

I hope your plants are off and running. My plants had a very prosperous summer. They loved the cool weather in my NY basement. Tom DeRousse and Wayne Tomczyk tell me that their plants are looking very good, so WATCH OUT all you women. The men are primed to take the Saintpaulia trophy away from you.

### **TAVS SPRING SALE March 6 & 7 & 8, 2009**

*Anne-Lee Tomczyk*

Check your calendar NOW and set aside time to work the sales area for the Spring Show. Everyone is needed on this fun, exciting weekend. Entries for the show begin on Friday, so we need 2 people who can "guard" our precious plants (Show and Sales) on Friday night and Saturday night. This is a MUST or your plant might just disappear by the following morning!! Those who are selling should plan to work both Saturday and Sunday, but everyone should put in at least 4 hours. You will learn so much by working Sales and you will get to meet the members from the other 3 groups; you will come away with new friends and more knowledge.

### **TAVS' NEW WEBSITE**

*Julie Shulick*

Please take a few minutes to check out our new website: [www.tucsonavs.org](http://www.tucsonavs.org). Let me know of any changes or additions you would like to see.

### **SCIENTIFIC STUDY ANYONE?**

*Sue Sacco*

If you would be interested in taking part in a small scientific study that would involve purchasing two African violets; one violet you would treat as a normal control and the other violet you would vary a condition such as soil mixture, lightening, or perhaps fertilizer. You would take notes and present your plants along with your findings at the spring show. If interested, please call or e-mail me.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The December program will be our joint potluck. Anita, Allan & Kathy will tell of their experiences at the national convention.

The January program will be "Judging Practice". Sharpen your judging skills.

Our meetings consist of programs designed to increase knowledge and enjoyment of African violets and other gesneriads, plus a short time for club business. There are usually plants and leaves to be

acquired, supplies for sale, and light refreshments served. Anyone interested in African violets or other gesneriads is welcome to attend.

**FOR SALE**

Myrtle Fowler wants to sell her plant stands (3). They were all purchased from IGS (Indoor Gardening Supplies). Their address is: [www.indoorgardensupplies.com](http://www.indoorgardensupplies.com). They have their own lighting system, trays (16) as well as the hoods (16) for the trays. The original cost was \$576.00 each. She is willing to sell them for \$325.00 each.

**TAVS CALENDAR**

**December Potluck**

Sat., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m., at The Inn at the Fountains.

**General Meetings**

Wed, Jan. 7, 7:00 p.m. í í Night Division, †  
Thurs, Jan. 8, 2:30 p.m. í í ..NW Day Division, \*  
Tues., Jan. 13, 7:00 p.m. í í NW Night Division, \*  
Wed, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m. í í ..Day Division, †

**Board Meeting**

Wed., Jan. 20, 7:00 p.m. at Bakerø Furniture Store, 2303 E. Grant Rd. Just west of Tucson Blvd.

**Spring Show & Sale**

March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> at Foothills Mall ‡

**Newsletter Deadlines**

Thurs., Dec. 18 . . . . . Deadline for January  
Thurs, Jan. 22 . . . . . Deadline for February

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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 of Ina Rd and La Cholla.

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