

The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



December 2009

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jeri Anderson

Time flies when we are having a good time. It doesn't seem possible that December is right around the corner.

We have three new members: Lori Mariani, Lois Rose, and Jan Spirk. Be sure to introduce yourselves to them at the December potluck. It's always so great to have new people join.

The 2011 convention cookbook is still in need of more recipes. So please take the time to send in a recipe or two so they can compile a wonderful cookbook that we can all enjoy.

The AVSA society is looking for nominees for the following awards: Hall of Fame Award, Bronze Medal for Horticultural Achievement, Distinguished Service Certificate, Continuing Service Award, Hudson Memorial Award, Honorary one-year Memberships, and Meritorious Service Award. Previous recipients of these awards may be found on the www.AVSA.org website under Library.

At our last board meeting there was a decision made to charge for ads placed in our newsletter. Only non-TAVS members will have to pay \$5.00 to place an ad.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the potluck.

VIOLETS OUT OF AFRICA

Cindy Baker, Show Chair

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!!!

To all of you who have now filled in all of the show chair positions we need with the exception of another person to help Terry Richey with the awards. But that doesn't mean the rest of you are off the hook.

We still need people to work. Such as hostesses, sales people, education, etc. You are still needed!!! It doesn't have to be an all day event for any of you. Even if you just donated a couple of hours of your time to watch plants, help sell plants or tell people how to care for their plants. We will still be sending around sign up sheets at the meeting and at the potluck. Let's make this one of the best years ever.

We need you new members. Even if you are new to the club this year, you can still help hostess, sell plants, serve as judge's clerk and you will be surprised how much you will learn by helping in the education department.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the potluck on the 5th. May you all have the best of the Holidays ahead!

GROWING TIPS - LIGHTING

Allan Reith, Sr.

How are your lights? Are they dark on the ends? Do they flicker? If so, then it is time to replace them. All lights will work for your plants. I prefer to use one cool white and one Gro-light in my two bulb units. If they need replacing replace one at a time. Wait about two weeks and then replace the other. Too much bright light at once may damage your plants.

The lights should be on at least ten hours a day now. You can increase the time slowly as we get nearer to the show in March. Do not increase the time too quickly. An increase of fifteen minutes every week or ten days will be about right up to twelve or twelve and a half hours a day just before the show.

For your standard plants the lights should be ten to twelve inches above the top of the plant. For minis and semi-minis the lights should be about six to eight inches above the top of the plant.

Remember to turn your plants so that you get even growth. About a quarter turn twice a week should be sufficient. One of our members who always had beautiful plants turned hers a quarter turn every day. I also turn my trays when I water so that the plants alternate between being below the cool light and the gro-light.

It's best to use a timer to control the on-off lighting time. If I try to do it by memory my lights have a very unusual lighting schedule.

Happy growing.

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 5th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 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.

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO GET STARTED!!

*Wayne Tomczyk
Spring Show Classification Chair*

Okay, Christmas is just around the corner. While you are concentrating on your shopping list (my shirt size is available on request!) You should begin to give some thought to that other important list, your 2010 Tucson African Violet Society Spring Show Classification List!

Seriously, it is not too soon to begin looking at your plants and beginning to decide how many plants you want to enter into the spring show... EVERYONE should support the club by entering at least one plant into the show (the club gets show points based on the number of members who enter plants). Collections, minis, semis, design categories..... Begin to strategize how many plants you hope to enter so that you can begin your special grooming and care to get them show ready. We will get the 2010 show classification forms to you shortly so that you can begin to complete your list! Good luck on both lists.... Happy Holidays!

LOOKING FOR

Susan Polleys is looking for *Ness' Satin Rose* and *Ness' Crinkle Blue*. If you can spare a leaf, please bring to the potluck.