

# The Desert Blooms

Newsletter of the Tucson African Violet Society



May 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Allan Reith*

I have been a member of TAVS for twenty years. For eighteen years it was a great pleasure to belong. Then the club decided to be a part of the Sahba Home Show for three days each year. I was opposed to this from the beginning. It is wrong on several levels and has been counterproductive. Instead of increasing membership our roster has decreased. Our show entries have decreased. Two years ago we had thirteen collections entered in the show, this year there were only two.

I feel out of touch with the club thinking and therefore cannot continue to be its leader. When you feel you are right and everyone else is wrong something has to give. I will continue as a member, however, I am resigning as the president of TAVS as of today.

## TAVS SUMMER PROGRAMS

**Summer meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.**

### **Saturday, June 25**

The Cascades, 201 N. Jessica Ave., Third floor

Presenter: Jeri Anderson

Program: Trailers on the Screen and Live!

Join us for a video on trailers and then watch the action live!

### **Saturday, July 9**

The Fountains, 5830 N. Fountains Ave., Basement

Presenter: Barbara Fuller

Program: You Build a Water Garden

Bring a glass container at least 6 inches, no larger than 10 inches, a few decorations and you are on your way to a design in next year's show.

### **Saturday, August 20**

The Cascades, 201 N. Jessica Ave., Third floor

Presenter: Ruth Connors

Program: Hands On Hybridizing

It's been demonstrated to you, but now come and actually try it under supervision. It's an experiment! A small supply list will be distributed to you prior to this program.

## LOST & FOUND

*Lois Rose*



At the Spring Show this bolo tie was left at the Education Table. Contact Meichele Juve if it belongs to you.

## SNIPITS FROM THE MAG

*Anne-Lee Tomczyk*

### **Helpful Hints, May • June 2008.....**

If your plants dry out completely, don't water with a fertilizer mixture. Have a container of tap water on hand, with the cover off so chlorine can escape. Use this to water your plants.

BECAUSE if you use a fertilized water, you can damage the roots.

**2017 TAVS SHOW THEME  
"CLASSIC ROCK AND ROLL"**

**CUTBACKS ARE COMING ....IN AN  
ELECTION YEAR!**

*Wayne Tomczyk*

It seems like it is now time for cutbacks... in an election year? NOT those cutbacks, I'm talking about our African Violets. As the days get longer, and warmer, we need to consider what this means to our plants. We do not need to encourage blooming. In fact, this is a perfect time to let our violets rest up and gain strength before we need them to bloom for next spring's violet show. As the days are longer, our plants will be getting a larger dose of natural light, so it makes sense to cut back on the number of hours our artificial lights are on. Cutting back from the 12 hours, or so, that we used to encourage pre-show blooms to about 10 hours a day seems prudent. Also, in our house, we put those lights on at night so that we are not adding to the ambient temperature of our house. The second cut back we need to consider on behalf of our "babies" is to cut back on fertilizer. As the weather warms, our plants drink more water, setting up the possibility of a "NPK" overdose. The recommended action is to cut your fertilizer amount in half to give your plants a rest. This may be a good time to look over your collection and start leaves for your favorite plants. You may just be starting next year's Best in Show! Have a great summer!

**DUES ARE DUE**

To avoid the \$5.00 late fee be sure to pay your dues before July 1<sup>st</sup>. You can pay at the June meeting or mail your \$10.00 check to our Treasurer:

Gloria Williams

**Rum Bundt Cake**

4 eggs, beaten  
½ cup oil  
½ cup rum  
½ cup water  
1 white cake mix (Betty Crocker works best)  
1 - 3.5 oz Instant French Vanilla Pudding

Heat oven to 300 degrees

Follow mixing directions for cake mix

Pour into well-greased and floured Bundt pan

Bake for 55 minutes

Glaze:

1 cup sugar  
1 cube butter  
¼ cup water  
Combine in small saucepan and cook over medium heat for 6 minutes

Add ¼ cup rum to the glaze after 4 minutes

Pour glaze around outside and inside diameters of cake in Bundt pan as soon as cake comes out of the oven

Let cake pan cool to the touch; turn out onto a cake plate

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Thank you Anne-Lee for the recipe.

## WASPS AT ALBUQUERQUE

*Sue Stout*

FYI - This is from my weekly email from AVSA.....

" Interest in these oddities is growing. A Facebook African violet group called Love for Wasps and Unusual African Violets is dedicated to growing and sharing photos and information about the novelty African violets in their collections. The African Violet Society of America is also offering a special educational display of the novelty or unusual Saintpaulia at the 2016 convention in Albuquerque."

## SHOW SALES REPORT

*Gloria Williams, Treasurer*

Much as I appreciate rain in the desert, it did nothing to improve our sales on Sunday at this year's Show & Sale. Our show income was down from last year's event. After all expenses were paid, we lost money. This is still a good outcome for a show, since we have a lot of additional expenses for prizes, ribbons and judging. Ten members brought plants in for the sale; selling 475 plants and earning themselves some money. We could have used a few more mature plants, so start thinking about where you can grow a few to bring to next year's show. Remember that violet enthusiasts will buy a small plant, but the general public likes big and beautiful.

I want to thank my wonderful volunteers, Bob Ernstein, Sharon Hill, and Anne Esborn. They managed to deal with a non-printing cash register and wonky Wi-Fi service and still come out smiling! Thanks, guys.

## SPRING POTLUCK



Yummy Desserts



Good food and friends

**SUMMER PROGRAMS**

Sat., June. 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – Noon. .... Cascades, †  
Sat., Jul. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. - Noon. .... Fountains, \*  
Sat., Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. - Noon. .... Cascades, †

**AVSA National Convention**  
**‘Violets Color the Land of Enchantment’**  
Albuquerque, NM  
May 29 – June 5, 2016

**Newsletter Deadlines**  
Thur., Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> .....Deadline for September  
Thur., Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> ..... Deadline for October

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† The Cascades, 201 N. Jessica Avenue.  
Summer programs will be on Third 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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‡ Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave,  
Enter from the Granada Ave. side.

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+ Foothills Mall, 7401 N. La Cholla Blvd.  
NW corner of Ina and La Cholla

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