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A Message from your president...

Greetings to all!

Wow, spring show time is here again. Working this morning on my violets, I have become acutely aware that it does take plenty of time and attention to produce beautiful African violet show plants. And mine, I think are coming up a little short of expectations for now. So it goes. I hope that the rest of you have been able to devote the necessary attention on your plants. Something that I think is so rewarding this time of year, when everything is so colorless outdoors, is that bounty of color from violets in bloom on our growing shelves.

Within the Missouri Valley Council, spring shows range all the way from February into early June, so that makes a long season for all of us. Sometimes they are nicely timed away from the AVSA convention, sometimes they are not. Within four weeks this year, those of us who are members of both the Omaha and Lincoln clubs have a judged show and sale, an exhibition and sale, and the convention in Reno. It will require some energy to get through that! But maybe that means we'll have a little time to relax later on???

I wish you all much success in your 2009 shows. Participate where you can helping out with show work, entering your plants and designs, and hitting the sales area. There's always something new out there in violets or other gesneriads to give a try. One of the delightful aspects of growing is the arrival of new plants into your collection. I suppose it remains to be seen whether the sluggish economy will cut into plant sales this year. On the other hand, buying a few new violets is not like buying a new refrigerator or a new car. Historically in "down" times, gardening and plant hobbies do tend to thrive.

Thanks to Ramona Donnell for taking over the job of Newsletter Editor, and thanks also to the members of the nominating committee for their work in securing a slate for our elections this year. Our council is made up of many fine people who always pitch in to do what they can, and you are all appreciated. Please remember that we are always seeking hosts for future MVAVC events. Since so many people always pitch in to help, it is never a job that's too much to handle.

Keep in mind the spring meeting to be held in Des Moines in June and the fall show in Sioux City in October. I will look forward to seeing you on those occasions, and I hope to see many of you in Reno in April.

May spring come soon to us all!



Ma's Moody Monday ~
Tulsa Convention

Happy growing!

Kent



Oklahoma is OK
Jeanne Cotten
Tulsa Convention

Spring Meeting & Fall Show



Heinz's Good Vibrations

Plant shown at Waterloo, IA

The **spring meeting** will be held in Des Moines, IA at the Botanical Gardens the second weekend of June (14th). Watch the newsletter for more information. **NOTE: Yearly memberships will be due at the spring meeting.** Bring your dues to the spring meeting and save a stamp. After the spring meeting mail them to the new membership chair, Barbara, Pershing, address on the front.

The **Fall 2009 Meeting and Show** will be held in Sioux City, Iowa. It is never too early to start choosing plants to show. Perhaps you can pick up one or two new ones at the AVSA. national convention in Reno NV. **You are going aren't you?** To help make the **MVAVC** show a success please donate an award.

AVSA National Reno, NV

Are you planning to go to the national convention, if at all possible make plans to attend, you'll see lots of beautiful violets, and gesneriads that you may not have seen before. Then there is the fun of seeing old "violet friends" and making new ones. OH! and don't forget the tours and presentations. No matter how long you've been growing, you can always learn something new at the presentations or maybe a new way do to an old job.



Fun Filled Campgrounds

Design shown at Waterloo, IA



Fleischle Routlette Cherry

Shown at Waterloo, IA

Do you belong to an online AV list?

There are several online AV clubs where you can get answers to your questions or post problems you are having with your plants. I guarantee you that you will get lots of suggestions and perhaps you can help someone else with a problem. Following are two but there are many more.

AV Connection: avconnectionn@yahoo.com
 AV International: AVInternational@yahoo.com

Give one a try. And when you're in Reno look up your on line friends, and put a face to the name.

The following article is from an on line friend, Fred Hill, New Jersey. After talking to Fred on line I finally had the opportunity to meet him at the Washington DC convention. There will be an internet friends meeting and luncheon on Friday if you attend the convention perhaps this is something you might enjoy. Fred shows at his local club and is a judge, and as you can see is very knowledgeable. Check out his club's website at www.princetononol.com/groups/gsave.

Rejuvenating Plants

If properly grown an African Violet never wears out. The plant can constantly be recycled over and over again and there is no limit to its life span. Most standard sized violets should be repotted every six to nine months. Miniatures and semiminiatures every three to four months. I have plants that have been in my possession for over ten years and are constantly recycled.

The first step in recycling is to remove the plant from the pot. Remove any drooping or dead leaves as well as any blossoms. Check the plant for symmetry. The plant should have leaves radiating out from the central core like the spokes on a bicycle. Also remove any leaves on the bottom rows that are smaller than the leaves above them. Remember to scrape the core and remove any dried calluses or bumps where leaves were removed.

This will usually create a neck and make it seem like you have a violet tree. If the plant is too tall for the pot, cut off a section of the root ball and lower the plant into the pot. The plant is put into a clean pot and covered with damp mix so the bottom of the leaves are even with the rim of the pot.

The rule of thumb for potting up or down is that the crown of the plant should be more than three times the size of the rim of the pot before it is potted into a larger pot. It may even have to be potted into a smaller pot if many of the leaves have been removed. When potting do not pack the mix tightly around the plant. The roots need airspaces to grow.

There may be times when it is impossible to lower the plant enough to retain some of the root ball. It may require you to remove the root ball entirely. If this drastic method is necessary, take a deep breath and cut the root ball completely off with a sharp knife. Make sure the neck has been scraped and dried calluses and remainders of leaves are removed. Put your dampened soil mix into a pot



tap the pot on the table lightly to compress it a bit and make a hole with a pencil large enough to insert the main stem of the plant. Place the pot and plant into a clear plastic bag, inflate it and seal the bag tightly creating a miniature greenhouse for the plant. Put it in a bright but not sunny location, check it weekly to see that it has not dried out and within a few weeks roots will have developed and the plant will start growing once again. Open the bag for a few days or a

week to let the plant become accustomed to the room conditions and then move it to where your other plants are kept. You can follow this same procedure with a sucker you have removed from a plant.

There are many soil mix formulas. Because I wick all my plants I use a very light mix of one part potting soil or peat moss, one part coarse vermiculite and one part coarse perlite. My wicking is 4 ply acrylic worsted yarn which I scour to remove any sizing and keep it wet when I use it. I use all 4 plys for a standard plant and split it into 2 plys for my miniatures and semiminiatures. I also use squat pots for my violets because they have shallow root systems. Squat pots are also called azalea pots.



Spring Meeting Information

Date Sunday June 14th
Time: Lunch served at noon

The host club will provide the hot dish and beverage. They would appreciate people providing potluck items. If you are traveling a long distance and would prefer to make a donation for the food, send it to Tammy Taylor, 960 Brentwood Circle Waukee, IA 50263.

Extra tables for people to sell plants will be set up.

Botanical Center address
909 Robert D Ray Drive
Des Moines, Iowa

If you're 235 Eastbound:
Take Exit 8B 6th/Penn
Turn Right on 6th, go to E Grand turn right, go to E 1st Street/Robert Ray Drive turn right. You'll see the large Botanical Center

If you're 235 Westbound
Take Exit 8B 6th Penn.
Turn right on Penn., go to E University turn left, go to 6th St turn left, go to Robert Ray Drive turn right.

Officers to be elected at Spring Meeting



Proposed slate:
Randy Deutsch, President
Barbara Pershing, 1st Vice President
Joyce Stock, 2nd Vice President
Nancy Amelung, Secretary
Terri Post, Treasurer



I Need Your Help

I hope that you enjoy my first newsletter, I have certainly had a great time putting it together. If you have any suggestions or comments, please let me know.

Any help will be greatly appreciated. My problem is that I have no talent whatsoever when it comes to writing up articles. Of course I can copy articles from other newsletters but with all the talent we have in this council surely that isn't necessary all the time. If you write an article for the AV Magazine submit it to our newsletter first, it will still be fine for the magazine. We are a small group and that leaves a large portion of the AV membership ready to read the article in the magazine. Send me your articles, club news, pictures, or suggestions by email to rjmd1@mchsi.com, or P. O. Box 959, Carl Junction, MO 64834. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Club Happenings

March 21-22, 2009

Omaha African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Annual Spring Show and Sale
Mulhall's Nursery 3615 N. 120th St.
Omaha, NE 68164
Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-4
Contact: Joyce Stork kents@tvsonline.net
Phone number: 402 721-1478

March 28-29, 2009

Lincoln African Violet Society
Annual Spring Exhibition and Sale
St. Mark's Methodist Church
8550 Pioneers Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68520
9am - 4pm
Contact: Joyce Stork kents@tvsonline.net
Phone number: 402- 721-1478

April 24-25, 2009

Unpredictable African Violet Society
Annual judged show and sale
Grain Valley Historical Society Bldg.
506 Main
Grain Valley, MO
April 24 (12:00—5:00 pm)
April 25 (9:00 am—5:00 pm)
Info: Fred & Pat Inbody
Phone: 816-373-6915
E-mail: kskd1@juno.com

June 14, 2009

MVAVC Spring Meeting
Botanical Garden
Des Moines, IA

Thank You!!

Exhibited by
Linda Golubski
Tulsa Convention

I want to express how much the Council has benefited from all the hard work that our editor, John Carter and our historian, David Harris have done. They have worked very hard to keep us informed and to keep a record of our council activities. The next time you see either of these guys, please be sure to thank them and let them know how much they are appreciated.

We will need a new historian with David's resignation. If you would consider taking on this position, please let our president know.



Do you remember the 2004 Sioux Falls Show? I'll bet Randy does. It's fun to look back at the old shows (and it fills up pages.)



Do you suppose Lewis and Clark saw anything like this on their trip

Or even these people.

I'll bet not.



Setting up the show in Waterloo, IA. Everyone jumps in to help. That's what makes the MVAVC such a great group and makes for an enjoyable show



S. Remembering John



**Missouri Valley
African Violet Council
mvavc.org**

Jimmie does an outstanding job with our website, but all of you can make his job easier by sending him information about upcoming shows and then reporting the results of those shows. It is always nice to have pictures so that they can be posted on the website and also put in the newsletter. Perhaps the clubs could designate a person to forward these items and pictures.

**Web master - Jimmie Tooney
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