



Council News

Missouri Valley African
Violet Council

Volume 20, Issue 2
June 2004

The President Speaks

The AVSA national convention in Tucson, AZ lived up to the promise of being a good show in a great location! The hotel was great, the weather better and the food the best. Another prediction that Missouri Valley people would do well was an understatement. I know that the winners are listed at the AVSA web site, but I want our people to be recognized again, so here goes:

Missouri Valley shines at National Convention:

Susan Hapner - Best in Show and Best Miniature with "Persian Prince"; Second Best AVSA Mini Collection. Susan brought 9 plants with her on the airplane in a carry-on — I don't know how all of them did, but I'll bet they were all blues.

Fern Hildinger won Best Streptocarpus with "Janus".

Judy Carter - Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement and Second Best Design with "Old Tucson". Judy did five designs with five blues and three Best in Class and won Design Sweepstakes.

Commercial: Kent Stork - 3rd Best AV in Show with *RD's Kerry*, Best AVSA Standard Collection, Best Holtkamp Collection. Joyce Stork - Best Other Gesneriad with *petrocosmea forrestii*. David Harris - Best Sinningia with Sinn. "Razzmatazz".

The following people also had exhibits and won blue ribbons:

- Barb Pershing - *petrocosmea begonifolia*
- Catherine Thompson - "Tiny Wood Trail"
- John Carter - Mobil Design - "Piñata Party"
- Randy Deutsch - Underwater Design - "Desert Mirage"

I believe that the people mentioned above brought even more exhibits than I have listed, but those are the ones that I remembered. Too much hot southwestern food burned the old brain cells (if you believe that is the reason I can't remember, I have a lake lot in the desert to sell!).

In addition to the above awards Pat Sutton was awarded a 1 Year honorary membership for her contributions to AVSA as the Schedule Approver. Pat is also on the Show & Judges Committee.

All in all, I believe we could say that Missouri Valley People did very well indeed!

Spring meeting—Remember the spring meeting in Bethany, MO Sunday, June 6, at the Community Center. Bethany is about mid point for most of the members so we are looking forward to seeing a lot of you there. We will again have a plant sale, so if you didn't make it to national, this is a good chance to get some great plants. The Mid-America AVS is sponsoring the meeting and would appreciate any food donations or money to help offset the food costs. If you can contribute in some way, please contact Ruby Cox.

Web Site—Don't forget to take a look at the web site. There are pictures of our fellow MV members with their winning entries at national. If you have pictures from national that you would like to share on the web site, send them to Jimmie or email them and he will post them.

Affiliate Information—Please be sure to let Jimmy know about your show, when it is going to be and then send him the winners and any pictures that you may have so that he can post this information and pictures to the MVAVC website. Remember: the only way that the website can be kept up to date and be effective is if each affiliate club does their part in keeping the information about their club current. In this way we may be able to gain new members not only for MVAVC but for the affiliate clubs as well.

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Come to Bethany and enjoy a visit to
Hong Kong!
Joyce & Kent will share their experiences.



The Winners Are ...

Winners of AVC Greater Kansas City Show, February 14-15

Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Vintage, *Nancy Reagan*: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: *Rob's Heat Wave, Little Pro, Optimara Little Hopi*; Best Miniature: *Rob's Love Bite*; Best Trailer: *Linda Darnell*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, won by Pat Inbody.

Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Ness Bangle Blue, Party Parasol, Harbor Blue* won by Fred Inbody. Best Other Gesneriad: *Nematanthus Tropicana* won by Tricia Taylor. Best Species: *s. grandifolia* won by Sue Hill. Best Design, Design Sweepstakes won by Marsha Loveland.

Winners of Unpredictable's AVS Show, April 23-25

Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Rhapsodie Cora, The King, Ness' Bangle Blue*, Best in Show/Best Standard: *Rhapsodie Cora* won by Wilma Wolverton.

2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Louisiana Lagniappe, Ness' Bangle Blue, Rebel's Ambrosia* won by Fred Inbody.

Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: *Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Optimara Little Hopi*, Best Semiminiature: *Rob's Heat Wave*; Best Miniature: *Everdina*; Best Trailer: *Linda Darnell* won by Pat Inbody.

Best species: *s. ionantha* won by Richard Faris. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus "The King"* won by Dora Parla. Best Design: Linda Golubski. Horticulture Sweepstakes: Sue Hill. Design Sweepstakes: Deanna Loeffler

Winners of Metro. St Louis AV Council Annual Show, Apr. 30

Best AV in Show /Best Standard AV *Optimara Romance*, 2nd Best AV in Show / Best Semimini *Shy Blue* Janet Graves. Best Mini *Optimara Little Ruby* Susan Hapner. Best Trailer *Rob's Gundaroo* Nancy Amelung. Best Other Gesneriad *Columnnea 'Light Prince'* Marcia Jacobs. Best AVSA Std Collection *Ma's Debutante, Mindy Morn, Vintage Wine* Marion Hamtil. Best AVSA Mini Collection *Slow Dancin', Opt. Little Pueblo, Rob's Fuddy Duddy*, Susan Hapner. Best Design *"Fire Works"* Fran Russom. Horticulture Sweepstakes: Susan Hapner. Design Sweepstakes: Fran Russom

Judging School

A judging school will be offered at the fall show ONLY if there are enough people interested. If you are interested in a judging school, please contact Randy Deutsch immediately. The school must be registered 3 months prior to the actual school so you can see that we do not have much time. The decision on whether to have the school or not will be made by June 20th.

FALL SHOW AND SALE --- 2004

PLEASE COME TO SIOUX FALLS!!! You're invited to attend the Fall Show and Sale September 10-12, 2004. We are making plans for a special time for all MVAVC members. It will be our 20th Fall Show and I hope everyone attending will plan to enter exhibits. The South Dakota African Violet Club is sponsoring the Fall Show and is already busy making plans for a great time for everyone. COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!

FALL SHOW DESIGN SCHEDULE

Because the fall show date is early this year, the design schedule will be passed out at the spring meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the design schedule, you may print it from the council website. If you do not have access to a computer, you may contact Randy Deutsch and he will send you a copy.

SHOW REPORT (1996)

The MVAVC 12th annual Show and Sale was held October 11-13, in Kansas City. The Unpredictable AVS of Blue Spring was host club. The show won the blue Standard Show Achievement Award, with show theme "Have Violets, Will Travel". There were two seminars offered on Saturday: Ardath Miller gave one on trailers and a Gesneriads panel was conducted by Doris Carson, Pat Dunlap and Linda Golubski.

Best African Violet in show: *Candy Swirls*
Shown by: Catherine Thompson
Sweepstakes in Horticulture: Linda Golubski
Best in Design: Fran Russom
Sweepstakes in Design: Helen Blanton

Did You Know? (1996)

Sue Hill became an AVSA Master Judge. Gary & Pat Dunlap, Linda Golubski, and Pat Richards became AGGS student judges and there was a AGGS Judges School held in Kansas City.

Did You Know? (1996)

At the 1996 AVSA Convention held in Atlantic, GA Pat Richards won Sweepstakes in Horticulture with 28 blue ribbon and Fran Russom won 8 blues to take Sweepstakes in Design. Other big winners were Gene Loveland, Judith Carter with the Best Design award, Kent's Flowers with 2nd Best Display Table and Violet Showroom with 3rd Best Display Table.



FALL SHOW TO BE HELD IN SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota African Violet Club would like to extend a warm invitation to all members of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council to please come and enjoy the 20th annual Fall Show and Sale. We are busy making plans for the weekend of September 10-12. The Oaks Hotel will be the setting for "Violets Along the Lewis and Clark Trail", which is celebrating its two-hundredth anniversary, too. That same weekend the city of Sioux Falls also will be holding its annual Sidewalk Arts Festival. There will be hundreds of booths in the downtown area and the event draws more than 50,000 people. It should be a very exciting weekend for violets and violet lovers alike.

So please start making plans now to come to South Dakota this fall—we would love to see all of you!
Terri Post/Randy Deutsch, Co-Chairs

SHOW AWARDS --- FALL SHOW IN SIOUX FALLS

The highlight of the Fall Show will be the announcement of the winners at the banquet. Please consider helping out to make this event even more exciting for everyone. You can help by giving an award. Cash awards are a perfect way to say "Thanks and Congratulations" to our friends that work so hard to make the show a great success. You can save postage and hassle by giving your award at the Spring Meeting. I will be available throughout the day to accept them. For those that we can always count on, thanks again, we need you, but for those that have thought about giving but haven't done so, please consider helping us out this year. Let's have a great show!
Randy Deutsch, Awards Chairman

FALL SHOW AUCTION

You won't want to miss it!!! Part of the Fall Show and Sale in Sioux Falls will be an "exciting" auction. This has proved to be a lot of fun, and a great way to support the council. But before we can have the auction we will need items to sell. Please consider giving a violet related item to be sold. Ideas range from crafts, supplies, plants, to any other item that you can think of that would be desirable. You can donate your items at the Spring Meeting, or bring them along when you come to the Fall Show. Join the fun, help us out!
Randy Deutsch, Programs

WHAT WAS I THINKING?

Have you ever done something that you knew better, but did it anyway? We all have. Sometimes we get by with it and other times things didn't work out quite so well. What was I thinking when I:

Treated my whole collection with a new spray or fertilizer without testing it on just a few plants.

Put plants new to my collection right on the trays with the other plants. (Isolate! Isolate! Isolate!)

Took someone's advice for a different culture technique without considering the differences in my growing conditions such as the temperature and humidity of the growing area, water source, etc.

Changed both bulbs in light fixtures at the same time without increasing distance to plants or shortening the hours.

Repotted a show plant into a larger pot just 3 to 5 weeks before show after the blossoms had started to form. (The energy all went into forming new roots and the blossoms failed to open properly!)

Can you add to this list? Hopefully not, but if you can, "what were you thinking?!! Send me your "What was I thinking?" experiences and I will add them to this list for an article in the AVM.

Barbara Pershing
barbara.pershing@uni.edu



HOW I GOT INTO AFRICAN VIOLETS by Randy G Deutsch

It all started out innocently enough (laughing), but then again don't all of these stories start out that way. Ah, my story is just the same as all the rest of them: innocence, then zapped by the disease!!!

A few years after my wife, Carla, and I were married, she was working as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at the local hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where we still currently live. Well, the sad news is that her patient didn't survive and unfortunately passed away. This particular patient had a large amount of flowers and plants and the family decided to give each of the nurses that had taken care of their family member a bouquet or plant to take home as a way of saying thanks and a very nice remembrance of their experiences together.

Well, Carla brought this very nice plain green African violet home that had white double blossoms and purple edges. It was a standard and grew very easily without much attention. She just kept it watered and I remember that it just bloomed and bloomed.

This is how things went for about six months until one day I happened to walk by the plant as it was sitting in some direct sunlight. I picked it up and noticed how the blossoms 'sparkled' in the bright light. ZAP!!! BAM!!! BITTEN!!!

The sad thing about this disease is that one doesn't even know it until it is way too late to treat the symptoms! Well, I just started taking notice of this little plant more and more and my interest in it took over with the watering and turning it in the light, etc.

This is where the story takes the turn you all know is coming. They sell these plants just about everywhere!!! The greenhouse down the road put a sign on the billboard that if I bought a violet they would sell me another one for just a penny. Do you want to guess how many I bought there? And yes, in those days I found them everywhere I went. K-Mart had them, right at the front door (I still grow K-Pink, as I named that first one from there). All the grocery stores love to tease you with them. And then I found them in all of the building supply stores. THEY WERE EVERYWHERE!

What happened is that everyone knew I had an addiction except for me. They were all helping me support my habit, which I didn't even know I had yet. And I swear, nobody sells just one African violet. Did you notice that they only come by twos, or sixes, or even by the dozens!

Well, my shelf started to multiply, four became eight, eight to sixteen, sixteen to thirty-two, you know the math. I went out and bought some white wire closet racking and huge two lights fixtures in a bedroom. I learned you could propagate these little suckers, and the leaves, and the flower stems. WOW, these things really multiply. At this point I really began to wonder, do other people have this disease as bad as I do? He he he.

One day my wife called me and said she saw a light stand in the shoppers news and wondered if I might be interested in it. Can you believe it, she picked it up for only \$50. That turned out to be the most expensive \$50 dollar rack I ever saw. On and on things went until I was growing well over one hundred plants.

Then I noticed an ad in the paper that the local violet club was selling plants as a fund raiser. So down I went and purchased more! They also advertised that they were going to have a program at the local garden show for the public. So I went to that to learn how to grow 'even more plants'. Well I made the mistake of raising my hand and asking a question. That singled me out. One of the club members made sure to put a brochure in my hand about the club, and it had a phone number on it. So I called the number and was given information about the time and place of local meetings.

I was invited to their next meeting and had a great time. It felt so good to meet others that were doing the same thing as I was. What a great relief to find other people that spoke my language and were interested to the same degree as I was in this wonderful plant.

The next major step for me came when I was on a business trip to Houston, and noticed that they were having a national convention of the African Violet Society. So I went to see it. Of course, one look at that great showroom really set the hook. I joined AVSA and started to get the magazine. I also learned that you could order these plants from commercial growers all over the country. Wow, more violets! *(to be continued)*

(Editor's Note: Randy's story will be continued in the next issue. Be sure to renew your membership so you can know "the rest of the story". Will we get answers to such questions as "Does Randy have thrips?", "Will Randy's wife water his plants when he is traveling?", "Will Randy get the fingerprints off of his terrarium before the judge sees them?"

Do you have a story to tell? Write it up and send it to your editor.)



MVAVC TREASURY REPORT JUNE 2004		
REPORT PERIOD: 02/10/04-05/01/04		
CHECKING BALANCE: 02/10/04		\$4,230.53
RECEIPTS:		
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$ -	\$ -
		\$4,230.53
DISBURSEMENTS:		
NEWSLTR/MAR/JC	\$ 49.22	
TOTAL DISBURSMENTS:	\$ 49.22	\$ 49.22
BALANCE CHECKING: 05/01/04		\$4,181.31
CD North American Savings KC,Mo		\$2,886.69
TOTAL ASSETS ALL ACCOUNTS:		\$7,068.00
Treas. Nancy Amelung		

Council News is published four times a year (March, June, September and December). Deadlines:

- March: February 15
- June: May 15
- September: August 15
- December: November 15

Submit articles and activities to John Carter, Editor at the return address or email at johncarter@valornet.com or call 918-355-8020.

Newsletters are mailed to MVAVC members. Membership is \$15.00 for individuals and \$17.50 for family or affiliate memberships. Dues are payable by May 1st. Dues are half price after December 1st. Send Dues to Jeanne Cotten, 4402 East 105th Place, Tulsa, OK 74137, 918-299-6408.

Current Membership List (1996)

80 individual members, 15 family members, 17 affiliate members.

Your Officers

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Would you like to serve? Contact Ramona and let her know.

Missouri Valley African Violet Council
March 1996 - February 1997

MVAVC Spring meeting was held in Liberty at the Community Center on March 23; the hosting groups were the KC area clubs. Ralph Robinson presented the program. Esther Edwards Wells was issued a special citation in recognition for her continuing service for the AVSA and many clubs in the midwest. Fran Russom & Marilyn Evensen also received honorary one-year membership awards for the convention chairpersons for the St. Louis 1995 AVSA national convention. Pat Richards became the MVAVC newsletter editor.

ARE YOU SELLING PLANTS AT THE SPRING MEETING???

If you are selling plants, please let Gary Dunlap know so that we will have adequate tables available. Please review the rules for selling either at the council website or in the last newsletter.

2004 MEMBERSHIP DUES

2004 dues may be paid at the spring meeting or mailed to the membership chairperson, Jeanne Cotten, 4402 East 105th Place, Tulsa, OK 74137-6223. Remember, to participate in the fall show dues must be paid. If dues are not paid by September 1st, you will not receive the December newsletter. If you won Horticulture sweepstakes in your affiliate show you have won a paid membership. Let Jeanne know so you will not be dropped.

Individual membership is \$15.00, Family and affiliate membership is \$17.50.

ARE YOU ATTENDING THE SPRING MEETING?

Mid America AVS would appreciate knowing if you are attending so that they will have an idea about how much food to prepare so please give a call to Ruby Cox at 660-425-7218 or drop her a line at 1403 N. 25th St., Bethany, MO 64424 or email her at violady1@grm.net and let her know you will be attending.



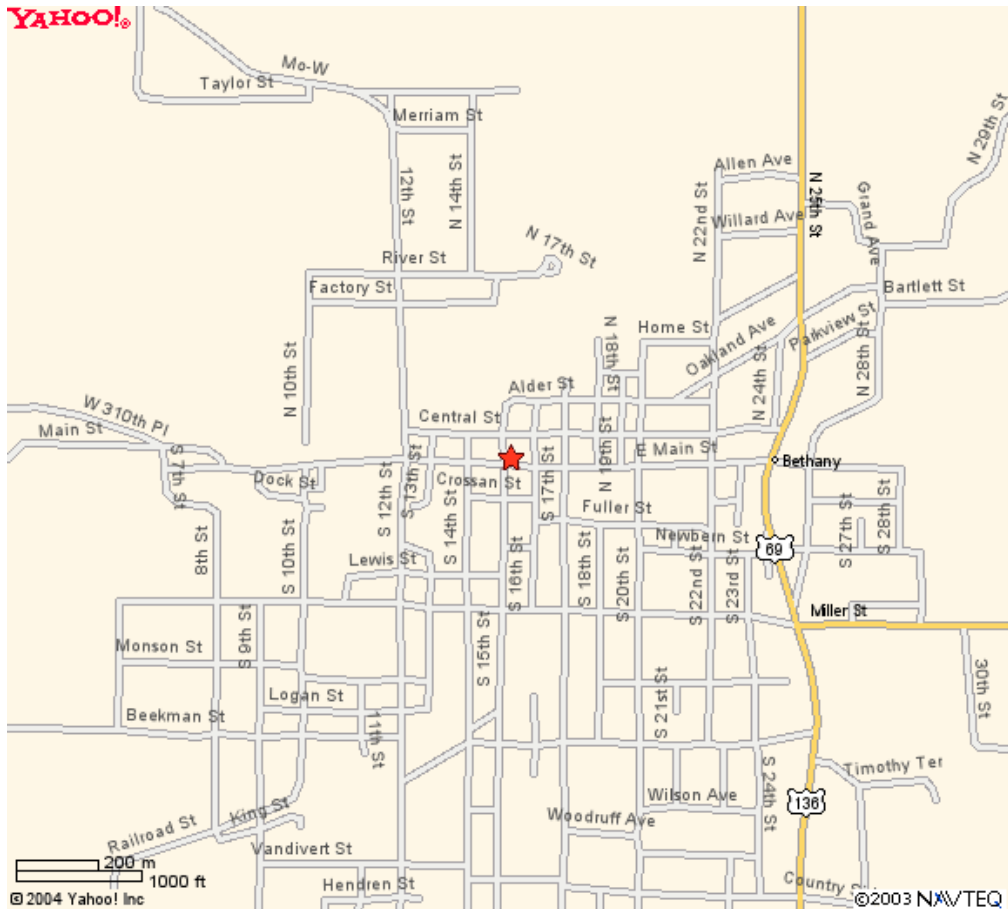
Missouri Valley African Violet Council

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*Time to Pay
Your Dues!*



Bethany is about 80 miles north of Liberty, (meeting location in 2002). Take the second exit to the left coming from the south. Go to Casey's Corner, turn right one block. The Community Center is next to the police station. There are a few parking spaces in front of the center; however, the vacant lot to the north of the building can be used for parking. Harrison County Community Center 1505 Main Street, Bethany, Mo. Lunch will be at 12:30 PM followed by the meeting and plant sale. Mid America AVS would appreciate knowing if you are attending so that they will have an idea about how much food to prepare. Please give a call to Ruby Cox at 660-425-7218 or drop her a line at 1403 N. 25th St., Bethany, MO 64424 or email her at violady1@grm.net and let her know you will be attending.