



Council News

Missouri Valley African
Violet Council

Volume 21, Issue 1
March 2005

Hello Again, Everyone --

Well, the holidays are long gone and now our attention should be on our plants as the spring shows are being scheduled. Greater Kansas City has already had their show on February 12-13 and they had lots of beautiful blossoms which always inspires you to go home and work on your plants. By the time this newsletter comes out Tulsa will also have had their show on February 27-28 and hopefully we will be able to post winners from this show before the newsletter is published.

The AVSA national convention in April is in Ft. Mitchell, KY but is being put on by the Cincinnati violet clubs. I have talked to several of our members who are attending this year and hopefully MVAVC will again make a good showing. Two of our members will be presenting workshops. Jeanne Cotton will be on a panel discussing the mechanics of design and she will talk about the tools she finds useful and carries in her tool case. Gary and Pat Dunlap will be presenting a workshop on propagation. I'm sure that all of us will find these workshops interesting and informative. Remember, you can always pick up tips.

About the question regarding sending the newsletter via e-mail, not enough people seemed interested to make it feasible, so for now that option will be shelved.

We will elect new officers at the spring meeting so don't forget to mark the date of June 12th on your calendar and make plans to attend the spring meeting in Lawrence, Kansas at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, 21st and Harper (2 blocks North of Hwy 10). Remember that this is your society and we need the participation of all the members.

The Lawrence club would like for those people attending the meeting to bring a salad or dessert and they will furnish everything else. Lawrence has hosted the spring meeting at this facility once before and we all had a great time, so we're looking forward to this meeting.

As this might be my last newsletter, depending on when the June issue is published, I will take this opportunity to thank my slate of officers. I could not have functioned without them and I hope that you feel as I do that they have done a wonderful job. Please give your whole hearted support to the new officers and let's keep MVAVC a great organization. Thank you again for the privilege of being your president.

Mona

The new password to access the newsletter from the internet will be "yogart".

Inside this issue:

President Speaks	1
Show Results	2
Upcoming Events	3
Receipt	4
Star is Born	4
Violets Won't Bloom	5
Trailers - Grow/Show	6
Financial Report	7
History	multiple

**Spring Meeting
June 12th
Lawrence, Kansas**



Mid America AVSA Show Nov. 6-7, 2004 "Renaissance in Violets"

Horticulture Division

Best in Horticulture, Best Miniature, Best Novice:
Lynn Canning with "*Orchards Bumble Magnet*"

2nd Best in Horticulture, Best Standard, Best Club Pro-
ject Plant: Lynn Canning with "*Ma's Silk Flower*"

Best Semiminiature: Lynn Canning with "*Rob's Ca-
lypso Beat*"

Best Trailer: Sue Hill with "*Pink Star Lou*"

Best Other Gesneriad: Sue Hill with *Streptocarpus*
"*Bristol's Jumpin Jack*"

Best Vintage Violet: Sue Hill with "*Maas' Mark*"

Best Unusual Container: Sue Hill with "*Optimara*
Colorado"

Most Best in Class: Sue Hill with 9 BIC

Sweepstakes in Horticulture" Sue Hill with 21 Blue
Ribbons

Runner up in Sweepstakes in Horticulture: Doris
Brown with 11 blues

Best Standard Collection: Lynn Canning with
"*Harbor Blue*", "*Picasso*", "*Favorite Child*"

Best Miniature or Semiminiature AVSA Collection:
Pat Inbody with "*Rob's Cotton Ball*", "*Rob's Fuddy*
Duddy", "*Irish Flirt*"

2nd Best Miniature or Semiminiature AVSA Collec-
tion: Fred Inbody with "*Rob's Loose Noodle*", "*Rob's*
Twinkle Pink", "*Orchard's Bumble Magnet*"

Design Division

Best in Design: Dona Stilwell with "*Castles and*
Moats"

2nd Best in Design: Dona Stilwell with "*The Jester*"

Sweepstakes in Design: Raymond Russell with 3 blue
ribbons

Where are the results from your show?

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa February 26 - 27, 2005 Tulsa, OK "Violets - The Bride of Flowers"

Best in Show, Best Variegated African Violet, Best
Semi-Miniature African Violet: *Sassy Shirley*
Won by Judy Carter

Second Best in Show, Best Green Foliage African Vio-
let, Best African Violet Trailer: *Milky Way Trail*
Won by Judy Carter

Best Standard AV: *Gauteng Lizzy*
Won by Edna McCawley

Best Miniature AV: *Rob's Rinky Dink*
Won by Judy Carter

Best Unusual Container: *Rebel's Splatter Kake*
Won by Fern Hildinger

Best Project Plant: *Persian Prince*
Won by Rose Howlett

Best Streptocarpus, Best Other Gesneriad: *Streptocar-*
pus 'Janus' Won by Judy Carter

Best Episcia: *'Brown Flari'* Won by Pat Sutton

Best Columnea: *'Aladdin's Lamp'*
Won by Edna McCawley

Best Sinningia: *'Carefree's Regina'*
Won by David Harris

Gold Award for AVSA Standard Collection:
Silent Prayer, Stolen Dream, Gauteng Lizzy
Won by Edna McCawley

Gold Award for AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection:
Rob's Love Bite, Rob's Squeeze Toy, Rob's Rinky Dink
Won by Judy Carter

Best Design in Show: "*Love in Bloom*"
Won by Pat Sutton

Second Best Design in Show: "*Wedding Reception*"
Won by Phyllis Enos

Horticulture Sweepstakes (20 blues): Fern Hildinger

Runner-Up to Horticulture Sweepstakes (19 blues):
Judy Carter

Design Sweepstakes (5 blues): Jeanne Cotten

Runner-Up, Design Sweepstakes (4 blues): Pat Sutton



Upcoming Events

April 1-2, 2005

QCAVS Annual Show and Sale
“Hats Off to Violets”
Northpark Mall, 320 W Kimberly RD
Davenport, IA
April 1 - 10am - 9 pm
April 2 - 10 am - 7pm
LuAnn Christenson *xenson@kituse.com*
(563) 355-0726

April 2-3, 2005

Lincoln African Violet Society Exhibition & Sale
Howard Johnson Motel, 5250 Cornhusker Way,
Lincoln, NE
10 AM - 6 PM Saturday, Noon - 4 PM Sunday
Joyce Stork *kents@tvsonline.net* or 402-721-1478

April 2-3, 2005

Sho-Me AVC Plant Show
Loose Park Garden Center, Kansas City, MO
April 2 - 10am - 3 pm
April 3 - 10am - 2 pm
Dick & Shirley Farris
dickrich2001@yahoo.com

April 8-9, 2005

Omaha African Violet Society Spring Show &
Sale: “Violets Go Hollywood”
Nebraska Flower, Plant & Landscaping Show,
Quest Convention Center 455 N 10th, Omaha, NE
Friday, 1 PM - 9 PM Saturday 10 AM - 9 PM
Sunday 11 AM - 4PM
Joyce Stork *kents@tvsonline.net* or 402-721-1478

April 17-24, 2005

National Convention - Cincinnati, OH

April 29th - May 1st, 2005

The Evening African Violet Show/Sale
Merle Hay Mall Des Moines, Iowa
Friday-April 29, 2005 12 p.m. - 9 p. m.
Saturday-April 30, 2005 9 a.m. - 5 p. m.
Sunday-May 1, 2005 12 p.m. - 4 p. m.
Info-Joan Watts 641-377-2656
jojewels@netins.net

April 30 - May 1, 2005

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council Show/sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd. St. Louis, MO
Both Days 9 am - 5 pm
Pat Dunlap (636) 789-3604

May 14-15, 2005

The Unpredictable’s African Violet Society
of Blue Springs, Mo will have their
22nd annual Show and Sale at
Loose Park Garden Center,
5200 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, MO.
Open to the public 10 am - 3 pm on the 14th
and 10 am - 2 pm on the 15th.
Info: Fred & Pat Inbody, 816-373-6915
email: kskd1@juno.com

Oct. 14-16, 2005

MVAVC Show - Tulsa, OK

(Ed. - I had to copy some of these events from the African Violet Magazine. I know there are other clubs having shows, but I did not receive the notices. This newsletter is another great way to get your news out there.)

Be sure to send in your events! It pays to advertise!

Did You Know? (1999)

The MVAVC had two members holding positions on the AVSA Board of Directors: Barb Pershing & Helen Blanton. We had a new AVSA Commercial Sales and Exhibits Chairperson, Pat Richards, and a new Show Schedule Approver for the AVSA, Patricia Sutton.

Did You Know? (1999)

David Buttram was presented a Continuing Service Award for his AVSA magazine commercial article named ‘...A Closer Look’. Esther Edwards Wells was honored with a honorary Lifetime Membership Award. John Carter received a one year Membership Award for Technical Support.



PESTO TORTA ("Beyond Parsley" cook book)

Two 8-ounce packages cream cheese, room temperature
1 pound unsalted butter, room temperature

Pesto Sauce

- 1/4 cup pine nuts
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 cup fresh spinach, tightly packed
- 1 cup fresh basil, tightly packed
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt or less
- 1/2 cup best-quality olive oil
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 tablespoons butter, room temperature

Beat cream cheese and butter until blended smoothly.

To make Pesto Sauce, roast pine nuts for 10 minutes at 325 degrees. (Watch carefully to prevent burning.) In a food processor with steel blade, puree nuts, garlic, spinach, basil, parsley and salt. Add olive oil and blend. Add cheese and butter and pulse briefly. Do not over blend.

Cut an 18-inch square of cheesecloth; moisten with water, wring dry and smoothly line a 6-cup plain or charlotte mold (or a clean flowerpot!) with the cheesecloth; drape excess over rim of mold. With a rubber spatula, make an even layer with one-sixth of the cheese in the bottom of the mold. Cover with one-fifth of the pesto sauce, extending it evenly to the sides of the mold. Repeat until mold is filled, finishing with cheese. Fold ends of cheesecloth over torta and press lightly to compact. Chill several hours or overnight. Invert onto a serving dish and gently pull out of mold. Remove cheesecloth. Present torta with crackers. To store: Remove cheesecloth, wrap air-tight with plastic wrap and refrigerate up to 5 days. Can be frozen.

(Marcie's note: Walnuts work in place of pine nuts and salted butter works too. I often just layer this into a clear 4-inch square vase/votive holder, very lovely and very easy which uses about half of this recipe. This makes a lot! Freezes well. Bon Appetite My Missouri Valley Friends!)

SHOW REPORT (1999)

Henry VIII Hotel and Conference center in St. Louis was where the MVAVC 15th annual show and sale was held on October 29-31. Hosting club Metropolitan St. Louis AVC. The Show Co-chairpersons were Helen Blanton and Nancy Amelung with a show theme "The Glamour of Violets". Awards Chairperson was Linda Golubski. The show won the Blue Standard Show Achievement Award with over 300 entries.

'Special Note' - shortly after the show the hotel was torn down to expand the airport.

- Best African Violet in show: *Optimara Manitoba* By: Mary Ann Switzer
- Sweepstakes in Horticulture: Gary Dunlap - 61 Blue
- Best in Design: Fran Russom
- Design Sweepstakes: Fran Russom 8 Blues



AVSGT 2005 - Best Design - Pat Sutton

SPRING MEETING PROGRAM - A STAR IS BORN!!!

If you attended the 2004 Fall Show in Sioux Falls you will remember that the theme was centered around 'Lewis and Clark'. A unique winners table was actually staged inside a canoe provided and designed by show co-chair Terri Post and her husband. OWL TV is a public television network in Sioux Falls so we made arrangements for them to come to the show and record a 20 minute program about it. But we needed a host/hostess? Well what we found was a 'star'! So please come to the spring meeting. If you were at the fall show you won't want to miss this very nicely done video to remember your trip. If you were not at the show you won't want to miss this opportunity to see what a great show we put on. HHMMM, who is our new star???

Missouri Valley African Violet Council
March 1999 - February 2000

Tulsa, OK was the home of MVAVC Spring meeting at the Tulsa Garden Center on May 13, 1999 sponsored by A.V.S. of Greater Tulsa. The program was an auction. The board recommended that the Spring 2000 MVAVC meeting to be a 'Celebratory Brunch' on Sunday, June 18th before everyone went home from the AVSA convention. Majority voted to accept the recommendation.



There are Many Reasons Why A Violet Won't Bloom

By Mary Walbrick of Wichita Falls, TX

Reprinted from the *Lone Star African Violet Council Newsletter*

1. Needs more or less light. Not all violets require the same amount of light. Plants with reaching leaves probably need more light. Plants that hug the pot may be getting too much light. Change locations. Protect it from direct sunlight with a sheer curtain. Rule of thumb: Standards are placed 12 inches below light tubes and mini's grow well at 6-8 inches below the tubes.
2. Needs a cooler room. Violets enjoy the same temperature ranges as people. To conserve energy, a light misting will lower the temperature.
3. Needs fresh soil. Repotting every 6 months and miniatures/semiminiatures every two to three months is beneficial to the health of your violets. This eliminates salt buildup and corrects pH problems.
4. Needs a change in fertilizer. Select a fertilizer with a high number in the middle to boost blooming. Avoid fertilizer with urea.
5. Needs less fertilizer. Too much promotes leaf growth at the expense of flowers. Use the constant feed method which calls for 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water at each watering. (Some fertilizers may require less than 1/4 teaspoon.)
6. Needs less water. The soil should be kept damp – not soggy. When the pot seems light when lifted, it is probably time to water. Water when needed, not when it is convenient. Also check water quality.
7. Needs good air circulation. Keep away from an open window, door and the breeze of a fan directed on the plant.
8. Too many crowns. "Suckers" which develop in crowns will compete for space, food and moisture. Grow one crown to a pot, except for trailers.
9. Needs consistent care. Give your plant attention by turning it every few days, removing spent blooms, dusting with a soft brush and occasionally washing the leaves.
10. If the above fails try another variety which is known as a good bloomer. Not all violets are equal.

15 Year Current Membership Update (1999)

1985- 56 members	1992- 75 members
1986- 73 members	1993- 97 members
1987- 87 members	1994- 104 members
1988- 96 members	1995- 104 members
1989- No Report	1996- 112 members
1990- 87 members	1997- 104 members
1991- 85 members	1998- 123 members
1999- 99 members	

15 YEAR SHOW UPDATE

Kent Stork is the one to beat. Kent is up to now 10 out of 15 years having Best in Show and 6 out of 15 earning Sweepstakes in Horticulture. In the Design Division, Jeanne Cotton has 5 years of Best in Design. Ethel Campbell has 3 years in Sweepstakes in Design and several members have 2 years of Sweepstakes in Design.

Did You Know? (1999)

This year at the Houston AVSA Convention Fran Russom won Best & 2nd Best in designs, Pat Richards won 3rd Best in Show with 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet' and Best Trailer and Best Other Gesneriad with Strep. 'Lavender Rosette'. Linda Golubski had Best Species with 'S. velutina' and 3rd Best 'Holtcamp' Collection. Barb Pershing showed Best Vintage Violet with 'White Madonna'. In the Commercial Division David Harris won Best Other Gesneriad with Strep. 'Thunder Blue'. Kent Stork won 2nd Best Commercial Table and 3rd Best New Introduction with 'Floozie'. Shannon Ahlman won 3rd Best Commercial Table. (And John and Judy Carter were busy on the convention committees.)

Did You Know? (1999)

Metropolitan St. Louis AVC received the 'Tinari Award' for most new AVSA memberships for a club.

Did You Know? (1999)

In the *African Violet Magazine* there was an article in '...A Closer Look' on The Violet Showroom and Dave's Violets. There were also two articles this year on watering: David Harris 'A Modern Irrigation System at Dave's Violets' and Barb Pershing had one on 'Demand Watering'.



GROWING AND SHOWING AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS

By Ardeth Miller

(Reprinted from the MVAVC Newsletter, September 1996)

African Violet trailers have the same size range as single crown plants. They are available in micro-miniature, miniature, semi-miniature and standard sizes. AVSA rules require trailers to have a minimum of three crowns growing from a central stem in order to be considered for a blue ribbon.

Trailers are easily propagated either from leaves or stem cuttings. Starter plants should be watched for development of new crowns. These appear the same as suckers on standard type plants. Some cultivars branch out without pinching. However, most trailers will need pinching to force development of new crowns. To do this, simply remove the two or three smallest leaves of the growth tip. This can be done with fingertips. I find it easier and safer to use small, pointed scissors. Embroidery or manicure scissors work well. Pinching will force the growth of new crowns at lower axils and at least two crowns will replace the growing tip that was removed. As new crowns attain a size between 1/8 and 1/4 inch, remove the large leaf where it was produced. Use scissors! This step accelerates the growth rate of new crowns and avoids a ragged appearance as the plant develops. As each new crown attains about two inches of growth, pinch each one again.

Once the plant reaches maturity, occasional pinching will be required over the lifetime of the plant. Most of the micro-miniatures do not require pinching as they branch out well on their own. It is said that trailers will sometimes throw out a crown with larger leaves than others on the plant. If this happens, remove the entire crown with off size leaves.

Trailers require good light. Place tops of starter plants seven or eight inches below lights. As the plant grows taller, lower the plant to maintain at least that distance. It is thought by many that older varieties require less light once established and should be grown in natural light to avoid bleaching of foliage. I grow my plants under fixtures with one cool white and one Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tube. They are on 12 hours a day. All my plants are grown in rooms that also have good natural light.

Soil requirements are the same as for standard type violets. It should be a loose, porous mix. My soil mix is a basic 1-1-1 mix (Ed. Note: sphagnum peat moss, perlite, vermiculite) with dolomite lime and horticultural charcoal added.

Trailers need a bit more fertilizer once the plant is established. I constant feed using 1/4 tsp. of a high phosphorous fertilizer plus 1/8 tsp. of a higher nitrogen fertilizer such as Rapid-Gro (23-19-7) per gallon of water. The exception to the stronger mixture is to be found with the micro-minis. Using the increased nitrogen with them increases their leaf size, destroying their charm.

Disbudding trailers works for me. It helps to bring on a mass of bloom when you want it and also encourages the formation of new crowns. If you wish to enter your trailer in a show, disbud the last time six to eight weeks before SHOW TIME. Time varies depending on the variety and growing conditions. Do the last pinching 3 and 1/2 to 4 months before the show.

AVSA rules require trailers to have a minimum of three main crowns growing from a main stem to be considered for a blue ribbon. Crowns must be distributed evenly in order to have good form. Semi trailing varieties have a more bushy growth habit and do not trail over the side of the pot as the trailing varieties do. Condition is another consideration when trailers are judged. There should be no yellow, spotted or damaged leaves, bare stems or spent blossoms. The plant must be clean. There are no size restrictions regarding pot size. Minis and semis may eventually need the same size pots as standards; however, the pot should be in proportion to the plant. The quantity of bloom should be in proportion to the plant size. However, consideration must be given to the number of blooms produced on the stem to help determine the number which can be expected. Blossoms should be spaced evenly from at least three main crowns. Size, type and color of blossom are judged according to the variety.

Older trailers will eventually become leggy and develop hard stems. This is a good time to take cuttings for propagation of new plants. I root cuttings in my regular mix, first removing four leaves from the lower stem which goes into the soil. Water and treat as you do for leaf cuttings.

After reading "The Japanese Technique for Growing African Violet Trailers" in the January/February, 1988 issue of the *African Violet Magazine* I knew I would try this method. This technique was adapted to my growing environment and materials available to me. I began by transplanting an established starter plant into a five-inch pan pot that has one inch of perlite in the bottom. First watering was done from the top. Thereafter, the plant was watered from the saucer using Texas Style growing. After the initial watering evenly distribute the crowns in the pot. Remove the lower leaves on each crown that will be on the soil side and pin the crowns down to keep them in constant contact with the soil. Roots will soon begin to form along the stems. Pins should be removed in about 6 weeks. Try to use pins of a color easy to spot at removal time. A center crown or crowns should be left unpinned to grow upward. Care of the plant is the same as for other trailers except that crowns must continue to be pinned down as they grow.

(continued on next page)



MVAVC TREASURY REPORT MARCH 2005	
REPORT PERIOD: 11/16/04-02/15/05	
CHECKING BALANCE: 11/16/04	\$ 5,577.28
RECEIPTS:	
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$ -
	\$ 5,577.28
DISBURSEMENTS:	
NEWSLTR/DEC/JC	\$ 50.53
TOTAL DISBRSMNTS:	\$ 50.53
BALANCE CHECKING: 02/15/05	\$ 5,526.75
CD North American Savings KC,Mo	
reported Sept.'04 balance	\$ 2,914.65
interest July-Sept. '04	\$ 13.84
corrected Dec. '04 balance	\$ 2,928.49
Total CD	\$ 2,928.49
TOTAL ASSETS ALL ACCOUNTS:	\$ 8,455.24
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.

Empty Space
Why?

Your Officers

President
 Ramona Donnell
 PO Box 959
 Carl Junction, MO 64834
 Rjmd1@mchsi.com
 417-649-7429

1st Vice President
 Jeanne Cotten
 4402 East 105th Place
 Tulsa, OK 74137
 Designlady526@cox.net
 918-299-6408

2nd Vice President
 Randy Deutsch
 2305 E. 19th Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103
 RCJSCH@prodigy.net
 605-338-8846
 605-321-0717 cell

Secretary
 Barbara Pershing
 8134 Buckridge
 Cedar Falls, IA 50613
 barbara.pershing@uni.edu
 319-987-2235

Treasurer
 Nancy Amelung
 9708 Greenwood Terrace
 Rock Hill, MO 63119
 Nannergram@aol.com
 314-961-7142

Historian
 David Harris
 1372 S Kentwood St
 Springfield, MO 65804
 Plantman@ipa.net
 417-887-8904

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

(continued from previous page)

The plant will need to be repotted when the crowns are trailing a few inches over the side of the pan pot. The next container will be a plant saucer. Try to obtain a saucer eleven to twelve inches in diameter and as deep as possible. Burn several holes in the saucer bottom. A heated ice pick works well. BE SURE TO HAVE GOOD VENTILATION WHERE THIS IS DONE. Again use a layer of perlite in the bottom of the saucer. Repeat the previous potting steps and continue pinching and pinning of crowns.

In my opinion, plants with good trailing habits lend themselves better to this method than those producing bushy growth. Bush types do well but require less pinching as fewer crowns can be allowed because they tend to grow upward. Enough space must be allowed for each crown to develop without crowding each other. "Rob's Sticky Wicket" is the variety that has performed best for me.

The trailers I am seriously working with for the show are kept disbudded for many months and becomes a tedious task in the last months before show. Final disbudding occurs about seven weeks before show. I water with bloom booster fertilizer twice, once at ten weeks and again eight weeks before the show. My general timing is quite like Pauline Bartholomew's schedule. I place my large trailer growing in a twelve-inch plant saucer on a Rubbermaid turntable. It is placed on the center shelf and is watered by pouring fertilized water onto the turntable. With numerous holes in the saucer, the solution is drawn up quickly. I give the turntable a quarter turn each time I water.

African violet trailers are fun to grow. If you haven't grown them before. I hope you will give them a try.

Editors Note: I have been doing entries for several shows a year and I see fewer trailers every year. Standard trailers are seldom seen. These are beautiful violets and should be grown and shown. AVSGT has selected *Ellie Gardner* as their 2006 project plant. I hope this will encourage others to bring back the standard trailer.