



Council News

Missouri Valley African
Violet Council

Volume 20, Issue 3
September 2004

The President Speaks

It was great to see so many people at the spring meeting! I believe that there were 39 people present, if I counted correctly. It is always good to be able to see our "violet friends" who live in other parts of the council area. We had 6 people selling some very nice violets and gesneriads.

I would like to thank Ruby Cox and the people of Mid-America club for the meeting facility and great food. There are some fine cooks in that club and they all out did themselves.

The Fall Convention is fast approaching and I hope that you will make plans to attend and participate. Sioux Falls will be a good distance for some of us but I can guarantee you that you won't be disappointed if you attend. Be sure to get your registration in early.

We are offering a judging school again this year, so if you need to renew your judges' certificate now would be a good time. Randy Deutsch will have more information on the school, so be sure to check for it..

By the way, Randy tells me that the hotel still has the buffet with the great prime rib. Those of us who ate there before are looking forward to it again and the rest of you need to try it.

Be sure and check out Randy's articles pertaining to the show. The Sioux Falls club has been working hard to make sure that the convention will be one to be remembered. They have also been working on doing designs and novice classes in design have been written into the schedule to encourage new designers.

We have several new members and we want to welcome them. We hope that they will enjoy the council as much as we do!

Election of new officers is coming soon and I hope that all of you will help the Nominating Committee in every way possible. The council is no better than its members and personally I think that we have a great group of people, so therefore the council is great. I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing me the honor of being the council president. I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Spring Meeting 2005: Lawrence AVC has issued an invitation for the 2005 spring meeting and we gladly accept. It will be held at the 4-H Fair Grounds on Harper Street in Lawrence, KS, on June 12, 2005. Additional information will be announced closer to the date. As some of you will remember, Lawrence has hosted the spring meeting in this facility once before and we had a really good time — we look forward to another fun meeting.

Fall Show 2005: AVS of Greater Tulsa has issued us an invitation for the 2005 fall show. The show will be held on October 10-12, 2005 at the Sheraton Hotel. People, I kid you not, you don't want to miss this convention! The hotel is VERY nice and is working with us so that we can have an outstanding show. Now the rest is up to each of you to make plans to attend and show. The hotel is set up so that the public will have easy access to the show and the people of Tulsa appreciate a good violet show and sale. We will need to have 30 sleeping rooms total to take advantage of some of the better pricing, so please come and stay at the hotel. Be sure to mark your calendar for this date so that you can head off any conflicting dates.

It is a little early to be telling you all the good stuff about the show and hotel, so I will let this be a teaser. One more thing before I leave this subject—Doris had bread pudding and mocha coffee in the hotel restaurant and was practically purring, so I guess it was really good.

See you in Sioux Falls,
Mona

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*“Violets Along the Lewis and Clark Trail”
September 11th & 12th, 2004
The Oaks Hotel, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*



The Winners Are ...

Evening AVC of Des Moines, IA—May 10, 2004

- Best in Show & Best Semiminiature: *Winnergreen*
shown by Dave Taylor
- Best AVSA Collection: *Rob's Mad Cat, Winnergreen, Rob's Dust Storm* shown by Dave Taylor
- Second Best in Show & Best Trailer: *Chanta Spring*
shown by Joan Watts
- Best Standard: *Ness' Blueberry Puff* shown by Joan Watts
- Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus "Sweet Dreams"*
shown by Joan Watts
- Horticulture Sweepstakes—Joan Watts
- Best Interpretive Flower Design—Ken Wilkinson
- Best Interpretive Plant Design—Ken Wilkinson
- Design Sweepstakes—Ken Wilkinson

Heart Of Missouri AVS, Columbia, MO—May 8, 2004

- Best AVSA Standard Collection:** Janet Jackson
Muffy, Designer Dress, Cinnamon Candy
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection and Best Collection:** Peggy Payne
Rob's Moonbeam, Winnergreen, Ness' Crinkle Blue
- Best African Violet & Best Semiminiature:** Peggy Payne
Rob's Crinkle Blue
- Best Miniature:** Peggy Payne *Rob's Smarty Pants*
- Best Trailer:** Alberta Shaw *Summer Wind*
- Second Best African Violet & Best Species:** Catherine Ross
Saintpaulia 'ionantha'
- Best Gesneriad:** Dorothy Anderson *Streptocarpus Bristol's Party Dress*
- Second Best Gesneriad:** Jean Warren *Aeschynanthus 'radicans'*
- Best Design:** Dorothy Anderson *Winter in New England,*
Interpretive plant design
- Second Best Design:** Dorothy Anderson *Pike's Peak,*
covered terrarium.

SHOW REPORT (1997)

November 1-2 was the date of 13th Annual MVAVC Show and Sale at the Clarion Hotel Airport in Wichita, Kansas. The show received the blue Standard Show Achievement Award; the hosting club was Wichita AV Study Club. Bev Promersberger taught judging school and also give a seminar on "Growing Trailing African Violets" on Saturday. Fran Russom also gave a seminar on "Designs". Show Chairpersons were Beth Reisman & Helen Barrett; Awards Chairperson was Ramona Donnell. The show theme was "Picture Perfect Violets". MVAVC voted to host the AVSA 2000 Convention in Omaha, Nebraska at the Holiday Inn.

- Best African Violet in Show: *Bertha* By: Shannon Ahlman
- Sweepstakes in Horticulture: Kent Stork
- Best in Design: Peggy Walsh
- Sweepstakes in Design: Mary Ann Bjorgard

Membership Report

Please join me in welcoming new members Charles and Pam Auman, Richard and Shirley Faris, Brad Carnes, Nick McInerney and Dale Martens to MVAVC. For those who have not paid their 2004/2005 dues, this is your last issue of the newsletter. Your name will not be on the new membership coming out at the Fall meeting. **Please send your dues in NOW!**

Jeanne Cotton

Design Entries

Please let me know by Sept. 3rd of your choices for the Design Classes that you wish to enter. Email designlady526@cs.com or call (918) 299-6408 or write 4402 East 105th Place, Tulsa, OK 74137.

Jeanne Cotton

Bylaws Change to be Voted Upon in Sioux Falls

The MVAVC Board has recommended the following changes to our bylaws:

- 1: Delete Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph F which describes the duties of the Historian as an elected officer.
- 2: Change Article IV, Section 2 to read: "The Executive Board will consist of the elected officers, the Show Chairman, the Newsletter Editor, the Historian, the Webmaster and the Immediate Past President. The Parliamentarian will be a non-voting member of the Executive Board. The Executive Board will meet as deemed necessary and will have the right to order bills paid."

These updates will be voted on at the Fall meeting in Sioux Falls.

Upcoming Events

- September 11-12:** MVAVC Fall show and Sale, Sioux Falls, SD
- Saturday October 2:** African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa Fall Plant Sale, Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria 9 am - 3 pm.

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



Two Bests In Show?

Members of the Ohio State AVS are on a mission to change the AVSA Growers and Judges Handbook! They are proposing that there be two Bests in Show in Horticulture, separating the award for best African violet into two awards: Best in Show Standard African Violets (including trailers), and Best in Show Small African Violets (including all miniature and semiminiature single crown cultivars and trailers). Why?

The question arose when an Ohio grower won best in show with a semiminiature that she had just stripped back because it was over-size. She was horrified that it had been selected to top the awards table because she did not feel it was right for such a plant to win. She raised the question to the group and the suggestion to request a change came from their discussion.

Part of the logic is that there is already more than one best in show in horticulture. The current system recognizes the best African violet and the best other gesneriad. These do not compete against each other in Horticulture. If the proposal were accepted the Best Other Gesneriad would continue to be awarded without change.

The reason behind the proposal is related to the differences in rules and methods between standards and miniatures. A top standard-size plant will reflect many months of excellent culture in order to have so many rows of leaves in perfect condition. Small plants often must be trimmed back in order to conform to the size limitations, resulting in fewer rows of leaves which may be a only a few months old. No solution has ever been adopted that would equalize the disparity of the age of the leaves. They argue that it is an ‘apples and oranges’ comparison and the two should never be compared. Instead the proposed two awards should be considered equal in glory for the exhibitors. It can further be argued that there was a precedent set when the AVSA collections were divided into standards and the smaller violets.

Those who favor the current system say that the public wants to know what is the best overall and the change would be disappointing. The differences between small violets and standards are not nearly as great as comparing violets to other gesneriads. Further, the division in the AVSA collection classes has stimulated a desire for more divisions (e.g. for species) and that soon there are going to be too many classes and too many different awards. One last argument: the design division also chooses a best in show and there is a much greater difference in exhibits that are being compared there.

Not surprisingly, one of the strongest advocates is an individual who feels that her standard plants have been overlooked in favor of smaller and younger plants. An argument that she puts forward is that the public is actually dissatisfied when they are told that a tiny plant is the best violet in the show. It is possible that some will view the discussion as a continuing battle between the growers who win shows with miniature or semiminiature plants and those who favor only standards for Best in Show.

The proposal is coming now because a new handbook is likely to be developed in the next year or so. Any big changes need to be discussed by the committee now because decisions are best made before the book is released.

So how do you feel? If you or your group has strong feelings, one way or the other, contact Bill Foster, AVSA Shows and Judges Chairman, and tell him what you think. He can be reached by email at bpfoster@airmail.net or by mail at 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite TX 75150-2121.

Contributed by Joyce Stork

Missouri Valley African Violet Council
March 1997 - February 1998

Lawrence, Kansas was the place of the MVAVC Spring meeting on April 12 at the Douglas Country fairground building 21. Lunch buffet was served by the Lawrence and KC Violet clubs. Dr. Jeff Smith was the featured speaker; the topic was “Saintpaulia Species and Hybridizing” with a slide program. Pat Richards is now the 5th MVAVC president, Mary Ann Switzer and Pat Sutton were Nominated to the Board of Directors for AVSA.

Did You Know? (1997)

At the AVSA Convention at St. Pete’s Beach in Florida Pat Richards won “Best in Show” with “Ness’ Crinkle Blue”. Linda Golubski had Best Species with “S. Velutina.” Kent’s Flowers won 3rd Best introduction with “Run for Cover” and 2nd “Best Commercial table”.

Did You Know? (1997)

Esther Edwards Wells was sworn in as the AVSA President. Sue Hill won the “Hudson Memorial Award” for affiliate leadership. Gary Dunlap also won “Best in Show” at the 1997 AGGS Convention with Chrysothemis pulchella.



MVAVC SPRING GENERAL MEETING

June 6, 2004

Community Center, Bethany MO

The MVAVC Business Meeting was called to order by President Ramona Donnell at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

The Treasurer's report for May 31, 2004 was approved.

Checking Account Balance of 5/31/04	\$4181.31
North American Savings, KC, Mo	\$2902.22
Total Assets all Accounts 5/1/04	\$7083.53

Treasurer, Nancy Amelung presented the Proposed General Budget for 2005. It was approved.

Membership: Jeanne Cotton reminded people that memberships were due for 2004-2005 and that unpaid members will be dropped from the roster as of the fall meeting. Individual membership is \$15 and Family memberships are \$17.50.

Historian: David Harris requested pictures and information for the historian notebook.

Show Report: Randy Deutsch reported to Mona that the Fall show is going along well. He has two people to take the judging test. We will have a judging school at the Fall meeting. There will be an auction at the Saturday night banquet and donations are needed.

An envelope was passed for individuals to contribute award money for the Fall show.

New Business:

Mona announced that Jimmy Toney was appointed as Webmaster.

Ramona brought to the Board that we add the position of Webmaster as an appointed position, the same as the Newsletter Editor position, and add this person as a board member. This will require a change to Article IV, Sections 1 & 2 of the by-laws.

Therefore, the board recommends to the membership that Article IV Section 1 be changed to remove the Historian as an elected officer (Sec. 1-F) and that Article IV Section 2 be changed to add the positions of Webmaster and Historian.

Section 2 will then read: *The Executive Board will consist of: the Elected Officers, the Show Chairman, the Newsletter Editor, the Historian, the Webmaster, and the Immediate Past President. The Parliamentarian will be a non-voting member of the Executive Board. The Executive Board will meet as deemed necessary and will have the right to order bills paid.*

Explanation - this action will add the Webmaster as an appointed position. Since this is a position that not everyone is qualified to do, the Board feels that it being an appointed position will allow the Webmaster to remain in the position for more than the 2 terms should he/she wish to. It will remove the Historian from an elected office and make it an appointed position, the same as the Newsletter Editor and the Webmaster and for the same reasons.

A by-laws change will be published in writing in the newsletter at least 30 days before a vote will be taken at the Fall business meeting.

The Board accepted the invitation from the AVS of Greater Tulsa for the Fall 2005 show. The dates will be October 10-12, 2005.

Mona announced that we need an invitation for the 2005 Spring Meeting.

Mona appointed Pat Sutton, Mary Hill, and Richard Farris to the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Pershing, Secretary

Membership List for 1997

70 individual members, 18 family members,
16 affiliate members, total of 104 members.



MVAVC TREASURY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2004

REPORT PERIOD: 05/02/04-08/01/04
CHECKING BALANCE: 05/01/04 \$4,181.31

Table with Receipts and Disbursements. Receipts total \$1,742.00, Disbursements total \$725.81, resulting in a balance of \$5,923.31.

Table with Disbursements and Assets. Disbursements total \$725.81, Assets total \$8,112.15. Treasurer: 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 johntcarter@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.

This is your last issue if you have not paid your DUES! Pay today!

Your Officers

- President: Ramona Donnell
1st Vice President: Jeanne Cotten
2nd Vice President: Randy Deusch
Secretary: Barbara Pershing
Treasurer: Nancy Amelung
Historian: David Harris

HOW I GOT INTO AFRICAN VIOLETS by Randy G Deusch

(Editor's Note: Randy's story is continued from the last issue.)

I have not missed a convention since that first one in Houston, and really look forward to the next one. At one of our meetings our local president, Miriam Greene, was talking about this group of violet lovers that gets together in a regional meeting and show from time to time.

Well I couldn't believe what a great show it was, so many great looking plants and such friendly people. So many people made it a point to greet me and talk about my violets.

I have attended each meeting and show ever since that first one in St Louis, and love each one. The council really has some special people in it and I always look forward to seeing everyone.

So that's it, that's how I got from there to here!

(Editors Note: The questions raised in last months newsletter were not answered! We all need to go to Sioux Falls and check with Randy and his wife for the "Rest of the Story"!)

Did You Know? (1997)

David Harris, showing for the first time at the MVAVC Fall Show, won purple for the 2nd best small collection, and Best Miniature in Show with "Persian Prince".

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



Our violet story..... Kent and Joyce Stork

My mother had violets in our southeast kitchen window as we grew up and they always seemed effortless. On the other hand, I never ever saw her repot one, so it is pretty likely that she bought new ones when the old ones got shabby.

When Kent and I were just dating, we competed at the Nebraska State Fair in the flower arranging classes. He won every class he entered and sometimes I would win a class if he wasn't in it. From the beginning, we always had a shared interest in flowers and plants.

Shortly after Kent and I married, we lived in the central part of Nebraska where Kent taught sophomore English and speech at Lexington High School, and I taught Title 1 part time. We were pretty active in our church and got to know our pastor very well because he had a wonderful garden and huge collection of houseplants.

At the end of the school year, Kent decided he would prefer to be a florist and he found a job with a shop in Lincoln. As we were moving, our Lexington pastor gave us a Rhapsodie Gigi and carefully explained what we needed to do to keep it alive. We listened, we thought, but it was dead by the end of the summer. I'm pretty sure we over-watered it. That was 1973.

Kent went to the library and found a book by Helen Van Pelt Wilson, and then he began bringing home violets from the flower shop where he worked. By 1975, when we moved to Fremont, we had attended a violet exhibition by the Lincoln club and searched out some named varieties. This was also when we first joined AVSA. Shortly thereafter Kent began making hybrid crosses, and we sold violets at boutiques and out of our basement. When we first opened the flower shop in 1977, we had a violet stand as one of the few pieces of furniture in the store.

We joined the Lincoln AVS in 1978, and Kent attended his first convention in 1979, in Denver. I was scheduled to go but my father died unexpectedly the week before, so I did not attend convention until 1980 in New Orleans.

Kent went to the convention in San Francisco the following year while I stayed home with our active one and half year old son. Kent came back determined to sell at the next convention and do a display table because they had very few commercial vendors in California. This was also about the time when we became acquainted with Gordon Boone and began offering his hybrids by mail order.

Our first display table was in 1982 in Syracuse, but no one really noticed us that year because ACA's brought an incredible display of 25 standards, each of which was perfect enough to win any show in the country. Kent was inspired and worked hard to match that quality the following year in Milwaukee where he won Second Best Display table and the Best Cultural Perfection award. That was also the year we brought our six-month old baby and kept him entertained behind the sales table.

From then on it is a blur. It seems like every major event in our married life is somehow linked to a violet memory. Oh, and that pastor who got us started... he came back to our Arlington store about twenty years later and asked our advice. That still astonishes me!

Do you have a story to tell? Write your story in your own words and submit them to the Editor. Your story will be published when space is available. Refer to page 5 for the dates the copy is required for publication.

Do you have a tip on Violet care to share? Share your successes as well as your failures. Help others learn from your experiences. Sometimes small quick tips are as valuable as a three page writing. Write it down and send it to the Editor!