



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

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December 2012

The 2012 Best Variety List

The African Violet Magazine published by the African Violet Society of America included a listing of the Best Varieties for 2012 and here is how the list the Chapter submitted compared to the national list. The AVSA and the Chapter's lists included:

Blue Dragon
Irish Flirt
Picasso
Ness' Crinkle Blue
Frozen in Time
Rainbow's Quiet Riot
Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler
Pixie Blue
Powwow
Orchard's Bumble Magnet
Milky Way Trail
Ness' Cranberry Swirl
Optimara Rose Quartz
Rob's Fuddy Duddy
Precious Red

Aca's Red Ember
Buckeye Seductress
Hawaiian Pearl
Ma's Water Melon

Included on the Chapter list, but not the AVSA list were:

The Alps
EK-Goluboglazaia Rossiia (Blue Eyed Russia)
Ming Blue
Optimara Little Diamond
Rob's Fuzzy Navel
Rob's Jitterbug
Snuggles
Teeny Bopper
Tommie Lou

Overall, the Chapter's submissions tracked fairly consistently with the national list. The list is useful to both novice and experienced growers planning to show African Violets since the winners often reflect varieties which have performed well at shows throughout the country. The Chapter list further refines varieties that have performed well for our award winning growers.

Delaware Seed and Garden Partnership in the Works

Outreach is a vital aspect of promoting an organization and assuring its success, so when last August we received an inquiry from Pam Downs, the owner of Delaware Seed and Garden on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington, we were very interested in learning more. Downs noted that they operate a garden store with products ranging from lawn and garden supplies to specialty areas like bonsai, orchids and African Violets.

She added that they provide classes to customers to help them gain more knowledge about understanding how to care for these various plants. She wondered if anyone from the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society would have an interest in giving a talk on African Violets since they had several customers request that topic. She noted that the orchid seminars they had in the past have been extremely well attended and the orchid society has had new members join after the talks, adding it is a great way share knowledge and passion with those who are interested in learning

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Saintpaulia 'Rob's Pink Buttercup's Source: The Violet Barn

The AVSA list included the following varieties not on the Chapter list:

Harbor Blue
Jolly Orchid
Ness' Satin Rose
Ode to Beauty
Rob's Chilly Willy
Rob's Pink Buttercups



Quentin Schlieder admires orchids offered for sale at Delaware Seed and Garden Supply

Delaware Seed and Garden Supply has a warehouse where they set up tables, chairs, projectors and anything else required for a successful class. There is no cost for the use of their facility. The firm offers a wide selection of presentations and workshops on gardening topics including orchids and hydroponics.

She further offered to promote the Society by offering and displaying advertising materials upcoming events and offering membership brochures. Downs noted that they are huge proponents of education and believe in building relationships with local societies who have the expertise will help their customers.

Due to the time required to host the recent regional meeting. The appointment to meet with Pam Downs was postponed until Friday, October 26, 2012. Mary Schaeffer and I arrived around 10 a.m. and were enthusiastically received by Downs. Mary and I were impressed not only by the warm welcome, but also the wide range a quality products offered for sale and willingness to stock items upon request. It is unusual to encounter such accommodation these days. After a brief tour, we sat down with downs and discussed the presentation and set March 9th, with a snow date of snow date March 16th for the session which will be titled “Everything You Need to Know to Grow Gorgeous African Violets.”

The 90-minute program will begin with a lecture on the basics of growing violets and will open participants’ eyes to the many different types of violets – lots more than the simple purple flowered plants their

grandmothers used to grow or the varieties seen in home improvement shops. They also will learn how to grow them with less work so they will have time to enjoy them!

Then they’ll get to roll up their sleeves and learn how to put down leaves to create more violets, how to pot up plantlets once those leaves have offshoots and finally how to pot up plants as they grow along. Each participant will go home with a free baby violet that they’ve potted up themselves as well as a leaf or two to start more. All materials will be provided for this free program. There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience.

The program and workshop will be presented by Mary S. Schaeffer, the Vice President of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society. She writes the For Beginners column for the African Violet magazine and is an award winning and credentialed violet show judge.

She will be assisted by Quentin Schlieder, who holds a degree in Ornamental Horticulture and is the former President of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society. He has presented programs at the New York and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Longwood and the Brandywine Museum and has judged the Philadelphia, New York and Boston Flower Shows.

The demonstrations will include repotting a plant and how to rejuvenate a plant with a long “neck”

Mary also offered the following tips which will be posted on the Company’s website and through their e-mail blasts through Constant Contact ® to subscribers to their e-newsletter:

Tip #1: Don’t let them sit in water. More African violets are killed out of kindness than neglect. Too much water is the number one cause for the demise of violets. Violets abhor wet feet and should not be watered until the top soil is dry to the touch. For most of us this means watering once a week and then making sure we remove any water that might remain in the saucer under plant. Leaving the water in the saucer might increase the humidity around the plant but it will also shorten the life of your violet. Want to learn more about growing great violets? They really are quite easy. Please join us for a free lecture on March 9th.

Tip #2: Don’t give violets too large a pot. In order to get blooming violets—and let’s face it, we’re growing violets for their flowers—avoid over-potting. Violets

bloom best when they are grown in a pot that's just a tiny bit too small. What's the right size? A pot that is one-third the diameter of the plant. Since most standard violets grow between 9 and 12 inches across, this means a 3 or 4 inch pot – and squatty ones (the azalea pots that are 2/3 as high as they are wide) are the best. Want to learn more about growing great violets? They really are quite easy. Please join us for a free lecture on March 9th.

Tip #3: Keep the temperature comfortable – for both you and your violets. When you see a beautiful violet, you might think that it was grown in a hothouse. But the truth is that the most floriferous violets are grown in homes – either on windowsills or under lights. That's because violets like the same temperatures people do. If you are comfortable, your violet will be also. As long as the temperature doesn't go much over 85 in the day and much below 60 at night, your violets will thrive. Want to learn more about growing great violets? They really are quite easy. Please join us for a free lecture on March 9th.

This partnership hopefully will stimulate interest in both African Violets and the Delaware African Violet Society. We are excited by the opportunity to partner with Delaware Seed and Garden Supply. If you know of anyone who would be interested in learning more about African Violets, please encourage them to attend. We also encourage our members to discover and explore Delaware Seed and Garden Supply, a wonderful resource in our community! For more information, visit <http://www.delawareseed.com/>.

Draft Flower Show Schedule Sent to Committee for Review

The first draft of the flower show schedule for the March 23rd show was sent to members of the Flower Show Committee last week. Committee members are encouraged to review the draft and send comments to Quentin Schlieder as soon as possible, since the schedule must be sent to the AVSA Flower Show Schedule Approver in January.

To date, Mary Schaeffer has suggested that the schedule be changed to allow members to exhibit plants in terra cotta (clay pots) as well as plastic pots since some growers are growing, especially Gesneriads other than Saintpaulia in these pots. Libby Behnke has also suggested that design exhibits include cards identifying the plant materials used in the design. After the schedule is approved by AVSA it will be published in the newsletter,

Schedule for Growing Prize-Winning African Violets Spring Show March 23, 2013

Based on How to Grow Prize Winning African Violets by Pauline Bartholomew

So you want to win blue ribbons in the DAVS 50th Anniversary Show! Well start to plan now! Listed below are important tasks to undertake in late December and January to grow those prizewinners:

12 weeks: (December 29, 2012)

Remove leaves, pot down (necks), or pot up. Foliar feed once in addition to regular fertilizing program.

10 weeks: (January 12, 2013)

Completely disbud all plants except perhaps miniatures and trailers. Put one new tube in each fixture. Start "bloom booster" fertilizer formula.

9 weeks: (January 19, 2013)

Increase light time by one hour. Disbud heavily variegated varieties and double varieties, such as Rhapsodies, etc., for the last time. Continue to disbud all other varieties. Continue "bloom booster" fertilizer.

8 weeks: (January 26, 2013)

Increase light time by one hour. Disbud doubles and lightly variegated varieties for the last time. Continue to disbud semi double stars and singles. Check for suckers. Continue "bloom booster" fertilizer. Foliar feed once more.

November Little Show Results

Here are the results from the Little Show in November:

Blue Ribbons:

- Gary Hunter
 - Sinningia* 'Spellbound'
 - Sinningia* 'HYC's Flamingo Party'
 - Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'
 - Streptocarpus* 'Harlequin Blue'
 - Sinningia* 'Lil Georgie'
- Brian Connor
 - Sinningia speciosa*
 - X Smithicodonia* 'Heartland's Joy'
- Barb Borleske
 - Streptocarpus* 'Jason'
 - Streptocarpus* 'White Gold'
 - Primulina angustifolia*
 - Primulina* 'Deco'
 - Sinningia* 'Gabrielle's Horn'
 - Kohleria* 'Green Goblin'

Red Ribbon

- Mary Schaeffer-
 - Aeschynanthus speciosus*

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, December 11, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. Note earlier time! Holiday Dinner and Auction This year we will celebrate in the Brandywine Room at Rockland Place. The following members signed up in November:

Appetizers – Quentin Schlieder, Nancy Murray, Barb Borleske, Bobbie LaFashia and Anne Petrucci.

Salad/Vegetable– Pat Barbarita, Linda McGregor, Elizabeth Varley, Maria Walueff and Julia Lynch

Main Dish – Pat Barbarita, Libby Behnke, Anne Petrucci and Carol Moody

Desserts – Mary Schaeffer, Terry Celano, Kathe Worrell and Diane Abramson.

Beverages – Quentin Schlieder, Gary Hunter and Angie Celano

Dishes, Cups, Flatware etc. – Barb Borleske, Ray Ruger and Quentin Schlieder

Set up Crew – Quentin Schlieder, Barb borleske, Linda McGregor, Nancy Murray, Bobbie LaFashia and Geno Iubatti.

Clean up Crew – Quentin Schlieder, Terry Celano, Elizabeth Varley, Geno Iubatti and Julia Lynch.

If you signed up and can't attend or need to change your assignment, or if you didn't sign up and plan to attend, please contact Terry Celano at 302-658-5770 or Celano@udel.edu.

Tuesday, January 8, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hosts: Snacks - Terry Celano
Beverages – Elizabeth Varley

Program: “Advice from DAVS Own Best-in-Show African Violet Growers” - Libby Behnke, Nancy Murray and Bobbie LaFashia, some of the Chapter's very best growers will discuss how they get their plants in tip top shape. Members are encouraged to bring violet leaves for a leaf exchange.

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor
36 South Main Street
Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

Friday, March 22 & Saturday, March 23, 2012

The DAVS 2013 Annual Show and Sale with the theme “Golden Jubilee – DAVS Celebrates 50 Years” will be held at Boscov's Christiana Town Center, Delaware Route 273 in Christiana, Delaware. The Plant Sale will be open on Friday from 1-5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10a.m. – 4 p.m. The Show will be open on Saturday from 10a.m. – 4 p.m. More details will be posted on the Chapter's website In January.

April 13th-14th, 2013

The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale, “Going Green”, in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island, at Planting Fields Arboretum, Conference Center, Oyster Bay. Saturday, April 13, 1:00 to 4:00 pm; Sunday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Ben Paternoster at ben9@optonline.net. Gesneriad Society judges interested in receiving an invitation to judge the show should contact Paul Susi at ps117@earthlink.net.

May 26 – June 2, 2013

The First Austin African Violet Society is hosting the 2013 67th National African Violet Convention “*Violets Dance Across Texas*” at the beautiful Renaissance Hotel, which is positioned on the edge of the Central Texas Hill Country in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.avsa.org/convention>.

July 2nd – 6th, 2013

The Gesneriad Society 57th Annual International Convention will be held at the Regency Hotel, 370 King Street, West, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 1J9. This special event “*Toronto a Gesneriad Meeting Place*” is being hosted by The Toronto Gesneriad Society. For more information visit www.gesneriadsociety.org or call Doris Brownlie 905-270-6776..

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