

December 2014

Volume 1, Issue 4
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Upcoming Programs:

December—Party time, don't forget the gifts for the auction!
January—Species *Saintpaulias* by the ladies from Springfield.

Editor's note:
Deadline for material for the January issue is 10:00 AM Friday, January 2nd.

Host and Hostess Schedule:

- December –Christmas party begins at 6:30 p.m. Auction to benefit DAVS for 2016 GS convention expenses.
- January—Snack provided by Terry, Beverage by Carol Moody, Raffle by Terry and Carol

Delaware African Violet Society

DAVS Dazzles for MAAVS

The recent MAAVS convention was a huge success (see comments below) thanks, in good part, to the efforts of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society. The chapter deserves a big round of applause for the way so many of its members pitched in to help make this the biggest MAAVS show (both in terms of attendees and number of entries in the flower show) in recent memory. You can see comments from a few of the notes we received at the end of this piece (on page 3).

DAVS Pitches in – in a Big Way

Here are some of the efforts put forth by the unsung heroes of our chapter.

- ♦ Convention chairs: Stephanie Griffith and Pam Orris
- Flower Show chair: Bobbie LaFashia
- ♦ Sponsors for Speakers: Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad Society, Quentin Schlieder, Mark and Stephanie Griffith, and Mary Schaeffer
- ♦ Sponsorship for Convention brochure: Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society
- ♦ Hospitality: Terry Celano
- ♦ Niches: Bobbie LaFashia
- ♦ Schedule: Bobbie LaFashia and Stephanie Griffith
- ♦ Convention brochure: Quentin Schlieder
- ♦ Placement: Barb Borleske
- ♦ Staging: Mark Griffith, Bobbie LaFashia
- ♦ Publicity: Quentin Schlieder, Bill Dillon, and Mary Schaeffer
- ♦ Table Favors: Barb Borleske and Quentin Schlieder
- ♦ Speakers: Mary Schaeffer

Ten members of the club participated in the convention, with eight of them also entering the flower show. All eight won blue ribbons with Carol Callaghan and Stephanie Griffith winning Best-in-Class as well.



*Who Are These Gorgeous Creatures?
Last seen cavorting about at the MAAVS
Costume Party. We can but wonder...*



*P.S. If you didn't get
there you missed a stun-
ning show! -EV*

Presidents Message

Dear DAVS Members,

With Thanksgiving already a fleeting memory, it's time to start planning for our Christmas party. I would be remiss if I didn't point out that one of the things I am thankful for is the DAVS group coming into my life when we moved here to Delaware. I cannot recall meeting a nicer, more welcoming, fun group of people.

So, I thank you all for your friendship.

As previously agreed, this year at the party, the proceeds from our fun auction will be earmarked to help defray any up-front costs the chapter may have in hosting the Gesneriad Society's 2016 convention. So, please come ready to bid. I am hopeful that we'll earn back not only the money

we put out but more on top of that. Then, perhaps we can plan a fun trip or purchase for the group. But, I'm getting ahead of myself.

If for some reason you are not able to make the party, I wish you the very best for Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you on the 9th.

Fondly, Mary

November Meeting Minutes

Minutes of November 11, 2014

President Mary Schaeffer called the meeting to order with 19 members in attendance. The October minutes were printed in the November newsletter.

Program

Troy and Lynn Cook gave a very informative talk on 'What is in your fertilizer?'

Show and Tell – Mary and Gary spoke about their plants.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's report – The new balance is \$6,510.86.

AVSA and Gesneriad reports –

AVSA - Sept./Oct. article talked about the Optimara website. November – Article featured Stephanie and Mark's trip to Scotland. Two other good articles to read – one on cyclamen mites and the other on design.

Gesneriad Magazine – Featured convention information

Old Business

- Pam updated our future website.
 - MAAVS – Signup sheets for registration, hospitality and ways and means were passed around.
 - Elizabeth checked to see if everyone is getting their newsletter.
- DAVS show – Bobbie sent the schedule to be approved

New Business

- The national Gesneriad group is coming to Delaware to select a venue for the 2016 convention.
- The Christmas signup sheets were passed and will be posted in the December newsletter. This year the proceeds to cover the clubs expenses for the Gesneriad 2016 convention.

Insurance – the current insurance does not cover non-Gesneriad sponsored shows. Two possible solutions proposed – 1. Have 2 shows simultaneously – AVSA and Gesneriad. 2. Pay the AVSA insurance cost of \$166.25. Gary made the motion, "Have only 1 sponsored show at a time and buy the AVSA insurance for 2015." The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Celano

More DAVS Dazzles for MAAVS

A number of others who weren't able to attend the entire convention visited to see the outstanding show with 294 entries and of course, stop by the vendor hall to make a purchase or two (or three or more). Three members took the judging school and test and all passed with flying colors.

Notes of Thanks and Congratulations:

From Sue Hoffman: "As promised, the show was lovely. With 96 attendees it was the largest MAAVS show to date. Bravo!"

From Joan Santino: "The 2015 Convention was TERRIFIC. Thank you for all you've done along with your club that made it happen!!!"

From Jeff Smith: "Thanks so much for the invitation to attend the show and to present the program. I really enjoyed myself."

From Paul Kroll: "Many thanks to your Club for its generosity in sponsoring me. I had a great time."

From Sandy Skalski: (to Quentin): "Thank you very much for the Tricolor award for horticulture at the 2014 MAAVS convention. I really appreciate your generosity."

What's next for DAVS?

In her opening remarks at the banquet and awards presentation, Bobbie LaFashia said, "Mary said we could do this and she was right." The group's efforts on behalf of MAAVS demonstrated that they are well up to the challenge of hosting a national show. With the Gesneriad Society bringing its annual convention to Delaware in 2016, DAVS will have the opportunity to showcase its skills on a national stage.

November Program Highlights

Folks heard some really good information on fertilizers and how best to use them from Lynn and Troy. Their presentation will be available in full on our new website. In short, they use Jack's 20-20-20 full strength once per month, admittedly they grow in a greenhouse. For plants like *Primulinas* that grow on limestone they suggest adding a chelating agents such as N.U.T.S. to the fertilizer solution. Here is an excerpt from the Mad Farmer website, the manufacturer of N.U.T.S. :

Mad Farmer N.U.T.S. is a 100% organic, cold water extracted fulvic acid derived from humic shale.

N.U.T.S. promotes an increase in nutrient uptake as well as a boost in vitality. Fulvic acid aids in nutrient uptake by acting as a natural chelating agent when added to a liquid nutrient solution. The low molecular size and weight of the fulvic acid molecule allow it to penetrate plant membranes. Essential nutrients and trace elements in fertilizers attach to the fulvic acid and "piggyback" their way into the cell walls of the plant. This maximizes absorption of available nutrients and lessens the amount lost to run off. This increased uptake helps growers maximize the potential of their nutrient mixes. N.U.T.S. Also helps to stabilize pH fluctuation. N.U.T.S. is hydrolysis extracted and UV filtered before bottling to ensure quality. Mad Farmer N.U.T.S. is proudly made in the U.S.A. and is compatible with all other nutrients and fertilizers.*



**Chelation is the process that enables nutrients to move freely inside the plants.*



Party Time! December 9th at 6:30 p.m.

If you did not sign up, look at the following list and fill in. You are invited to bring wine if you care to have some.

Appetizers—Carol M., Anne P. (vegetables & dip), Barb B., Maria W.

Main dish—Barb B., Anne P. (lasagna), Bobbie (chicken or ham), Bill D. (choucroute)

Salad—Carol M., Elizabeth V. (cranberry walnut slaw),

Dessert—Terry C. (rice pudding), Diane A., (brownies), Mary S.

Drinks—Julia, L., Angie C. (eggnog), Garry H.

DAVS 2015 Palette of Violets Show Schedule, March 28, 2015

HORTICULTURAL DIVISION

SECTION I. Collections - Classes 1-5. Classes 1 to 3 are open to AVSA members only.

1. **AVSA Collection** of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single-crown or three trailers)
2. **AVSA Collection** of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single-crown semi-miniatures or three semi-miniature trailers)
3. **AVSA Collection** - three different Saintpaulia species regardless of type.
4. **Delaware Collection** - A collection of three different, non-registered African violets. One plant of each type may be included in the collection: standard, trailer, semi-miniature, miniature, or species.
5. **Russian Collection** - three registered standard, Russian hybridized plants.

SECTION II. Standard Specimen, Green Foliage Any Type Blossoms - Classes 6-10

6. Solid
7. Two-tone
8. White edged
9. Multicolor or other edged
10. Fantasy, chimera or pinwheel

SECTION III. Standard Specimen, Variegated Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Class 11

11. Any blossom color or type

SECTION IV. Species and Trailers, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Classes 12-14

12. Standard Trailers
13. Miniature and semi-miniature trailers
14. Saintpaulia species

SECTION V. Semi-miniature Specimen, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Classes 15-17

15. Solid
16. Two-tone
17. Multicolor, edged, fantasy or chimera

SECTION VI. Miniature Specimen, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Class 18

18. Any blossom color or type

SECTION VII. Heirloom Violets Classes 19-20

19. Vintage (must be 25 years or older, 1990 or earlier)
20. Classic (must be 15 years or older, 2000 or earlier)

SECTION VIII New Cultivars

21. Seedling, sport or mutants

SECTION IX African Violet or Gesneriad Plant in an Unusual Container Class 22

Planted in an unusual container, without any other plant material/accessories. (The container can be, but doesn't have to be, related to the show theme.)

22. One African violet plant (standard, miniature, semi miniature, trailer or species)

SECTION X. Gesneriads Other than African violets - Classes 24-33

23. *Sinningia* grown for bloom
24. *Streptocarpus* grown for bloom
25. *Kobleria* grown for bloom
26. *Primulinas* and *Henckelias* grown for bloom
27. Any other Gesneriads grown for bloom
28. *Primulinas* and *Henckelias* grown for ornamental foliage (no blooms permitted)
29. *Episcias* grown for ornamental foliage (no blossoms)
30. Any other Gesneriad grown for ornamental foliage (no blossoms)
31. Gesneriad Collection Blooming (3-5 plants of the same genera)
32. Gesneriad Collection Non-blooming (3-5 plants of the same genera)
33. One Gesneriad in an unusual container

ARTISTIC DIVISION

SECTION XI. Interpretive Flower Arrangements - Classes 34-35: A design using cut African violet blossoms, foliage, and other cut plant material - fresh, dried or treated. No artificial plant material is permitted, but a small amount of other material may be used as part of the design.

Class 34 - "Impressionism"

Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh was fascinated with the nocturnal and created a series of "Starry Night" paintings using bold color and heavy brushstrokes. Light up your design with stars in his exaggerated, almost childish, style. To be staged in a white niche 6" high, 5" wide, and 4" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 35 - "Realism"

American painter Andrew Wyeth, one of the most popular artists in the history of American art, created starkly simple rural landscapes in earth tones. Create an all foliage design to be staged in a white niche 10" high, 8" wide, and 6" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 36 - "Cubism"

Pablo Picasso helped shape modern art with his fractured forms and was one of the first to use collage technique in oil painting. Using dried or fresh African violet blossoms and any type of foliage, create a collage on a 4" x 4" canvas positioned on an easel. Canvas and easel will be provided by the society.

SECTION XII . Interpretive Plant Arrangements - All entries in this section must include one or more blooming African violet plant. Other plant material - fresh, dried, treated, may be used. No artificial plant material is permitted, but a small amount of other material may be used as part of the design. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 37 - "Abstract Expressionism"

American artist Jackson Pollock broke the boundaries of known art and helped create Abstract Expressionism with his unusual technique of drip painting without brush or easel. For your abstract work of art, design a planting in a white niche 14" high, 11" wide, and 11" deep.

SECTION XIII - Container Gardens

Miniature garden or terrarium with one or more blooming African violet and other growing plants. All plants should be planted in the container, and no cut material is permitted. Terrariums must be covered. No bases permitted. Exhibitor must provide a list of plant names.

Class 38 - Dish Garden

Class 39 - Terrarium and Bottle Garden

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIV - Education & AVSA Information Exhibits (Staffed by a Society member during the show)

Class 40 - Educational Exhibit

Class 41 - AVSA Information Exhibit

Class 42 - Gesneriad Exhibit

SHOW RULES

Exhibitors: The show may be entered by amateur growers only. Exhibitors must be members of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society. Dues must be paid by December 31, 2014.

Entries: Horticulture entries will be accepted on Friday, March 27, 2015 from 10am to 3pm. Design and late horticulture entries will be accepted on Saturday, March 28, 2015 between 7:30am and 9am *only by prior reservation and with the approval of the Entries Chairman and Show Chair*. Entries may be removed after closing of the show on Saturday, March 28th after 5pm. Plants must be clean, healthy, and well-groomed and grown by the exhibitor for at least three months. All African violet species, cultivars and other Gesneriads shall be correctly named. Any number of plants may be entered in each class by an exhibitor but only one plant of a variety may be entered in the same class. There is a 25 plant limit per entrant. A collection of three plants counts as three separate plants.

Horticulture: All specimen plants must be in clean plastic or terra-cotta pots, with the exhibitor's name on the bottom of the pot. Pots may be set within clean pots of the same size and type. Removable, flair, or separate collars are not allowed. Micro-mini violets may be shown with plastic wells and Gesneriads may be shown as they are grown. All African violets, except for trailers and some species plants, must be single crowned. All African violets must be in bloom. The Gesneriads grown for foliage class is limited to plants with distinctive and ornamental foliage. Pot sizes are to be no larger than 10" in diameter.

Design: Notify the design chairperson of your design division entry at the meeting prior to the show. Exhibitors are limited to one design entry per class. Mats, bases, backgrounds, and accessories are permitted. Terrariums must be covered. Chairs will be provided for judges to judge at eye-level. The American flag, state flags, flags from other nation; plants on the endangered list from any state or nation, artificial plant material, and live creatures shall not be used in any design division exhibit. African violet plants and other plant material used need not be grown by the exhibitor. The maximum size terrarium is a 10 gallon container. Dish garden trays are not to exceed 12" in any direction.

Judging: The show will be merit judged by AVSA judges, using AVSA scale of points applicable to each class. The authority for judging shall be The AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, 1998 Edition, supplemental pages, and subsequent changes printed in The African Violet Magazine. Only blue ribbon exhibits shall be eligible for any special awards. The decision of the judges shall be final.

Eligibility: Only AVSA members are eligible to enter the AVSA collection classes. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each collection class.

Disclaimer: The Society will provide protection for all exhibits, but will not be responsible for any losses. The committee reserves the right to subdivide the classes.