



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

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February 2011

Philadelphia Flower Show on Tap



The 2011 Philadelphia International Flower Show will transport visitors to the beautiful City of Light – the capital of art, fashion, food and love -- from March 6-13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center located at 12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2299

A blooming “Springtime in Paris” will greet guests with a bucolic park scene along the Seine. Flowering trees, lilacs, roses and borders of lavender will lead visitors through gardens inspired by the Tuileries. In the distance, a daring Moulin Rouge atmosphere will pulse with cabaret performances, spectacular flower sculptures and carousel topiaries.

Featured displays will highlight Opulent Paris, a time of Victorian glamour; Romantic Paris, tête-à-tête down the Seine; Gourmet Paris, amid rooftop and edible gardens; Artists’ Paris, from canvas to landscape; Underground Paris, a catacomb of avant-garde art; Timeless Paris, courtyards and cafes form a Parisian paradise.

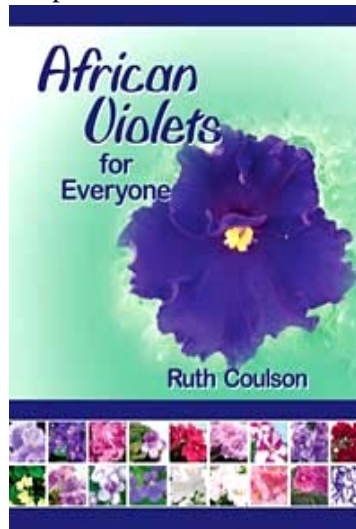
The Liberty Bell Chapter of the Gesneriad Society has been sponsoring special awards for the past several years and has significantly increased the representation of gesneriads in the Horticult.

Tickets are \$30 per adult on March 6, the opening day of the show, \$26 on Monday through Friday and \$28 during the closing Weekend (Sat., March 12 and Sun., March 13). Visit the show website at <http://www.theflowershow.com/home/index.html> for more information.

We will be planning programs and activities for 2011-12 in the near future. If you have any ideas or want a special topic, let Quentin know. You can reach him by telephone at 302-653-6449, e-mail him at gcsjr@comcast.net or talk to him at the February meeting.

New Australian African Violet Reference Added to Chapter Library

The Library has a new acquisition which should be of great interest to all members of the Chapter. It is being added in memory of Fiore M. "Mike" Celano Sr., the late husband of Angie Celano, bother-in law of Anne Petrucci and father-in-Law of Terry Celano, long time members of the Chapter. The book, *African Violets for Everyone: a Manual for Growers* was written by Ruth Coulson a noted an accomplished Australian grower and hybridizer of Gesneriads and *Saintpaulias*. All facets of growing African violets are discussed in this book. While it deals almost entirely with African violets there is also one chapter that is devoted to the other Gesneriad plants.



Of the 90 pages, there are 12 pages of photographs that carry 81 photographs in full color, illustrating African violet plants and flowers, pests, diseases and problems in African violets and growing techniques. The book includes the CD, “African Violets for Everyone: an Illustrated Guide.”

Coulson’s no nonsense advice will be appreciated by both novice and master African Violet enthusiasts. The instructive photographic guides on leaf propagation and rejuvenating older violets are especially well done. Check out the highly informative addition to the Library!

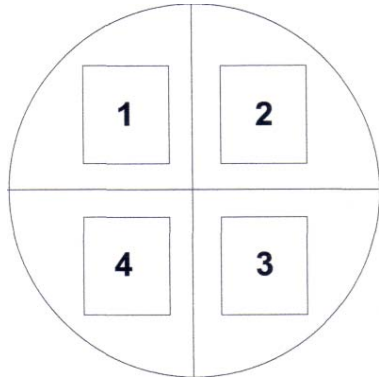
Violet Barn at Springfield in March

Ralph and Rob Robinson of the Violet Barn are coming to AVS Springfield on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 (our meeting night see page 4) at the Springfield Township Building in the lower level at 7:00 p.m. and our members have been invited to attend. The Violet Barn's plants can be ordered ahead of time for delivery at meeting. The website is <http://www.violetbarn.com/>.

Design Concepts for Container Gardens

Karyn Cichocki & Jill Fischer 2009 – Reprinted from the September 2009 issue of *Gesneri-Eds*, the newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Gesneriad Society with the permission of the Editor and the authors. This is the second and final part of this two part article.

Designing a Fool-Proof Container Garden



Divide your container into 4 quadrants of planting

- Focal Point # 1 should be the highest point in the design
- #2 and # 4 should complement # 1 and be of lower height
- #3 should be a void; free of plant material.
- Void is an important design element.

Gesneriad Society Judging Considerations

Remember this is the score sheet for Gesneriad Society Shows. DAVS is an AVSA sanctioned show.

Terrarium, Tray Landscape or Natural Garden	
Design Concept	40 Pts.
• Relation to container	
• Placement and choice of materials	
• Scale	
Suitability	25
• Plant material	
• Accessories	
Condition (grooming)	20
Cultural Perfection	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	100 Pts.

- Judging also requires that all plant material must be growing and planted in the container.
- Use of 'cuttings' is not permitted.
- All plants must be removed from individual pots.
- Use as little non-gesneriad material as possible, limiting it to ground cover such as moss or other plants that won't draw the eyes attention away from the gesneriad plant material.

Sample of Suitable Gesneriad Material for Container Gardens

Below are some suggested plants for container gardens:

Tall Growing

- *Columnnea*-upright forms with woody stems, terrarium and dish garden e.g. *C. 'Maryann'*; *C. linearis* 'Purple Robe'; *C. purpusii*; *C. crassifolia*, *C. 'Sylvia'*; *C. kewensis*;
- *Streptocarpus*-upright growing forms such as *thompsonii*, *holstii*, *kirkii*,
- *Aeschynanthus humilis*-small, upright, woody stemmed



Mel Grice's winning entry in 2009

Medium Growing

- *Columnnea*, small leafed varieties, *C. hirta* 'Light Prince,' *C. 'Broget's Starvanger'*-tiny, variegated leaves, small growing, *C. 'Snake Charmer'*; *C. microphylla*; *C. 'Frosty Hills'*; *C. 'Gold Heart'*; *C. 'Cascading Beauty'*
- *Nematanthus*- *N. wettsteinii*, *N. gregarious* 'Golden West'; *N. Black Gold'*
- *Gloxinia lindeniana*
- *Streptocarpus saxorum* & *saxorum* variegated
- *Gloxinia erinoides* 'Judy'
- *Lysiniotus serrulata*
- *Bellonia spinosa*



Charlene Marietti's winning entry from 2004

Low Growing

- *Episcia*- miniature varieties- *E.* 'Silver Skies,' *E.* 'Annette'
- *Alsobia dianthaflora*
- *Gesneria cuneifolia*-terrarium culture-orange and yellow flowers
- *Sinningia* hybrids, miniature
- *Phinea* species
- *Saintpaulia*- miniature African violet hybrids and miniature trailers
- *Sinningia pusilla*- (tiniest sinningias) *S.* 'White Sprite'- *S.* 'Bright Eyes,' *S. concinna*; *S.* 'Little Tiger';
- *Nematanthus australis*
- *Neomortonia nummularia*
- *Chirita gemella*, other young species and hybrids
- *Petrocosmea* species-young plants

Non-Gesneriad material

Tall Growing

- *Buxus*- *microphylla japonica* and *B. harlandii* 'Tiny', boxwood shrubs, famous for slow growth. Small dark green leaves on twiggy shrub, Use: dish & natural gardens
- Palm- *Chamaedorea elegans* and *tenila*, will last for awhile before growing too large
- *Ficus*-Miniature; upright forms excellent for dish garden
- *Polyscias* (Aralia) will grow to large plant-young plants have fine cut foliage, slow growing, terrarium and dish garden. *P. fruticosa*, *elegans*, *balfouriana*, *filicifolia*, and *guilloyei*
- *Myrtus communis* *microphylla*-legendary myrtle with small, glossy, green leaves, fragrant when crushed. Best for indoor bonsai and dish gardens
- *Serissa*-small shrub, best for terrarium use, can be used in dish garden with careful attention to watering. Would be good for a terrarium planting. *S. foetida floreplena*-dwarf growing woody plant, tiny boxwood-like leaves and miniature double white flowers like miniature roses. Excellent for bonsai. *S.* 'Kyoto'-tiny plant, miniature leaves, single white rose-like flowers. *S. variegata* pink-pencil thin variegation outlines each leaf

Medium Height

- *Adiantum microphylla*-maidenhair has finest foliage with lacy, tiny fronds forming dense mass of green. Use small specimen
- *Asparagus plumosus* (Asparagus fern) not a true fern has delicate foliage. Use small specimen, large growing
- *Doodia* species-tiny stiff sword like fronds, miniature varieties

- Ferns- best in terrariums: *Nephrolepis exaltata* Boston *compacta*-miniature Boston variety with short, curly fronds; *Polystichum teus-sinense*-small tufted, dark green, carrot like fronds; *Davallia pentaphylla*-compact 'footed fern'
- *Hedera helix* 'Itsy Bitsy' -real miniature ivy with tiniest micro ivy leaves in little mounds of bushy growth. Terrarium and dish garden
- *Euonymus japonica microphylla*-miniature upright plant with tiny, variegated leaves. Slow growing shrub suitable for terrarium and dish garden
- Begonias - miniature dwarf Rex Hybrids *B.* 'Smidgen,' *B. prismatocarpa* (terrarium only) *B.* 'Small Change'. Semi-tuberous begonias-develop a large, starchy tuber at the base, suitable for terrarium and dish garden- *B. partita*, *B. dregei*, *B.* 'Amazing Lace'.
- *Fittonia* - spreading low plant with attractively veined leaves. *F. argyroneura*-intricately veined in white; *F. verschaffeltii*-red veined
- *Peperomia* - *P. petiolata*, *P.* 'Astrid'
- *Pilea cadieriei*- "Aluminum Plant upright growth

Low Growing

- *Acorus gramineus variegatus*-variegated green and white grass-like foliage. Tufted habit, slow growing like miniature spider plant
- *Ficus pumila minima*-miniature trailing fig. Must be kept moist. *F. pumila quercifolia* -miniature creeping fig with oak shaped leaves that forms a dense mat. *F. pumila variegata*-miniature variegated leaf creeping fig.
- *Selaginella*- "Club Moss" requires cool temperature, not easy to maintain. *S. kraussiana aurea*-golden yellow ground hugging moss, *S. kraussiana brownii*- "Irish Moss"-cushion of brilliant green, *S. uncinata*- "Peacock Moss"- peacock blue tint

Some Places to Purchase Miniature Plants

- **Belisle's Violet House** - Unusual Houseplants, Gesneriads, 4041 N Metnik Rd, Ojibwa, WI 54862-4132, 715-945-2687, e-mail belislesvh@aol.com
- **Logee's Greenhouses**- A Collection of Rare Plants, 141 North Street, Danielson, Conn. 06329, 860-774-8038, www.logees.com
- **Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses** - violets, gesneriads & assorted houseplants. PO Box 249, Dolgeville, NY 13329, 315-429-8291, www.lyndonlyon.com
- **The Violet Barn** - Ralph and Olive Ma Robinson, Gesneriads, Rare and Unusual plants, P.O. Box 9, Naples, New York 14512, 585-374-8592, www.robsviolet.com

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

**Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd,
Wilmington, DE 19803**

Hostesses: Beverages – Bobbie LaFashia
Snacks – Diane Abramson

Program: “Interpretations of the Design

Schedule” Our own talented arranger and AVSA Master Judge Terry Celano will present this special interactive program showing slides of the design classes in our flower shows from 2001 to 2010. She will read the requirements for the class and lead a discussion as to whether or not the design fulfills those requirements. A plant sale will conclude the evening. If you have surplus plants to share bring them. Don’t forget to bring plants for the Little Show or Show and Tell!

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

**Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd,
Wilmington, DE 19803**

Host/Hostess: Beverages – Gary Hunter
Snacks – Maria Walueff

Program: “Micro-Beautiful and Maxi-Easy –

Growing and Enjoying Miniature African Violets” – Space won’t be a problem if you grow these Lilliputian members of the genus *Saintpaulia*. To be classified as a micro miniature, they must mature at less than three inches. These beguiling little violets are great in dish gardens and terrariums. Following the program we will have free a “prop shop” so that you can grow and enjoy some of these diminutive African Violets at home. All materials will be provided

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

Saturday, April 2 and Sunday April 3, 2011

The African Violet Club of Morris County will present “Violets Do Crafts” in the Haggerty Education Center at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960 on Saturday 1:30-4:30 and Sunday 11- 3:00. Plant Sale. Free parking and admission. Information: Jill Fischer at HF.JG.Fischer@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10, 2011

The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show and plant sale, “Flowers and Sweets – Such Perfect Treats”, will be presented in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island at Planting Fields Arboretum, Conference Center, Oyster Bay on Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Information: 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.

Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16, 2011

The Delaware African Violet Society and Gesneriad Society will present “**African Violets Celebrate the Oscars**,” the Society’s Annual judged Show and Sale. ***It is time to begin propagating plants for the sale and selecting the plants you plan to grow on for entries in the show!*** Member grown plants are usually more profitable than plants purchased for resale, however, the Society also is looking for other sources for sales plants which can be purchased at or below wholesale cost. If you have any suggestions, please talk to Gary Hunter or Mary Schaeffer, Plant Sales Co-Chairmen. Please reserve the dates now and plan to participate!

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