



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XIV, No. 7

March 2012

Final Days to Show and Sale

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society's Annual Show and Sale, "*African Violets Go to the Races*" will be held in the second floor Auditorium at the Christiana Town Center Boscov's conveniently located off Interstate 95 and Delaware Route 1 in Christiana, Delaware. Yes, that's correct; we have the Auditorium again this year! Here are some important dates and times to remember:

Tuesday, March 13th - submit pre-entry forms to Carol Callaghan if you can. List all potential entries on the sheets which were enclosed with the March newsletter. Carol points out that it is easier to modify or delete items than it is to enter new ones. If you are entering designs, please let Bobbie LaFashia know at the meeting.

Important Dates & Times to Remember

Friday, March 30th – Set Up

10:00 a.m. - Arrive for set up of show and plant sale. Plants may be purchased only after pricing has been completed!

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Entries -Please have your plants groomed and named before you get to Boscov's

Saturday, March 31st – Arrangements, Late Entries, Show is Judged and Opens to Public

7:00 a.m. – Members can enter Boscov's - you must enter through the back loading entrance and sign in. Old timers know this drill pretty well!

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Late Entries only *by prior arrangement and approval by Carol Callaghan*

9:30 a.m. – Judges arrive, get instructions and enjoy refreshments

10:00 a.m. to Noon – Judging commences

Noon – Lunch for judges at Bertucci's

1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Judging (continues if necessary/special awards)

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Show & Plant Sale open to public. The Show and Sale close at 4:00 p.m. and there are **NO** Sunday hours!

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Cleanup.

Hopefully members have been propagating plants for the sale. There will be a discussion on the commission paid to members who provide plants for the sale. Remember to packaged cuttings, tubers and rhizomes too!

Finally, Anne Petrucci is collecting money for show awards at the April meeting. She will accept cash, but if you would like to pay by check, please make it payable to Anne. If you can't make the meeting, you can contact Anne at (302) 652-8839.



Sainpaulia' Cirelda' grown by Sandy Skalski at the 2011 AVSA Show in Cherry Hill was awarded the best in Show

Invitation to hear Sandy Skalski

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia is honored to have Sandy Skalski present a program on Thursday, April 5, 2012. Sandy is a member of the Burlington African Violet Club and an expert grower. Her program, "Growing for Show," will be presented at 7:30 pm, at Cathedral Village Retirement Center in classroom 2, 600 East Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128. Sandy will also provide an update on the INSV virus.

Sandy wows visitors every year with her beautiful plants at the show in Burlington, but she was the winner of Sweepstakes in Horticulture as well as Best in Show at the 2011 AVSA Convention in Cherry Hill.

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia has extended an invitation to join them on April 5 for Sandy's very expert presentation.

For directions to Cathedral Village, you can google Cathedral Village, contact any AVSP member, or at shanna825@hotmail.com, 215-256-9752 or 472 Store Road, Harleysville, PA 19438. The African Violet Society of Philadelphia has a great website at <http://www.phillyviolets.org/index.html>. Directions to Cathedral Village also are available on their website.

BRIAN CONNOR'S SCHEDULE FOR GROWING TO SHOW

Brian Connor, one of our newest members who has exhibited prize-winning plants at many African Violet Society Shows including the Baltimore African Violet Club, the Mid Atlantic African Violet Society, The Gesneriad Society's and the African Violet Society of America's national shows was kind enough to forward his schedule for forcing not only *Saintpaulias*, but also *Sinningia* and *Streptocarpus*. This schedule previously has been printed on the back cover of the two year calendars our Chapter distributed as table favors at the Silver Spring and Philadelphia Conventions of The Gesneriad Society, but some of our newer members may not have seen this information, so we are reprinting it here. Remember, if you keep you home cooler that 70° F. you may need to adjust the schedule for your growing conditions.

Plant Type	12 Weeks _/_/_	10 Weeks _/_/_	8 Weeks _/_/_	7 Weeks _/_/_	6 Weeks _/_/_	5 Weeks _/_/_	4 Weeks _/_/_	Finish Date _/_/_
African Violets	-Repot If needed -Disbud -Feed 20-20-20 -12H light -Groom	-Disbud -Feed 12-36-14 -14H lt -Groom, Remove Suckers	-Disbud REMOVE ALL BUD possible -Feed 12-36-14, Give one shot of Super Bloom (P=50) -14 H Lt	-Disbud what is past leaves -Feed 20-20-20 -14 H Lt -Bathe -Groom, Remove Suckers -14 H	-Disbud Only what is past leaves! Then no more! -Feed 20-20-20 -Groom, Remove Suckers -14 H	-Look for buds -Feed 20-20-20 -14 H	-Look for buds (75%) -Feed 12-36-14 Or shot Of Super Bloom (P=50) -Final bath	-Final Weeks go back to feed 20-20-20 -Groom Like Never before
Strepto- carpus	-Repot If needed -Disbud -Feed 20-20-20 -12H light -Groom	-Disbud -Feed 12-36-14 (or other Rel. Hi P) -14H lt -Groom	-Disbud -Feed 12-36-14 -14H lt Give one shot of Super Bloom (P=50, Optional) -Groom	-Disbud -Feed 20-20-20 -14 H Lt -Bathe -Groom	-Disbud -Feed 20-20-20 -14 H Lt -Bathe -Groom	-If cool, Stop disbud! -If warm, stop at 4.5 wk -Feed 20-20-20 -14 H	-Feed 12-36-14 Or shot Of Super Bloom (P=50, optional) -Final bath -Groom	-Final Weeks go back to feed 20-20-20 -Groom Like Never before
Mini- Sinningia	-Repot Into Show pot, 2-2.5" -Remove Lowest 2- 4 leaves -Pot so leaves barely above rim -Cover Tuber -Feed 20-20-20	-Disbud -Feed 12-36-14 -Turn plant Every 2-3 days From now on -14 H lt	-Stop Disbud -Feed 12-36-14 -Decide if 3' pot needed is if it is a big mini -14 H lt -Groom	-Feed 20-20-20 -14 H -Groom	-Feed 20-20-20 -14 H lt -Groom	-Feed 20-20-20 -14 H -Groom	-Feed a Shot of 12-36-14 Nothing stronger -14 H -Groom	-Final Weeks go back to feed 20-20-20 -Groom Like Never before

Election of 2012-13 Officers

The following Slate of Officers for 2012-13 is proposed by the Nominating Committee for election at the April meeting:

- President Gary Hunter
- Vice President Mary Schaefer
- Secretary Terry Celano
- Treasurer Bobbie LaFashia

Nominations also can be offered from the floor. The installation of officers will be held at the June meeting. The nominating Committee was chaired by Quentin Schlieder and included Angie Celano and Maria Walueff.

Dealing with Dusty Perlite

Recently a post on Gesneriophiles offered some practical advice from Betsy Branson of the African Violet Society of Philadelphia which is worth sharing with our members.

Perlite comes from volcanic lava. It is a form of natural glass and is mined all over the world.

Perlite rock is crushed to make small pieces that can be used as a growing medium. The crushed pieces are exposed to an approximate temperature of 2000 degrees. Heating the crushed rock causes the moisture in the rock to evaporate, and the crushed pieces expand. Perlite is known for its ability to retain moisture, which allows the grower to reduce the frequency of waterings. Due to the size of the crushed rock, air is allowed to move freely around plant roots. Perlite can be used as a growing medium in itself or can be mixed into soil to improve water retention and soil aeration.

The dust is an irritant, and prolonged exposure may contribute to respiratory problems.

While you can wear a mask to prevent inhaling the dust, Betsy pours water through my bag of perlite after I put small holes in the bottom of the bag. This settles the "dust" and also drains out some of the tiniest perlite "dust." When she practiced horticultural therapy, she made sure the perlite was damp that the nursing home residents used to mix soil. She never had a problem with mold, etc

Members Seeking Plants...

Quentin Schlieder is looking for plants or cuttings of *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields,' *K.* 'Green Goblin,' *K.* 'Manchu' and *Diastema comiferum*. If you are seeking something special, let us know!

Library Updates...

The DVD used for last month's program on Bill Price's method of growing African Violet Trailers is now available through the Chapter Library. It works as a movie DVD and not on the computer, but members last month found it very instructive. This is a guide and how-to DVD of the Dr. William Price Growing Trailers program presented at the AVSA Reno Convention in 2009. The DVD is narrated by Dr Richard Nicholas and produced by Dr Barbara Burde. Whether you just want to review the information again, or you missed the last meeting and want to learn how to grow really spectacular trailing African Violets, check it out.

Although we haven't received our first issue yet, the Chapter has subscribed to The British Streptocarpus Society which was formed in September 1999 especially for *Streptocarpus* (Cape Primrose) growers with small, medium or large collections. The Society publishes three newsletters annually, which contain useful hints and tips on growing, articles for both the general and the specialist grower and a members' page with short articles and letters.

February's Show and Tell



Carol Callaghan discusses the plants that Gary Hunter brought for the Show and Tell at the February meeting

The February Show and Tell featured principally *Streptocarpus* plants grown by Gary Hunter. Of particular note was *Streptocarpus* 'Mary Sakamoto,' (the plant with large flowers in the center of the front row). Gary notes that this Brad Thompson grandiflora hybrid can produce flowers up to five inches across! Other plants of note were a return visit of *S.* 'Harlequin Blue,' still in fabulous bloom, and *S.* 'Geronimo.' A blooming specimen of Ruth Coulson's *Sinningia* 'Radiance,' with its upward facing peloric red blossoms, also was entered.

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Hostesses: Snacks – Bobbie LaFashia
Beverages – Maria Walueff

Program: “Getting Ready for Show” - This will be the last meeting prior to the Society’s Annual Show and Sale at Boscov’s on March 31, 2012. Committee Chairman will be asked to report the status of their Committee. A plant sale will conclude the evening. If you have surplus plants which can be used for designs, please bring them.

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Host and Hostess: Snacks – Nancy Murray
Beverages – Quentin Schlieder

Program: “Judging Gesneriads” This PowerPoint presentation was developed by noted and prize winning growers Dale Martens, Paul Kroll and Bill Price and was presented at the AVSA Convention in Denver, CO in 2007. This presentation is of value not only to judges, but especially to growers who will learn how accomplished judges will evaluate their entries. 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!

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th, 2012

The Long Island Gesneriad Society judged show celebrates the chapter’s 50th Anniversary with the theme “Golden Oldies”, on Saturday, April 14, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Ben Paternoster at ben9@optonline.net for more information.

Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th, 2012

African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, PA will hold their annual show and sale at the Springfield Mall, Baltimore Pike and Sproul Road, Springfield, PA 19064 Hours for the plant sales are from noon to 9PM on Friday May 4th, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 5th and 11 a.m. -4p.m. on Sunday, May 6th. The Show is open on Saturday from 2 p.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information contact

Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th, 2012

The Garden State African Violet Club will present its 61st Annual Show and Sale on Saturday, May 5th, 2012 From Noon - 4p.m. and Sunday, May 6th from 11a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road in West Windsor, NJ 08550. For more information, contact Paula Bal by e-mail at Paulapt213@yahoo.com or by telephone at (732) 771-7117.

***The Delaware African Violet Society presents its
Annual Show and Sale- Violets Go to the Races
At BOSCOV'S DEPARTMENT STORE AT CHRISTIANA TOWN CENTER, CHRISTIANA, DE
Saturday, March 31, 2012, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission Free! Invite your friends!***

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First Class Mail

Time Value/ Please Expedite!