



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XII, No. 8
April 2010

Slate of 2010-11

Officers Proposed

The following Slate of Officers for 2008-9 was proposed by the Nominating Committee at the March meeting.

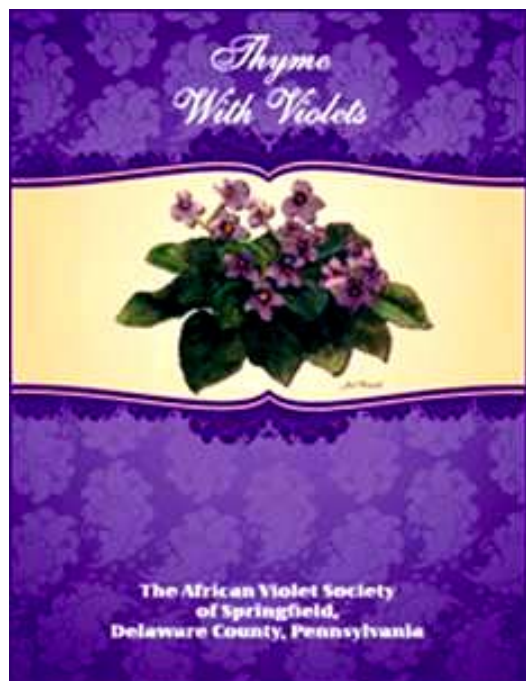
- President Quentin Schlieder
- Vice President Maria Walueff
- Secretary Barb Borleske
- Treasurer Carol Callaghan

Elections will be held at the April meeting and nominations also can be offered from the floor. The installation of officers will be held at the June meeting.

Thyme with Violets

Now Available

The African Violet Society of Springfield is hosting the 2011 AVSA Convention, which will be held in Cherry Hill, NJ. They decided a cookbook would be a great idea for a fundraiser.



Some members of other chapters have received the cookbook and report that Peggy Mooney and her

Committee did a fantastic job. They invited AVSA members to contribute their favorite recipes. It is filled with 650 recipes from 214 contributors who come from 34 states in the US as well as cooks in Australia,

Panama and Russia. It is organized into the categories of Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Veggie & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts, Cookies & Candy and This & That.

We have already sold 11 "Thyme with Violets" and plan on obtaining additional copies for our sales table. These make wonderful gifts and most importantly Terry Celano's Bourbon Slush recipe is included! The cost of this beautiful cookbook is \$15.00 + shipping of \$5.00 or \$12 for 3. However, if you purchase the book at our sales table you SAVE ON SHIPPING!

2010 Flower Show and Sale was a Great Success

Thanks to the great planning and hard work of Bobbie LaFashia and her Committee, the 2010 Delaware African Violet Society Show and Sale held at the Christiana Town Center Boscovs on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 28, 2010 from noon to 4 p.m. was a great success. The Show had the theme, Legacy of the Brandywine Valley and was awarded the AVSA Green Certificate since it scored more than 90 points. Unfortunately since we only had one AVSA Collection, we missed winning the AVSA Blue Certificate.

Thanks are due to Anne Petrucci and Carol Moody for their work on the Awards Committee. Congratulations are in order for all of the winners which included:

"Legacy of the Brandywine Valley" – 2010

DAVS SPECIAL SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

FIRST HORTICULTURE - Libby Behnke (29)

Ruth Ann Morse Award donated by Carol Callaghan

SECOND HORTICULTURE – Angie Celano (23)

Gen Scholl Award donated by Bobbie LaFashia

THIRD HORTICULTURE – Barb Borleske (20)

Gladys Callaghan Award donated by Carol Callaghan

FOURTH HORTICULTURE – Mary Schaeffer (11)

Lillian Crewe Award donated by Diane Abramson

GESNERIAD SWEEPSTAKES – Angie Celano (22)

Susan Schlieder Award donated by Quentin Schlieder

OTHER AWARDS

BEST IN SHOW – Bobbie LaFashia, Old Country Gardens Award, *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'

SECOND BEST IN SHOW - Libby Behnke, Always the Garden Award, *Saintpaulia* 'Cirelda'

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BEST STANDARD AFRICAN VIOLET IN SHOW –

Libby Behnke, Friendly Gift Shop -, *Saintpaulia* 'Buckeye's Summer Song'

BEST MINIATURE AFRICAN VIOLET – Angie Celano, Ada Shelton Award, *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Twinklebell'

BEST SEMI-MINATURE AFRICAN VIOLET -

Bobbie LaFashia, Sally Crossan Award donated by Diane Abramson, *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'

DELAWARE COUNCIL OF JUDGES AWARD –

Mary Schaeffer, Ribbon, *Kohleria* 'Snakeskin'

SPRINGFIELD JUDGES AWARD – Barbara Borleske, Ribbon, *Saintpaulia* 'Blue-Eyed Russia'

BEST STANDARD AVSA COLLECTION – Libby Behnke, Shoiw Chirman's Award donated by Bobbie LaFashia *Saintpaulia* 'Buckeye's Summer Song,' 'Ma's Party Music ,' and Bob Serbin

BEST GESNERIAD – Libby Behnke

Vice President's Award donated by Maria Walueff, *Codonanthe carnosa*



Libby Behnke's *Codonanthe carnosa* was judged "Best Gesneriad." Photo courtesy of Carol Callaghan

BEST INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGMENT –

Terry Celano, Charlotte Maltman Award donated by Carol Moody, "Delaware Center for Contemporary Art"

BEST DESIGN SWEEPSTAKES – Barb Borleske, ADK Chapter Sorority donated by Terry Celano

BEST DESIGN – Terry Celano, Gertrud Grabosky Award donated by Carol Callaghan, "Delaware Center for Contemporary Art"

BEST DISH GARDEN – Barb Borleske, Wallace Behnke

Award donated by Libby Behnke

BEST SPECIES – Angie Celano, June McMurry Lesh

Award donated by Barbara Borleske, *Saintpaulia rupicola*

BEST TRAILER - Libby Behnke, Marion Mossberg

Award donated by Barbara Borleske, *Saintpaulia* 'Cirelda'

BEST NOVICE – Mary Schaeffer, President's Award donated by Quentin Schlieder

RICHARDSON PARK LEANING CENTER - Angie

Celano Annual Award, Madeline Becker Memorial

Award, Geno Iubotti Award, and Terry's Kids Award – Anne Petrucci



Bobbie LaFashia's plant of *Saintpaulia* 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' was judged Best in Show, Best Semiminature and Best in Class. Photo courtesy of Carol Callaghan.

Several members informally discussed plans for next year and the consensus was that we should hold a show even though both the African Violet Society of America and The Gesneriad Society will be holding their national meetings in the Philadelphia area. There were also discussions about possibly moving the Show from Boscov's since there were several unexpected complications with the availability of tables and the set up of the room. Carol Callaghan is investigating the availability of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. We also discussed planning a shorter show with set up on Friday and opining the show and sale only on Saturday, and this will be necessary if the show is moved to a venue like a church. It has become evident that there are relatively few visitors on Sunday and the bulk of the plant sales are on Sunday. We will be discussing these suggestions further at a future meeting, so be prepared with your ideas. Barb Borleske will be chairing next year's Show.

Building Plant Stands for Dummies by Barbara Borleske

Editor's Note: We have had the privilege of holding our Annual June Covered Dish dinner at the Borleske home since I joined the Society in 2003. I always was impressed with Barb's plant stand in the family room and always thought it was a commercial Flora Cart setup. However, two year's ago she noted her stand was far less expensive since it was basically a relatively inexpensive shelving unit with shop lights. She sure can grow great plants with this unit, so I encouraged her to share!



Barb Borleske's light stand

Many plant lovers find that the windowsills in their homes have limited utility when it comes to growing specialty house plants. For this reason, many of us have opted to grow under fluorescent lights. I have been growing a variety of gesneriads and other houseplants this way for many years with success. I have had a variety of home-made and commercial plant stands, but I think the one I built a few years ago is just as good or better than any you might purchase from a specialty light garden supplier.

So you think you might like to build one yourself? It is really easy! Using the web site for a large home improvement store, I priced out the items you will need and suggest the following:

- 5 Tier chrome wire shelving unit – the dimensions are 18” deep, 48” wide, and 74” high. This is

perfect for the cheapest and most efficient fluorescent fixtures (the 48” ones). Price for this item is about \$80.

- 4 –48” utility fluorescent shop lights – these include two cool white bulbs (perfectly acceptable for most indoor growing) and cost \$10-18 per fixture. Get the ones that have the cord in the middle. I like the ability to turn the fixture off individually – look for a chain that can be use for this purpose.
- 8 small s hooks for attaching the light fixtures to the shelves - \$3.
- One outlet daily timer – this runs around \$6. The one timer will be used for all the lights.
- One power strip with 6 outlets and a 4 foot cord. Plan to spend about \$5.
- 32 light-weight black plastic trays – these are widely available at most places that carry plant supplies and cost between \$1 and \$1.50. You actually have space for 16 trays on the stand, but they are really flimsy and I double them up.

Putting this all together is not difficult, although you might need a second person to help you get the shelves together properly. Just follow the directions that come in the box – it isn't necessary to be handy! Once you get the shelving together, it is time to put the lights up. Because the shelves are composed of a metal grid, it is easy to hang the lights by the chains that are included. Just use the small s hooks and hook them to the shelves. This particular unit allows for about 8-10 inches from the bottom of the light tubes to the lip of the plastic trays. That seems to be perfect for most low growing plants and various seedlings.

Now plug all the lights into the power strip, plug the strip into the timer, set the timer, and plug it into an outlet, preferably behind the stand so you don't need an additional extension cord (they are sooo ugly!). Set the timer for somewhere between 10 and 16 hours per day. I keep mine on from about 9AM until 10 PM. Some people have actually asked me if I keep the lights on all the time. Does that make sense??? Think about in nature.....

You might notice that I have used some green Perma-nest trays on my stand, along with the black flimsy trays that I suggested. I happened to have the green trays on hand, but if you attempt to use them exclusively, they are just a bit too wide to fit nicely on the shelves of this stand. The black ones are available everywhere and they are cheap. Also, you may

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Hostess: Nancy Murray

Program: “Plant Hunting in Ecuador” – Stephen

Maciejewski returns with an entertaining and enthralling account of his plant hunting expedition to Ecuador last May. He spent a fantastic 12 days in South American jungles on the 2009 Gesneriad Research Center trip. You won't want to miss this presentation! Stephen is President of the Liberty Bell Chapter and a member of the national Society's Board of Directors. Bring a friend along, too! 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, May 11, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Host: Geno Iubatti

Program: “A Night Spent with Award Winning Violets” - Member Ron Bannister's presentation will delight you with a wonderful selection of beautifully grown Saintpaulias he has seen in shows through the years. You're certain to see some newer varieties and old favorites and how they look as award winning plants. The final plant sale little show and show and tell of the season will conclude the evening.

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

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purchase clear domes that fit these trays perfectly – nice for germinating seeds or rooting cuttings.

Although I am usually the only indoor light gardener in the family, my husband decided this year to start lots of veggie seeds indoors. You guessed it – he decided that my shelves were perfect for his seeds – and with the domes over the trays, he got great germination. The seedlings were close enough to the lights that they did very nicely after the domes were removed, so everyone was happy. The total price for this project, assuming you did not already own any of the required items, is about \$180. But as they say in the Mastercard commercials, value to you the grower – PRICELESS!

Southern Delaware Outing

Plan to join us for luncheon at the Historic Wayside Inn in Smyrna, followed by visits to Pepper Greenhouses and East Coast Garden Center near Milton and ending with a dessert in the Schlieder garden in Smyrna on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. We will set up carpools at the April meeting so we are looking for some volunteer drivers.

We will be meeting for lunch at the Wayside Inn at 11:45 a.m. They are offering luncheon specials as low as \$5.00 if you order a cocktail, or soft drink. Pepper's is an interesting greenhouse offering a number of choice houseplants at really great prices. An article appeared in this newsletter in February 2009. East Coast Garden Center offers a variety of trees, evergreens, flowering shrubs, grasses, natives, perennials, annuals, customized containers, house plants, tropicals, and lots more.

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