



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XII, No. 9

May 2010

Favorite 25 Lists Solicited

Each year the African Violet Magazine in its November/December issue prints a list of the Best Varieties from around the world. This list will be compiled by AVSA Best Variety/Honor Roll Chairman, Floyd Lawson.

Every member gets 25 votes. So the number of violets and the number of total votes can be very large, GOOD!!! However, large or small each list is very important and when we reach the end, everyone has a great list of what is growing and blooming around the world. It's fun to do, and it is so helpful to other growers who learn of old favorites and new introductions.

It's time for members to review their favorite plants and choose a list of 25 to send to AVSA. Carol Callaghan has again graciously assumed this task, so members are encouraged to forward their lists to her either at the May meeting or the June pot luck dinner. If you can't attend these events, don't despair, you can e-mail them to her at mom.callag2@verizon.net or mail them to her at:

**Carol Callaghan
2806 Rickdale Road
Talleybrook
Wilmington, DE 19810**

2010-11 Officers Elected at April Meeting

The following Slate of Officers for 2010-11 was elected as follows at the April meeting:

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

There were no nominations be offered from the floor. The installation of officers will be held at the June meeting.

The \$10 annual dues are now payable to Carol Callaghan, the Chapter's Treasurer (See address above). Make Checks payable to DAVS and give them to her at either the May or June meetings. A preaddressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Southern Delaware Excursion

Twelve members enjoyed the visits to Peppers Greenhouses just outside Milton and East Coast Garden Center near Millsboro on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 in near perfect weather.

Participants gathered for lunch at Quentin Schlieder's House in Historic Smyrna at 11:45 a.m. Following lunch the group carpooled to its first stop, Peppers Greenhouses. There was a nice assortment of houseplants, including Gesneriads. While the nomenclature is somewhat dubious, the selection and prices really are hard to beat. Offerings included nice baskets of *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' at \$17.50, nice 4" pots of *Codonathe* and *X Codonatanthus* at \$3.50, *Kohleria* 'Longwood' in bloom (labeled as *Smithiantha*!) at \$3.50 as well as *Streptocarpus*, *Columnneas*, *Nematanthus*, *Aeschynanthus* and much more. There was an incredible array of woody plants, perennials, annuals and herbs also offered at exceptionally low prices.



Members Barb Borleske and Linda McGregor scour floor to ceiling racks for plants at Peppers Greenhouses near Milton, DE. (Photo courtesy of Mary Schaeffer)

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After filling several shopping carts and many boxes the group paid for their acquisitions before departing for East Coast Greenhouses, about 20 minutes away.

East Coast offered a variety of trees, evergreens, flowering shrubs, grasses, natives, perennials, annuals, customized containers, house plants, tropicals, and lots more. Valerie Cordrey, East Coast's enthusiastic Manager who provided maps of the extensive greenhouses greeted the group.

One of the features is their new education facility, The Cordrey Center, a spacious indoor area features a gas fireplace, surround sound, and a flat screen TV for professional presentations and memorable slideshows. The partially covered 4000 square foot paver patio and large side patio are adorned with elegant outdoor furniture along with cocktail tables, outdoor gas fireplace, built-in bar, industrial grill, decorative planters, and patio décor. President Quentin Schlieder is slated to present a program on African Violets at the Center on Tuesday, October 19, 2010.

Members found great plants at East Coast, and after paying for their treasures the group returned to Quentin's house in Smyrna for homemade strawberry shortcake and Southern sweet tea. By all accounts, everyone had a great time and with our very popular excursion to Southern Delaware now a fond memory, we are thinking of a club outing for the Autumn.

One idea would be to plan an excursion for October with stops at Tinari Greenhouses, Meadowbrook Farm, Primex Garden Center, lunch at Otto's (a great and reasonably priced German restaurant whose Oktoberfest should be in full swing!) and culminating with a stop at Ott's Exotic Greenhouses.

Tinari Greenhouses need no introduction. Tinari Greenhouses was established in 1945 by Anne and Frank A. Tinari Sr. for the purpose of hybridizing and growing award winning African Violets. The Tinari's made it their life work to teach and promote the joys of growing this unique plant. The AVSA endowment fund is named for Anne, a former president of the organization. Lilianne and Frank Jr. joined the business in the early sixties and have continued the tradition continues with growing and selling quality violets, orchids, and seasonal plants.

Meadowbrook Farm is a grand estate featuring a retail nursery, gardens and more. Among its many offerings you'll find outstanding garden plants, flowering baskets, trees and shrubs, and one-of-a-

kind specimen plants. There's also a beautiful gift shop and greenhouse filled with traditional and exotic houseplants, glassware, jewelry, vases, statuary and seasonal adornments.



The formal garden at J. Liddon Pennock's Meadowbrook Farm

Primex Garden Center carries a full selection of over 10,000 items, as well as a greenhouse and nursery for a wide selection of flowers, trees, shrubs and more!



The conservatory at Ott's Exotic Plants

Ott's Exotic Plants, near Schwenksville is a wonderful autumn destination and this place demands a shout out. The main greenhouse has a large waterfall, paths, complete with stairs going up to the top, a koi pond, and every type of plant you could ever want. In the fall, they have a hill covered in mums with little walking paths where you can go to the top.

Congratulations to Libby!



Photo by Gary Hunter

Libby Behnke's *Columnea* 'Orange Sherbet' was a prize winning entry at the AVSA Convention in Raleigh this year. Dale Martens wrote on *Gesneriphiles* that the plant was in such excellent condition with good culture that she thought it could have won Best Gesneriad in the amateur section!

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunrise at Wilmington, 2215 Shipley Road, Wilmington, DE

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 of the season 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! **Lyndon Lyons plant dividends should be available!!!**

Tuesday, June 8, 2010 – 6:00 p.m. (Note earlier time!)

Potluck Dinner and Picnic at the Borleskes’ garden, 116 Bellant Circle, Greenville, DE 19807

Everyone is invited to bring their significant other or a guest and your favorite dish. Installation of Officers and a brief business meeting follow dinner. Also don’t forget to pay you dues for next year!

We will be discussing programs and activities for 2010-11 at the May meeting. We need to discuss a theme and location for the 2011 Show as well as a proposed Autumn trip and support for the AVSA and Gesneriad Conventions in the greater Philadelphia area.

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

Upcoming Shows and Sales...

The Baltimore African Violet Club will be holding their AVSA judged Mother's Day Show & Sale with the theme “Violet Mardi Gras” on Friday, May 7, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 8th from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the shops at Kenilworth in Towson, MD, 800 Kenilworth Dr, 21204. Take I-95, or I-70 or I-83 to I-695, the Baltimore beltway towards Towson. From, I-695 EXIT 25, turn right from exit ramp onto CHARLES STREET going SOUTH. At next light, turn Left (East) Onto KENILWORTH DRIVE; Shopping Center will be on your left hand side (you will go past Marleigh and Donington). There will be hundreds of beautiful African violets and other exotic houseplants will be offered for sale. This event is free to the public. Contact: Shirley Huffman by e-mail at bshuffman2@aol.com or by telephone at (301) 854-2021 for more information.

The African Violet Club of Burlington County will present their annual judged show and sale at the Medford Leas Retirement Community, 1 Medford Leas Way, Medford, NJ 08055 on Saturday, May 15, 2010 from noon. to 5 p.m. For information, contact Blanche Renz by e-mail at bfrenz2000@yahoo.com or by telephone at 609-758-1138.

The Gesneriad Society's 54th Annual Convention and Show – “Vancouver!! Your Passport to Gesneriads” will be hosted by the Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society from June 29-July 3, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, Vancouver. Admission to Show and Plant Sales are free. For more information and convention registration go to <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org>

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