



# *The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society*

Volume XVI, No. 1

September 2013

## *DAVS List of 25 Favorites*

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 got 25 votes. The result of this survey is 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.

Carol Callaghan, Angie Celano, Stephanie Griffith, Bobbie LaFashia, Anne Petrucci, and Quentin Schlieder submitted lists. The number in parentheses is the number of votes cast for each variety. The compilation below was forwarded to Floyd Lawson at AVSA. Thanks to all who submitted lists!

1. 5b ionantha subsp. grotei Silvert (2)
2. Alps, The (2)
3. Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler (3)
4. Chantaspring (2)
5. Cirelda (3)
6. Frozen in Time (4)
7. Irish Flirt (3)
8. Little Pro (2)
9. Milky Way Trail (2)
10. Ming Blue (3)
11. Optimara Little Diamond (2)
12. Orchard's Bumble Magnet (2)
13. Petite Jewel (3)
14. Picasso (3)
15. Pixie Blue (3)
16. Pow Wow (4)
17. Precious Red (3)
18. Rainbow's Quiet Riot (3)
19. Rob's Boolaroo (4)
20. Rob's Fuddy Duddy (5) )Photo above)
21. Rob's Fuzzy Navel (2)
22. Rob's Jitterbug (2)
23. Snuggles (3)
24. Tommie Lou (5)
25. Vibrant Val (2)

## *DAVS Busy Summer Recap*

The summer Board meeting was convened at Bertucci's in Christiana Town Center on July 19, 2013 to discuss plans for the coming year. The minutes of the meeting are enclosed for your review.

One of the major topics was how to streamline the business meeting to provide more time for plants and socializing. It was decided to send copies of the minutes with the newsletter so that members can read them at their convenience. The order of the meeting agenda has also been changed so that the programs will be first so that the speakers don't have to sit through the business meeting and members who travel some distance to attend can get an early start home.

Quentin Schlieder is the new Plant Sales Chairman and he has been busy propagating plants for the monthly meetings. The first pick will be awarded through the monthly raffle, so buy a ticket and you may win the plant of your choice from the plant sales table. To encourage members to bring plants or cuttings for the sale, the second group to access the table will be donors (who incidentally can choose to retain up to 75% if the sales price of their donations to the table!) before the sale is open to all. So plan to bring plants for the sales table to provide opportunities for other members and guests to share your treasures!



*We didn't have a wide angle lens so only (l-r) Elizabeth Varley, Barb Borleske, Mary Schaeffer, Anne Petrucci and Quentin Schlieder appear in the photo, but Bobbie LaFashia, Terry Celano, Julia Lynch, Stephanie Griffith, Libby Behnke and Gary Hunter also attended the Summer Board Meeting.*

*...continued on page 2...*

...*"Summer Recap" continued from page 1...*

The Board also discussed and decided on the theme for the Spring Flower Show which will be "Casting a Violet Spell." (See enclosed minutes) Julia Lynch has confirmed the dates with Boscov's at Christiana Town Center and set up will be on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> with judging on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Boscov's wasn't certain whether the Auditorium, which is the usual venue for the Show and Sale would be available, so the event may be on the main floor, which would enhance access and visibility.

Mary Schaeffer has reserved 100 choice name varieties of African Violets from Brenda Petry at The Violet Gallery. These are always popular and sell out. Additionally, Quentin Schlieder, Mary Schaeffer, and Gary hunter traveled to Parker Ford, PA to visit with Carl Lederer to reserve violets for the Show. Lederer's violets are much larger and attractive than the plants usually available, and we're hoping will compete better than those available at local stores like Home Depot and ACME. Lederer's had provided plants in the past and were quite popular with the public. They also will have miniature Optimara Violets in bloom and some smaller choice gesneriads.

The MAAVS Convention Committee has made great progress on a venue for the 2014 MAAVS Convention. The Embassy Suites in Newark, while a beautiful venue close to the University of Delaware Botanical Garden, has been eliminated since the hotel couldn't commit to reserving a space until they confirm the University's Football Schedule, which would not be known until some time late next summer. The Committee has held several meetings with both the Crowne Plaza on Naaman's Road near Interstate 95 and the Double Tree on Concord Pike. While the Double Tree has a more attractive Ball Room for the flower show and is more convenient to shopping located next door at the Concord Mall, the Crowne Plaza offers complimentary shuttle service to the airport and train station, complimentary rooms for speakers and a very convenient arrangement of rooms on one level. The negotiating has been intense at times, but we need to make a final decision for a recommendation to MAAVS at the September meeting. We want to promote our 2014 MAAVS Convention in New Bern, NC this November. Several of our members plan to attend and participate.

Finally, Mary Schaeffer is still awaiting word from the Jo Anne Martinez, National Convention Chairman, on our bid to host the 2016 Gesneriad Society. Hopefully we will hear from them soon.

## ***UD's Fall Plant Sale***

*Editor's Note: Most of our members are ardent gardeners who not only love African Violets and their relatives, but all plants including those outdoors in our gardens. Member Val Budischak is the go to person for information about the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens upcoming Fall Plant Sale. Try to get there for some terrific plants at very attractive prices!*

The University of Delaware Botanic Gardens (UDBG) will hold its fall plant sale from Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 12-14, outside the fenced-in area across from the Fischer Greenhouse behind Townsend Hall on UD's south campus. The focus of this year's fall plant sale is "Plants that Bring Life into Your Garden."

The sale is open only to members from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, September 12. Hours for the general public are 4-7 p.m., Friday, September 13, and 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, September 14, 2013

According to Dr. Douglas Tallamy, professor and chairperson of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at UD, "Fall flowering plants are essential as nectar sources for migrating monarchs, red admirals and hummingbirds, as pollen and nectar sources for native bees, and as the plants that will set seed for wintering birds. All of these creatures partially depend on your garden to provide these plants."

Popular perennial plants at this sale include, but are not limited to, swamp milkweed and butterfly weed (both attract monarch adults and caterpillars), Joe Pye weed (fragrant flowers lure butterflies), cardinal flower (beckons hummingbirds and butterflies), Indian pink (hummingbird magnet) and golden alexander (entices black swallowtail).

UDBG cultivates plants from its teaching collection that do well in this region and are taught as part of the curricula in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Through this fall plant sale, the public has the opportunity to view and purchase these plants. For further information regarding the sale, please contact Valann Budischak at 302-831-4188 or [valannb@udel.edu](mailto:valannb@udel.edu).

*You can avoid fungus using a very simple trick, but be sure to wash very well the pot "before" you put the sterilized mix in because the pot might be contaminated by fungus spores. The trick is: use chamomile tea, regular strength, room temperature to spray the seeds. It is a mild natural fungicide and can avoid the seeds to get fungus and also damping off. I use chamomile tea to water the seedlings from plants that are prone to get fungus like Sinningia richii or Begonia cinnabarina. Mauro [www.brazilplants.com](http://www.brazilplants.com) (as posted on Gesneriaphiles 6/19/13)*

## ***Proposed 2013-14 Budget to be Considered***

The Treasurer prepared an annual budget which was submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee of the Society as required under the Bylaws. The Budget is being published here for the members' review. Expenditures not included in the adopted annual budget will require prior approval by both the Executive Committee and the membership. Approval of the Budget will be considered during the business portion of the September meeting.

### **INCOME:**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Dues                                   | \$350         |
| Boscov's Tickets                       | 50            |
| Plant sales/monthly meetings           | 875           |
| Raffle                                 | 200           |
| Flower Show Income                     | 3000          |
| <u>Donation from newsletter editor</u> | <u>550</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                          | <b>\$5025</b> |

### **EXPENSES:**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| AVSA- membership, award                              | \$60          |
| Gesneriad Society membership,<br>award, insurance    | 90            |
| MAAVS- membership, awards, ad                        | 170           |
| Brazil plants  | 250           |
| Speakers   | 500           |
| Flower show expenses<br>(includes plants for resale) | 2500          |
| Projector screen                                     | 250           |
| Library  | 50            |
| Little show awards                                   | 100           |
| Sunshine   | 100           |
| Memorials  | 100           |
| Newsletter   | 355           |
| Contributions  | 250           |
| <u>China Conservation Center</u>                     | <u>250</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$5025</b> |

There also is a proposal to allocate \$500.00 from the Chapter's accumulated funds to establish a "Special Project Fund" to allocate grants to commercial growers or to purchase special plants to be grown and distributed through tissue culture or other means. Each member would be eligible to receive one plant from each project. The surplus plants would be grown on and sold at the Chapter's sales to replenish the Special Project Fund, thus it would be a revolving fund. The commercial grower must be a member of the Chapter and grants would total no more than \$250.00 each. Emphasis would be placed on plants with commercial potential which are not easily propagated en masse by rhizomes or leaf cuttings.

Currently two *Sinningias* are being proposed. The first is *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Red Coat' and *Sinningia* 'Stone's Yulia.' The *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Red Coat' might be a great holiday plant marketed by Gary Hunter through Longwood Gardens and Terrain at Styers in Concordville, PA which offer his plants in the retail market.

This proposal was originally presented and briefly discussed at the June picnic. Over the summer, the concept was further developed, but there is still an opportunity for member input.



*Here's a "last from the past." Early members of the Delaware African Violet Society (l-r) pose for a Club portrait including Rose Marie Mc Mann, Diane Abramson, Sally Hunter, Carol Callaghan, Gary Hunter, Bessie Pyle. Photo courtesy of Diane Abramson*

## ***Event Supports Chapter***

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society will be participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" on Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

"Friends Helping Friends" is a day to enjoy great shopping, a super 25% discount shopping pass (some exclusions apply), refreshments, register to win prizes including a flat panel television, a diamond pendant, and a \$500 shopping spree. Passes to "Friends Helping Friends" will be available from Anne at our Tuesday evening meeting for \$5.00 each with 100% of the ticketing money retained by the Society (If we sell 20 tickets, we make \$100!)

Tickets are valid at all Boscov's stores. These passes make great gifts, so plan to buy several and support our organization. Some members use the pass to get wonderful bargains for early holiday shopping. This year, the Society is also considering having a table at the event, since it will be a great opportunity to recruit new members and promote our Spring Show. If you would like to help, contact Quentin Schlieder.



## ***Upcoming DAVS Meetings...***

**Tuesday, September 10, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Hosts: Snacks - Stephanie Griffith**

**Beverages – Julia Lynch**

**Raffle Prizes – Elizabeth Varley/Stephen M.**

**Program: “Secrets from an Award-Winning African Violet Grower”** Sandy Skalski, winner of numerous awards at the national African Violet Convention in Cherry Hill will reveal her secrets to producing award winning violets. Project vintage Violet plants will be available. Little Show and Plant/Supply Sale will be held.

**Tuesday, October 8, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Hosts: Snacks - Carol Moody**

**Beverages – Linda McGregor**

**Raffle Prizes – Mary Schaeffer/Libby Behnke**

**Mini-Workshop – Planting Seed by Mary Schaeffer**

**Program: “How to Grow Fabulous Episcias in Your Home”** Andrew Norris, President of the Baltimore African Violet Society will share his considerable expertise in growing huge episcias that blow the judges away. Stolon rooting project will follow. Show and Tell and Plant/Supply Sale will be held.

**Tuesday, November 12, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Program: “DAVS Golden Jubilee Remembering our Roots”**

## ***The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter***

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor  
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Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

## ***Upcoming Shows and Sales...***

**October 6, 2013 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society will present “Gesneriads on Broadway” in the Haggerty Education Center at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960. Plant Sale. Free parking and admission. Information: Karyn Cichocki at [kdc05@ptd.net](mailto:kdc05@ptd.net) or (973) 579-7914.

**October 12, 2013 Noon – 6 p.m.**

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia will present "Once upon a time - Storybook Violets" in Cathedral Hall at Cathedral Village Retirement Community, 600 East Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (near Andorra Shopping Center). For more information, contact Judith Smith at [smithja@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:smithja@mail.med.upenn.edu).

## ***Brazil Plants Seed Fund***

Enclosed is a listing of current gesneriad selections from the Brazil Plants Seed Fund managed by Mauro Peixoto. Mary Schaeffer has been coordinating our participation in this initiative.

Mary notes that this seed is very viable compared to some other sources and the program has provided the opportunity to acquire really unusual gesneriads, many of them at risk in their native habitats due to destruction of habitat. It is the perfect way to help preserve some of these species for the future while enriching our own collections. You can visit Mauro's site to see photographs of many of the selections, as well as cultural information. You can access the site at <http://brazilplants.com/>. Contact Mary if you would like to try growing some of the selections at [schaeffermary@yahoo.com](mailto:schaeffermary@yahoo.com).

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