Countdown to Showtime!
The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society’s Annual Show and Sale are three weeks away! The theme of this year’s show is “Legacy if the Brandywine Valley” and 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. The Sale and Show will officially be open to the public on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 28, 2010 from noon to 4 p.m.

The rules and schedule for the show are included on pages 2 and 3 of this issue of the newsletter. The schedule was submitted to Meredith Hall, the AVSA Schedule approver, and has been approved.

Please note that this year Horticulture entries will be accepted on Friday, March 26th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Design and late horticulture entries will be accepted on Saturday, March 27th between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. only by prior reservation and with the approval of the Entries Chairman.

Enclosed is an entry sheet for your use. When you know which plants you will be entering, please fill out the form and give it to Carol Callaghan so that she can enter them into the computer. She emphasizes that even if there will be additions deletions or changes; it helps to have as many entries as possible entered early.

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.

Finally, Anne Petrucci is collecting money for show awards at the March 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.

It is with deep sadness that we note the death of Betty Gregg, a judge and a very good grower of both African violets and gesneriads, who Co-chaired the Chapter’s Show in 2001. Due to health problems she had not been able to attend meetings in recent years. We will vote on sending a memorial contribution to AVSA at our next meeting.

New Book on Streptocarpus
The Society has a great new addition to its library acquired in memory of Pat Barbarita’s and Barb Borleske’s mother, June McMurry Lesh. This beautifully illustrated 164 page book was written by noted award winning nurseryman and plant breeder Rex Dibley of Dibley’s Nursery in Llanelidan, Ruthin, North Wales in the United Kingdom.

Streptocarpus are well known and much loved houseplants. This new fully revised second edition of Dibley’s popular book has an extra chapter and over fifty new images. All aspects of the care and cultivation of these plants are addressed in this book. There are comprehensive chapters on propagation, hybridization, history, pests and diseases.

The exhibition of Streptocarpus is explained in detail. Advice on timing these plants for best display is extremely helpful. There also is detailed direction on growing them successfully under fluorescent lights.

As expected, the book includes a great deal of information about hybrids, since Dibley is a highly regarded plant breeder, but, he also includes wonderfully illustrated sections on the species in their natural habitats. He describes in detail the genetics of these fascinating plants as well as their propagation.

Dibley’s book is very readable, unlike some of its predecessors, like Hilliard’s and Burtt’s highly technical Streptocarpus, an African Plant Study which was published in 1971. Dibley’s book should be of great interest to all who grow these lovely plants, including novices and accomplished growers and admirers of this genus. It was written for gardeners by a gardener! See Anne Petrucci at our March meeting to see this wonderful addition to our library. For more information about Dibley’s visit their website at http://dibleys.com/index.htm.
SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chairman
Bobbie LaFashia

Co-Chairman
Barbara Borleske

Schedule
Quentin Schlieder and Bobbie LaFashia

Plant Placement
Diane Abramson

Entries
Carol Callaghan and Barbara Borleske

Classification and Passing
Carol Moody, Angie Celano and Diane Abramson

Publicity
Nancy Murray

Design Reservations
Terry Celano

Judges
Libby Behnke

Clerks
Diane Abramson

Ribbons
Mary Schaeffer

Awards
Carol Moody and Anne Petrucci

Plant Sales
Pat Barbartia, Quentin Schlieder, Geno Iubatti, and Maria Waluef

AVSA & Education Exhibit
Barbara Borleske, Pat Barbartia, Diane Abramson and Terry Celano

Clean-up
All Members

Many thanks to the following sponsors:
Always the Garden
Old Country Gardens
Friendly Gift Shop

SHOW RULES

1. Exhibitor: The show may be entered by amateur growers only. Exhibitors must be Members of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society.

2. Entries: Horticulture entries will be accepted on Friday, March 26, 2010 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Design and late horticulture entries will be accepted on Saturday, March 27, 2010 between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. only by prior reservation and with the approval of the Entries Chairman. Entries may be removed after closing of the show on Sunday, March 28th after 4 p.m. Plants must be clean, healthy, and well-groomed and grown by the exhibitor for at least three months. All African violet species, cultivars, and other gesneriads shall be correctly named. Any number of plants may be entered in each class by an exhibitor but only one plant of a variety may be entered in the same class.

3. Horticulture: All specimen plants must be in clean plastic pots, with the exhibitor's name on the bottom of the pot. Pots may be set within clean plastic pots of the same size. Removable, flared, or separate collars are not allowed. Micro-mini violets may be shown with plastic wells and gesneriads may be shown as they are grown. All African violets, except for trailers and some species plants, must be single crowned. All African violets must be in bloom. The gesneriads grown for foliage class is limited to plants with distinctive and ornamental foliage.

4. Design: Notify the design chairperson of your design division entry at the meeting prior to the show. Exhibitors are limited to one design entry per class. Mats, bases, backgrounds, and accessories are permitted. Terrariums must be covered. Chairs will be provided for judges to judge at eye-level. The American flag, state flags, flags from other nations, plants on the endangered list from any state or nation, artificial plant material, and live creatures shall not be used in any design division exhibit. African violet plants and other plant material used need not be grown by the exhibitor.

5. Judging: The show will be merit judged by AVSA judges, using AVSA scale of points applicable to each class. The authority for judging shall be The AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges. 1998 Edition, supplemental pages, and subsequent changes printed in The African Violet Magazine. Only blue ribbon exhibits shall be eligible for any special awards. The decision of the judges shall be final. The Richardson Park Learning Center plants will be judged by DAVS judges, and those entries will not be part of the ribbon count for the standard show award.

6. Eligibility: Only AVSA members are eligible to enter the AVSA collection classes. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each collection class.

7. Disclaimer: The society will provide protection for all exhibits, but will not be responsible for any losses. The committee reserves the right to subdivide the classes.
HORTICULTURE DIVISION

I. Standard Specimen, Green Foliage Any Type Blossoms - Classes 1-5
1. Solid
2. Two-tone
3. White edged
4. Multicolor or other edged
5. Fantasy, chimera or pinwheel

SECTION II. Standard Specimen, Variegated Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Class 6
6. Any blossom color or type

SECTION III. Collections - Classes 7-8
7. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties of the same type (three single-crown or three trailer or three single-crown semi-miniatures or three semi-miniature trailers).
8. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single-crown semi-miniatures or three semi-miniature trailers).

SECTION IV. Species and Trailers, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Classes 9-10
9. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids
10. Trailers (standard, mini or semi-miniature)

SECTION V. Semi-miniature Specimen, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Classes 11-13
11. Solid
12. Two-tone
13. Multicolor, edged, fantasy or chimera

SECTION VI. Miniature Specimen, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Classes 14-16
14. Solid
15. Two-toned
16. Multicolor, edged, fantasy or chimera

SECTION VII. Vintage Violets-Class 17
17. African violets available to growers before 1984

SECTION VIII. Gesneriads Other than African Violets-
Classes 18-24
18. Sinningia grown for bloom
19. Streptocarpus grown for bloom
20. Chirita grown for bloom
21. Any other gesneriad grown for bloom
22. Chirita grown for ornamental foliage (no blooms permitted)
23. Episcia grown for ornamental foliage (no blooms permitted)
24. Any other gesneriad grown for ornamental foliage (no blooms permitted)
25. Collection of three gesneriads of the same genus

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION IX. Interpretive Flower Arrangements: A design using cut African violet blossoms, foliage, and other cut plant material - fresh, dried or treated. No artificial plant material is permitted, but a small amount of other material may be used as part of the design.

Classes 26-28
Class 26. "Delaware Center For The Contemporary Arts" - Visit seven galleries and twenty-six artist studios at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts. Do a contemporary design to be staged in a lighted niche 6” high, 5” wide, and 4” deep. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 27. "Hagley Museum" - Discover the beginning of the DuPont science company at Hagley Museum and Library where the original gunpowder manufacturing plant was established in 1800. Design an arrangement incorporating black to be staged in a yellow niche 10” high, 8” wide, and 6” deep. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 28. "Winterthur" - Tour distinctive Winterthur Museum and Country Estate, home of Henry Francis DuPont's American decorative art collection. Design a hat to wear to the annual Point-to-Point country horse race at Winterthur. Hat and hat stand to be provided by the club.

SECTION X. Interpretive Plant Arrangements-Class 29
All entries in this section must include one or more blooming African violet plants. Other plant material - fresh, dried, treated, may be used. No artificial plant material is permitted, but a small amount of other material may be used as part of the design. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 29. "Longwood Gardens" Experience the floriferousness of Longwood Garden's forty indoor and outdoor gardens, home of Pierre DuPont. Make an arrangement using a mini or semi-miniature African violet plant to be staged in a niche 16” high, 12” wide, and 10” deep.

SECTION XI. Container Gardens - Classes 30-31
Miniature garden or terrarium with one or more blooming African violets and other growing plants. All plants should be planted in the container, and no cut material is permitted. Miniature garden or terrarium with one or more blooming African violets and other growing plants. All plants should be planted in the container, and no cut material is permitted.

30. Dish Garden
31. Terrariums (cover required) and Bottle Gardens

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XII. Education & AVSA Information Exhibits-Class 32-33 (Staffed by a Society member during show)
32. Educational Exhibit
33. AVSA Information Exhibit

Check out our new Website at http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/
Upcoming DAVS Meetings…

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.
Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd,
Wilmington, DE 19803
Hostess: Diane Abramson
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 26-28, 2010. 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 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. 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!

Showtime Schedule!!!
Here is the schedule for our 2010 Show:

Friday, March 26
10 a.m. Show and Plant Sale set up
Please bring you sales plants labeled and priced! Horticulture entries will be accepted on Friday, March 26, 2010 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Design and late horticulture entries will be accepted on Saturday, March 27, 2010 between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. only by prior reservation and with the approval of the Entries Chairman.
Please submit your entry sheet to Carol Callaghan at the March meeting. An entry sheet is enclosed with this Newsletter. If you are not certain about the name of your plant, try to research it at the March meeting. This will speed up entries!

Saturday, March 27
7:30-9 a.m. Design and late horticulture entries will be accepted on Saturday, March 27, 2010 only by prior reservation and with the approval of the Entries Chairman.
11 a.m.-5 p.m. Show and Sale open to Public
Sunday, March 28
Noon to 4 p.m. Show and Sale open to Public
4 p.m. Cleanup – All Members!

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter
c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor
36 South Main Street
Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

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