

The Desert Blooms

TUCSON AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Newsletter
November 2017



Strept. Salmon Sunset

(1956-2017 -- "60 Years of Growing and Showing")

President's Message

Life has been very busy for me and going to get busier with the holidays approaching. I'm sure it is the same for you so don't forget to make time for your violets!!

How does everyone like or not like meeting on Saturday? Do you like the time we meet? Let me know at the November meeting.

You might want to be thinking about going to the AVSA convention in May. It will be a great convention with lots of violets to buy and some great tours and always a good time. I know I can't wait until I shuffle off to Buffalo and hope you can make it too.

Happy Turkey Day!!

Feel free to contact me.....Kathy



Sunray Trail



Gloxinella lindeniana

NOVEMBER MEETINGS



Northwest Group (Fountains Location)

Saturday, November 11th, 2:30-4:30 pm

PROGRAM: Mini Design

Eastside Group (Cascades Location)

Saturday, November 18th, 1-3 pm

PROGRAM: Mini Design



Bulletin Board

No items this month.....

Word of the Month: Perlite

Perlite is an amorphous (without a clearly defined shape or form) volcanic glass that has a relatively high water content, typically formed by the hydration of obsidian. It occurs naturally and has the unusual property of greatly expanding when heated sufficiently. It is an industrial mineral and a commercial product useful for its light weight after processing.



Winter Outlook for Southern Arizona

With a possible "La Nina" influence this winter, the prediction for the Southwest is warmer and drier than the average....



Q...What do I do with that old coffee carafe?

A...Why not make a terrarium for mini violet, mini gessie, etc..



"Mr. Cartwright says you have to make a career decision—African violets or accounting."

Let's talk about watering consistently.



If you find your plants are not doing well or growing weird, are you sure you are doing everything right? Could it be your water, could it be you??? Of course it isn't you and you are doing everything right, you might want to get your water tested.

Water is one of the most important parts of growing any plant. Your water should have a pH of 6.5 to 7 for violets, my tap water is 8 and my rain water is 6.5. This is before fertilizer. Also test your water after you add fertilizer it brings the numbers down. Before watering make sure your water is room temperature. If it is too cold or too hot it can make funny marks on the leaves even if you don't get them wet.

If you collect rainwater off your roof wait until it rains enough that the water is clear. If it is your first time to use rainwater off the roof just try it on one violet for a month and make sure it is okay. Some roofs have chemicals that will come down with the rainwater and can kill your plants. Rain water should also be room temperature.

Do not use water that has been through a water softener.

Most important don't over water or under water, need to be consistent.

Most asked question: how often should I water? Try this, give your plants a good drink on Sunday, by the following Monday you notice they are just starting to droop. That means you need to water every Sunday. Every house is different, this is a good way to figure out how often you should water. You may have to do this again when the seasons change.

If you wick water you need to keep your reservoirs full otherwise the wick dries out. Some growers let them dry out so the plant can get air to the roots (good idea). If you do let the reservoirs dry out, then water from the top to get the wick good and wet so it will start taking the water up again. Clean the reservoirs at least once a month to get the built up fertilizer out of the reservoir.

If you ever find your violet/plant is really drooping then water it without fertilizer, once it has recovered you can start watering with fertilized water again.

Consistency in watering is one of the most important things to remember about growing violets. It is very important to water on a regular basis to get that plant to perform!! Don't forget light, temperature, fertilizer, grooming, repotting, etc. also important. Happy growing

Email from a friend overseas.....10.4.17

Great newsletter (contents, format, etc).

We are teaching English in secondary schools in Gyumri, Armenia. This is our first year as Peace Corps Volunteers here. If all goes well, we should be here for 2 years. Gyumri is the second largest city in Armenia with population of 190,000. There used to be more people living here until the big earthquake hit in 1988 and many of those who moved out never came back. Currently we're living in an apartment. The landlady left us 6 plants to take care of: rubber plant, bonsai, jade plant, peace lily, flamingo lily and (of all plants in the world) cactus (as if we needed to be reminded of Tucson). I can handle all fine except the bonsai. I think it is boxwood. Since we moved in 2 months ago, there have been more leaves and they quadruple in size! **Any of you know anything about bonsai and can give me advice?** I have looked up the Internet but still feel it very "foreign" to me.

AVs in Armenia: They have them here but they are just "another plant", no apparent special care AVs deserve. I've seen suckers, long necks, bent plants, etc. I don't have any AV in our apartment yet. I don't know how AVs survive the winters here--long and cold. My school has a few and I shall find out as my first winter is approaching.

I've been following the newsletters and emails in the past few years and enjoying them. It was as if I were an active member still and not in absentia.

See you in 2019? And keep those newsletters, etc. coming! And enjoy and good luck with the sales! **And hi from Armenia to all. I miss the happy and nice AV growers!**

With best regards,
D

Where is Armenia?

Armenia is a nation, and former Soviet republic, in the mountainous Caucasus region between Asia and Europe. It borders with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Iran.

Population: 2.9 million + 2
Currency: Armenian dram

SHOW TIME 2018 – TAVS 60 Years

As you know our Show will be at the Golden Pins Lane on March 3rd. I'm sure we will do it just like we did last year. I hope I can get lots of help and you will sign up to be a Chair person, worker or even better Show Chair Asst.

Let's all give it that old violet try and get some plants ready for our Spring Show and Sale. Not to mention all the fun we have and how proud you will be of yourself and plants!!

We also need plants to sale. Get rid of the old ones on the sales table then you have room for the new!! Not to mention it can help a little to supplement your hobby.

If you are not into showing or growing to sell we still need help.

The shows and sales are our best way to get new members to keep our club going so we are counting on every one to keep our club a live!

Don't forget to sign up on the 11th or 18th when I pass around the signup sheets!!

Happy Growing!!



SHOW – UPDATES

March 3, 2018

Golden Pins Lanes

Countdown: 16 Weeks

Need Design Themes and Cover Design for Schedule

Committees:

Show Chairperson: Kathy

Assistant Show Chairperson:

Staging: Barbara

Classifications:

Entries: Jeri

Schedule: Jeri

Education: Lois

Publicity: Kathy

Plant Sales:

Property: Kathy

Placement: Judy

Judges:

Judges Clerks:

Host:

Awards: Candace

Cashiers: Meichele

Supplies: Kathy

Cover Design: TBD



HELPERS SIGNED UP SO FAR:
(As of 10.18.17)

Education:

Judy Sheila Ruth
Rose

Plant Sales:

Robert Judy

Property: Ken

Placement: Ken

Judges Clerks: Judy

Hostesses: Carol

Thank you to those who have signed up so far. This will be updated in each month's newsletter so you can see where we need help.



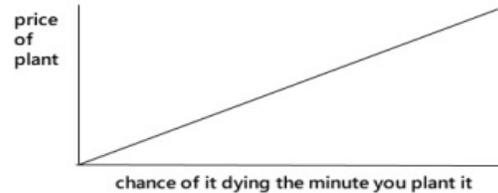
Show Countdown Clock
Link below

<https://www.timeanddate.com/countdown/generic?iso=20180303T10&p0=393&msg=TAVS+60th+Show&ud=1&font=sanserif>

Think this is an AV...well think again...
This is very happy Petrocosmea minor.....



March 2012 Show @ Foothills Mall
Who did this belong to?



Show and Tell from East Side Meeting

This is a Kuerig K-Cup from right to left showing the plastic outer cup (black); next to it is the cup with filter still in; next to that just the filter and the item on the left is the filter basket frame. Once the cup is used just remove the grounds and a small hole will be in the bottom of the K-cup.



Results of "TAVS Points" Suggestion
in last newsletter from your editor:

<<<< File 13



Seen this before – and now with cooler weather soon (I hope) you may see it again – Powdery Mildewtry increasing your air circulation and use a fungicide like Phyton to cure....

Found this going thru my e-files:

Gesneriphiles Digest, Vol 172, Issue 10 (5.25.17)

I have received many questions about whether plate culture would work as well for African Violets as it does for *Primulina*. I suspected that it would work just fine, but my theory was completely untested. So in the fall of last year I thought I'd give it a try. The early test seem to prove that growing African Violets on plates works just fine. See Below:

photo is Blushing Ivory



**P.S.
Make a hole or two in the bottom and use a wick.....**



Webpage of the Month **“ The Violet Barn “**



Miniature violets
Trailing violets

Chimeras (stripes)
Saintpaulia species

100's more!



<https://www.violetbarn.com/store/>

Most of you know of TVB but it's always worth a “shout out” for Dr. Ralph and Olive Ma Robinson.



Their “About Us” from the web page.....

We’ve been growing and exhibiting since 1975, and have been in business shipping to satisfied customers world-wide since 1985. We hybridize many of our own plants—are famous for our ‘Rob’s’ and ‘Ma’s’ series of African violets, and our ‘Bristol’s’ series of gesneriads (African violet relatives).

We grow our plants in a renovated barn, circa 1900, with an attached glasshouse and other buildings. At any given time, we have 30,000+ plants being grown. We grow plants because this is what we love to do.

Read more about them at this link:

<https://www.violetbarn.com/about/>



Jazz Bouquet

Semidouble to double two-tone pink pansies. Dark green, red-backed, green and white to pink, variegated foliage. Profuse blooming semiminature.

Jazz Bouquet is one of their new offerings. If you go to the link at the beginning of this into to TVB and will see at the bottom to put in your email to receive info from them. They send out a monthly newsletter you will find enjoyable.

By the way, they are about 108 miles and a little under 2 hours from Buffalo, just in case you're going to the AVSA/CAVS Convention.

Check them out.....



[Rhapsodie Elfriede](#)

A Reinhold Holtkamp Sr. hybrid described by AVSA's [First Class](#) Database as "Single dark blue. Standard". It was the first hybrid to reproduce reliably with sticktite flowers.



Editor's Notes:

Looking at November we celebrate two holidays this month; Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

It always feels good when someone says to me "thank you for your service," referring to my 24 years in the US Air Force. I too thank all those who served through the years and some who paid with their lives. Strolling through the US Military Cemetary in Luxembourg and seeing all those white tombstones I couldn't help feel sadened for the lives lost - but those persons wanted to serve their country, something that seems to befading nowadays.

Thanksgiving to me is a time to be thankful for what we have, who we love, and for friends and family. When we have friends over for Thanksgiving dinner we go around the table asking our guests just to mention one thing they are thankful for - and without hesitation they can share that one thing.

Just give it a try and the next two meetings coming up, just thank someone that you appreciate them for sharing with you and the club the joy (most of the time) of our hobby of African Violets and Gesneriads!

.....Ken

Webpages Listing

Copperstate AVC – Phoenix

<http://copperstateavc.wixsite.com/website>

The New Gesneriads Reference Web:

<http://www.gesneriads.info/new-gesneriad-reference-web/>

Pima Masters Gardeners (November Update):

<https://extension.arizona.edu/pima-master-gardeners>

Moon Phases:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/moon/phases/usa/tucson>

Great emails that come out every Monday:

[Want to receive a weekly Growing Tip from AVSA? Sign up here!](#)

Pictures of Episcias and Streptocarpus:

<http://www.streptocarpus-info.com/Episcia/index.html>

