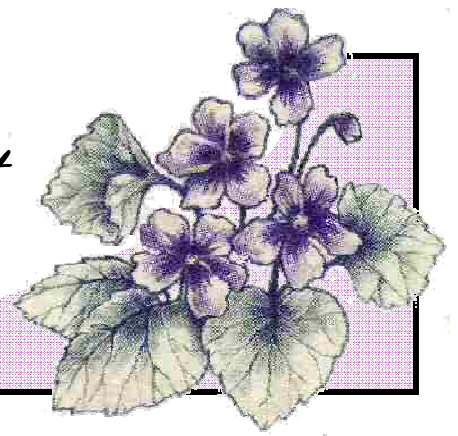


Richmond African Violet Society Newsletter



VOLUME 21, NO. 8

AFFILIATED WITH AVSA AND MAAVS

OCTOBER, 2010



NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2



Please make sure your dues are up to date. **Kitty Hedgepeth** will be accepting dues during Saturday's meeting. Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. Please bring in a plant or design for judging.

Hospitality

October - Bill Schmidt/Barbara Stewart

November – Kitty Hedgepeth
December – Christmas Feast
January – Nell Reese/Miriam Pendleton
February – Barbara Newlin
March – Josane Wagner
April – Curtis & Darlene Stevens
May – Installation of Officers
June – Annual Outing



Our Members:

We were happy to see Jim Hasslatcher and Vergyl Cabbagestalk with us at last month's meeting.

Happy Birthday to...

Rika Rawles on Oct. 13th

Bill Schmidt on Oct.



Historians Corner

October

1949 Mr. Lloyd Lindsay, president of the men's garden club in Ashville, NC, and author of "African Violets and Their Culture", was the speaker at the meeting.

1970 The society donated \$25 to Meals on Wheels and \$25 for the veterans at McGuire Hospital.

1998 A dinner was held at the Chamberlayne United Methodist Church to celebrate the 50th anniversary of RAVS.

2001 Vicki Carr succeeded Wayne Coley to become the second editor of the society's newsletter.

Raffle

Barbara Stewart donated 2 plants of *Sinningia speciosa* that was won by Josane Wagner and Vergyl Cabbagestalk and one plant of *Chrysothemis* "Black Flamingo" that was won by Josane Wagner. Congratulations to the winners and thank you for your donation, Barbara.

Exhibits

Nell Reese brought in a plant of *Smithicodonia* "Heartland's Joy" for judging and earned a blue ribbon.

Ways and Means

Bill Schmidt will be conducting a small Monthly Silent Auction at each meeting. Each member is asked to donate an item to the society. The goal is for each member to make at least \$10.00 for the society during the club year. The starting bid for each item should be no less than \$3.00.

If an item does not sell, Bill will hold it for a yard sale later which means that it will not count toward the \$10. However, it may help our income in the future. Call or e-mail Bill and let him know that you will be bringing an item to the meeting so that he can keep the auction small.

This and That

Project plant for 2012: Do you have an idea for a project plant for 2012? Bring any ideas or opinions to the meeting.

Several of you love to take photos of our club's events. Heidi is in the process of updating our site and asked if we have any photos we'd like added.

Barbara Stewart is conducting an experiment with disbudding. She will be bringing in both plants to show the results.

October 16-17, the Art Affair outdoor art show will be held on the grounds of Mary Mumford Elementary School at the corner of Cary Street and Westmoreland Avenue. Hours are: Saturday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. Barbara Newlin will have paintings in a tent for show and sale.

After the first of the year, we must form a nominating committee consisting of 3 members to form a new slate of officers. Many of the people in office now have either served their term limits or need a break so please take a few moments to reflect on how you may help our society be its best.

RAVS Show and Sale

This year we will plant to be back in the Robins Room. We need a chairperson and Bill Schmidt will co-chair. We also need fresh ideas for a theme.

How to Grow a Show Plant

Step one: chose your plants. Select plants that have bloomed for you and have consistently displayed good symmetry. You may also refer to AVSA's list of grower's favorites that are tried and true show plants.

Step two: place the plants you have chosen in an obvious spot in your growing area. This should be a place that has the best light and is convenient to you.

Step three: keep the plants you have selected for show disbudded. This will encourage leaf production.

Step four: give these plants extra TLC. Though the rest of the plants in your collection may suffer a little neglect, just a few minutes is all you will need to keep the plants you have selected watered, fed, and properly groomed. You can tend to the rest of your collection as time allows.

Step five: observe, observe, observe!! It's easier to keep up with a few plants. Be on the lookout for suckers. Be on the lookout for pest. Watch out for powdery mildew. Keep these plants rotated to encourage even growth, and if one gets away from you, correct the symmetry.

Step six: as it gets closer to show time, make sure your plant is in a pot that is in good relation to its size. Check for a neck. Repot if needed.

Step seven: following the growing schedule printed in the Yearbook, allow your plants to bloom according to type. Observe the blossoms. Is it blooming true?

Step eight: all plants entered into show must be of a named variety. Many of us have plants that we have purchased without a name, or the nametag has become lost or illegible. Do a little research. Visit the Optimara Field Guide online. Often you will find the name there. You may also bring the plant to a meeting. Many members are long-time growers and may be able to name it for you.

Good luck. With care and observation, you should have several beautiful plants to enter into the show. Good growing! Kitty Hedgepeth

**Minutes of the
Richmond African Violet Society
September 11, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by **Josane Wagner**, President, at the Richmond Friends Meeting building.

Devotions were read by **Darlene Stevens**. Darlene read a short story from the book: "Simple Pleasures."

Vicki Carr called roll. A quorum of 17 members was present.

Reading of the Minutes: **Curtis Stevens** moved that the minutes be approved as published in the newsletter. **Kitty Hedgepeth** seconded the motion. The motion passed with a show of hands.

Treasurer Report: **Kitty Hedgepeth** reported that the balance in the checking account was \$3,151.04. We deposited \$108.50 into the account and issued checks totaling \$77.11. A bank charge for checks totaled \$23.00. The current balance in RAVS checking is \$3,159.43. The petty cash account has \$25.85. **Sharon Long** completed the annual audit which has been filed with the Secretary's records.

Hospitality Report: **Rika Rawles** reminded members to sign up for refreshments each month. A list was made available for members to sign up for specific months; it was requested that two members volunteer per month.

Supplies/Inventory: **Curtis Stevens** reminded members to let him know if they need specific supplies. He had a table set up for supply purchases. **Curtis** mentioned he cannot find the product Coir locally. He can order it on-line but it has expensive shipping charges. **Barbara Stewart** mentioned that Strange's Florist has not been able to order Coir and that they no longer have the smaller bricks.

Second Vice-President Report: Membership Update: It was mentioned that **Jim Hasslacher** is doing well after surgery. **Jim** was present and he confirmed that he is doing well. Birthdays this month are **Jim Hasslacher** (Sept 5), **Glenna Hasslacher** (Sept. 13), and **Emily Hierholzer**, (Sept 16). **Barbara Stewart** mentioned that the wife of NCAC president Jim Roberts had passed away. **Barbara** circulated a sympathy card for signatures. **Josane** reminded members to let **Vicki** know of any news so she can include it in the newsletter. **Vicki** will be working with **Carolyn Smith** on the yearbook. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding content of the yearbook, how it should be printed and how to print the binder. It was decided to table further discussion since **Carolyn** was not present.

Library Report: **Debbie Woodruff** brought a publication titled: "You Can Grow African Violets" by Kent and Joyce Stark. They have written several articles for the African Violet Magazine. She also had the recent African Violet Magazines. Debbie specifically mentioned the article about the "Pot Luck" plant in the May-June issue that was very interesting.

Historian Report: **Bill Schmidt**. **Bill** includes interesting historical tidbits in the newsletter that members find interesting.

Horticulture Tips:

Violet Tips: **Curtis Stevens** has agreed to chair the Horticulture Committee, but he is asking members to also participate. He passed around a sign-up sheet for members to choose a month to provide a monthly tip. **Curtis'** tip for September was about lighting. He referenced a book by Melvin J. Robey, "African Violets: Back to the Basics." He read some excerpts from the book. Here is a brief summary: 800-1100 foot candles of light are best for encouraging blooms from ten to sixteen hours a day, with at least eight hours of

darkness. A foot candle is defined as the amount of light emanated from the flame of a candle from a foot away. A photographic light meter measures light candles. Another tip **Curtis** mentioned was that his original belief that plant stands with florescent bulbs were the best way to grow African violets had changed. After a conversation with **Nell Reese**, who places some of her plants in windows, he moved some of his plants to windows. He has found that his plants receiving window light actually are more beautiful than the plant stand plants.

Gesneriad Tips: **Barbara Stewart** mentioned that gesneriads also do well in windows. She brought the latest issue of "Appraisal" which is the Gesneriad Society judging newsletter and has photos of the winning show plants. The Gesneriad Society has come out with a new publication called "Gleanings" which is a compilation of different articles and can be accessed on-line at www.gesneriadsociety.org. You do not have to be a member to access the publication. **Barbara** also brought the latest issue of "Petal Tones" which is the publication of the National Capital Area Gesneriad Society and includes an article on **Barbara's** trip to the national convention in Vancouver. **Barbara** brought several of her Episcia plants. Episcia cultivation goes back to 1829 which is earlier than for African violets. You can grow plants with bigger leaves if you remove the stolons. She brought two plants of "Jim's Canadian Sunset" grown under different conditions. Episcias like a lot of humidity so they like a covered aquarium. She brought some stolons in bags to share. She also raffled two Sinningia speciosa plants. Barbara brought two violet plants for an experiment. She will be disbudding one plant and not the other and will bring these plants to each meeting to see how they do. Barbara passed out two publications with information on Episcias: a recent issue of "Gesneriads" magazine and "An Introduction to Gesneriads".

Exhibits: **Barbara Stewart** reminded members that they can bring only one plant and one design to exhibit each meeting to be judged. Other plants may be exhibited, but will not be judged. Members are encouraged to sign-up to exhibit for a particular month. Today's exhibit plants were judged by **Barbara Stewart, Vicki Carr** and **Sandra Moses**. **Nell Reese's** Smithicodonia "Heartland's Joy" was given a blue rating once it was discovered that the blotchy leaf color was typical for this particular plant.

MAAVS Report: Kitty Hedgepeth: The convention is October 21-23, 2010 in Oswego, NY and is sponsored by MAAVS and the New York African Violet Society. Registration deadline is October 1st. **Kitty** has all the details if you interested in attending this convention.

AVSA Report: No report. The next convention is in May 15-22, 2011 in Philadelphia.

OLD NEWS

2011 Violet Show: Bill Schmidt mentioned that the RAVS Violet Show will be at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in the Robins Room April 7 -10, 2011. We need a new chair. Bill will assist and co-chair. We also need a theme for the show. A new contract with the Garden will need to be finalized and should not be a problem.

Project Plant: After much discussion, it was decided not do a project plant this year. A rosette will not be needed for the RAVS April show. We could have a project plant next year and would need to decide by the October 2011 meeting. If we knew what plant we wanted, we could pre-order and pick them up at the annual AVSA convention. We will continue discussing this issue at the next meeting.

NEW NEWS

Budget: **Kitty Hedgepeth** presented the proposed annual budget. It was noted that the Ukrops Golden Gift award was no longer available. Several line items were discussed and ways to save money e.g.: cut back on savings usage, reduce the cost of printing the yearbook, cut back on program costs, cut back on library costs, cut back on awards. (Vicki will try to reduce the number of pages of the yearbook. Since Carolyn was not present, she needs to be part of the discussion). It was finally decided to reduce the AVSA expenses from \$100.00 to \$50.00; reduce Library from \$50.00 to \$25.00; and reduce income from RAVS savings from \$650 to \$500.00. **Barbara Stewart** moved that the budget be approved as amended and **Vicki Carr** seconded. The budget was approved as amended by a show of hands.

Ways and Means Update: Since the club needs to raise some funds, **Bill Schmidt** agreed to chair this committee. **Bill** would like to raise funds internally through the membership as opposed to raising money through outside sources. There was discussion on how to raise funds e.g.; allow members to receive 75% of sales and RAVS 25% to encourage more participation and have a silent auction each month with all proceeds going to RAVS. There would be a limit of 10 items with each item worth at least \$3.00. Items not sold would be sold at a community yard sale by **Bill**. Members planning on bringing an item need to let **Bill** know beginning with the October 2010 meeting. Having a RAVS yard sale was discussed, or participating in any yard sale; this would be another means to raise money but needs more discussion.

New Slate of Officers: **Josane Wagner** mentioned that it is time to be thinking about a new slate of officers. Members should consider becoming an officer. Nominations will be in March 2011.

Vicki Carr passed the yearbook around for members to check for any needed changes.

Refreshments: **Barbara Stewart** provided refreshments and **Vicki Carr** brought drinks.

During the break members had a chance to buy raffle tickets for three plants donated by **Barbara Stewart**. **Josane Wagner** won two plants: *Sinningia speciosa* and *Chrysothemis* "Black Flamingo." **Virgil Cabbagestalk** won one plant: *Sinningia speciosa*.

PROGRAM

Kitty Hedgepeth presented an interesting program on "How to Grow a Show Plant." She handed out an information sheet describing eight steps needed to grow a successful plant for show. Kitty reminded us that the yearbook also has a schedule for raising a show plant, but it does not apply necessarily to all plants. A copy of Kitty's "steps" is on file with the Secretary. **Sandra Moses** asked a question about fertilizer and avoiding urea. It is recommended that fertilizer not contain urea because it can burn the plant roots. Also, no more than ¼ teaspoon of fertilizer should be used per gallon of water. Kitty mentioned that sometimes she just uses plain tap water for several waterings. After Kitty's presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Newlin, Secretary

Budget
Richmond African Violet Society
7/1/2010 to 6/30/2011

Expenses

	Proposed 2010-2011	Actual 2010-2011
AVSA	50.00	00.00
Convention Awards		
AVSA	15.00	00.00
MAAVS	15.00	15.00
Benevolence	50.00	00.00
Dues:		
AVSA	35.00	00.00
MAAVS	20.00	20.00
Hospitality	50.00	00.00
Insurance	150.00	00.00
Library	25.00	00.00
Meeting Room (church)	270.00	270.00
Membership	25.00	00.00
Miscellaneous (supplies, postage)	30.00	15.71
Newsletter	25.00	26.40
Website	60.00	00.00
Programs	75.00	00.00
Yearbook	100.00	00.00
Show Expenses	630.00	00.00
Purchase Show Sale Plants	800.00	00.00
Savings	0.00	N/A
Total Expenses	2425.00	347.11

Income

RAVS Savings	500.00	00.00
RAVS Dues	375.00	00.00
Donations	125.00	00.00
Raffles	50.00	00.00
Plant Sales	1100.00	00.00
Income From Member Plant Sales	275.00	00.00
Total Income	2425.00	00.00

* RAVS dues based on 25 members X 15.00 each

* Plant sales based on ordering 200 plants at 4.00 each and reselling the plants at an average of 5.50 each (expected profit of 300.00).

* Income from 2010 member sales was 258.58