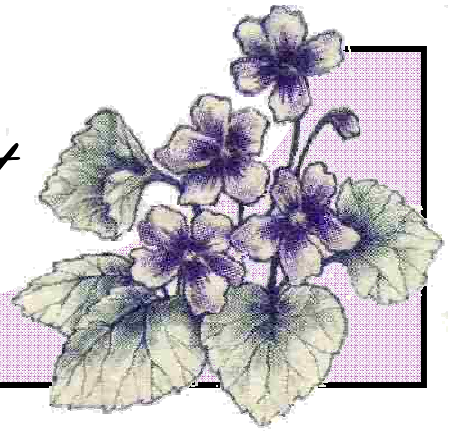


# Richmond African Violet Society Newsletter



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AFFILIATED WITH AVSA AND MAAVS

DECEMBER 2009

 **NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 5** 



The program for this month is our annual Christmas Luncheon. We will have a wrapped gift exchange after lunch. It's suggested to keep gifts in the \$5 to \$10 range or to re-gift. If you are able, please bring in some greenery and/or table decorations. Set up will begin at 9:00 am. And the meeting begins at 10:00a.m.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Heidi Helbling on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Josane Wagner on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Vicki Carr on the 20<sup>th</sup>



## Historians Corner

### December

**1958** Mrs. Richard O'Callaghan, in costume, entertained the society with an inspiring program of Italian, Polish, English, Mexican, and Brazilian songs and Negro Spirituals entitled "Lullabies to Jesus."

**1960** A buffet dinner was prepared by Mrs. John Pangola. Each member answered the roll call with a Christmas Wish.

**1974** The Christmas meeting was held at Neilson's Restaurant and the members were entertained with a *Cantata of Carols* sung by Ann Dervishan accompanied by Tom Griffin.

**1980** A combined meeting of the night and daytime members was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Romaine. Christmas arrangements were shown by Barbara Geenawalt, Miriam Pendleton and others.

## Hospitality Schedule

### December: Annual Christmas Luncheon

January – Barbara Stewart

February – Josane Wagner

March – Sharon Long

April – Barbara Newlin

May – **Need a Volunteer**

June: Club Outing. Location to be announced

**Please contact one of the people listed above and offer to co-host.**

## MAAVS



RAVS was very well represented at the 2009 MAAVS convention and show with 13 members attending. **Nell Reese** won Best in Show at MAAVS with Pixie Blue. Her Pixie Blue also earned the Tri-Color in Horticulture, Best Non-variegated plant, and Best Trailer. Nell also won Best AVSA Mini/Semi-miniature Collection.

Nell wasn't the only RAVS member that did well at MAAVS. **Barbara Stewart** won Best AVSA Standard Collection, Third best Design in show and Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement.

**Kitty Hedgepeth** won Best Buckeye with Buckeye's Cherry Freckles and Best Vintage Plant with Chanticleer.

Congratulations to all of our ribbon winners!

## Members

**Vicki and Douglas Carr** welcomed their first grandchildren and into their family November 10<sup>th</sup>. Identical twins, Ryan Frederick was 5.9lbs and 19 ¼ inches and Caleb Ray was 5.14 lbs and 19 ½ inches.



## Our Display

**Sharon Long** and **Barbara Newlin** will be preparing the educational table at our spring exhibition at Lewis Ginter. There will be four tables, each six feet long. Since we are trying to be as economical as possible, Sharon and Barbara are asking that any members who have educational material from prior displays let them know what may be available for recycling. We all want this to be a major educational event for the public

**Carolyn Smith** has agreed to be our new project plant coordinator. If you have ideas or opinions on our next project plant, please contact Carolyn.

## Exhibits

**Nell Reese** won a blue ribbon for Rob's Fuddy Duddy. **Kitty Hedgepeth** won a blue ribbon for Kentucky Gooseberries. **Barbara Stewart** won a blue ribbon for Optimara Little Ottawa and a red ribbon for her design.

## Raffle

**Josane Wagner** won a plant of Honeysuckle Rose Donated by **Barbara Stewart** and a Columnea donated by **Kitty Hedgepeth**.

Below is the menu list. Please email Sharon Long to let her know how many people that will be in your party so that we make sure that we have enough for everyone.

Turkey-Sandra  
Shrimp-Debbie W  
Miso gravy-Carolyn  
Country Brunswick stew-Barbara S  
Deviled Eggs-Barbara N.  
Vegetable Casserole-Kitty  
Sweet Potato Casserole-Vicki  
Green Beans-Nell

Corn Pudding-Miriam  
Stuffing-Sue  
Mashed Potatoes-Pat  
Rolls/Ginger Ale-Carolyn  
Cokes-Pat  
Sweet Tea-pat  
Apple/Cranberry/Raspberry Cider-Barbara S  
Tossed salad-Barbara N  
Black-Eyed Pea Salad-David  
Cranberry Salad-Margaret  
Pie-Kitty  
Eggnog cake-Bill  
Something Chocolate-Carolyn  
Fruit Tray-Vergil  
Cake-Grace  
Fruit Cake Cookies-Sandra  
Apple-Pie-Barbara S  
Supplies-Sharon  
Pecan Pie Glenna  
Potato Casserole & Pumpkin Bread-Curtis and Darleen

## Breakfast Casserole

9 X 13 inch heavy baking pan (glass is best)  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees

2 Tbs. butter  
2 Cups stale or toasted bread cubes (or enough to cover the bottom of the baking pan)  
1 Pound of sausage (I used Bob Evan's original)  
9 Eggs  
3 Cups of whole milk  
2 Cups of sharp cheddar cheese (or more to taste)  
1 Bell pepper, diced  
1 Medium onion, diced  
2 Tbs. olive oil  
Salt and pepper to taste

Crumble and cook the sausage, draining well ... saute' the vegetables in olive oil and drain well ... Butter the bottom of the baking pan ... add bread cubes to generously cover the bottom of the pan ... add sausage, vegetables, and cheese, layering evenly over the bread ... beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper together and pour over the bread cubes, sausage, etc ... bake for 45 minutes, or until done.

You can prepare the casserole the night before and bake it in the morning ... serves 8-10 people. Also, you can substitute the vegetables and meat with anything you like, keeping the portions the same (more or less).

It reheats well ... enjoy.

Submitted by Kitty Hedgepeth

**Minutes of the  
Richmond African Violet Society  
November 7, 2009**

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

**DEVOTIONS:** **Vergyl Cabbagestalk** was stalled by traffic so no devotions were read.

**Vicki Carr** called roll. A quorum of 18 members was present.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:** **Kitty Hedgepeth** moved that the minutes be approved as published in the newsletter. **Bill Schmidt** seconded the motion. The motion passed with a show of hands.

**TREASURER REPORT:** **Kitty Hedgepeth** gave the treasurer's report. The balance in the checking account is \$3,727.91 of which \$19.85 is petty cash.

**HOSPITALITY REPORT:** **Rika Rawles** was not in attendance. There was no report. **Josane Wagner** reminded members about offering to co-host a month for refreshments. The month of May is still open. **Vicki Carr** announced that she should be a grandmother of twin boys, Caleb and Ryan next week!

**SUPPLIES/INVENTORY:** **Curtis Stevens** could not attend the meeting but wanted members to contact him if they wanted him to pickup supplies at the MAAVS convention.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Second Vice-President Vicki Carr:** No new members. **Josane** mentioned that David Dick has a birthday this month. Helen Pangola is home but she needs help repotting her violets. If anyone can help her, please contact **Bill Schmidt**. Also, if you go, Helen appreciates good food, so if you can bring something, maybe soup, that would help her since she is alone.

**WAYS AND MEANS REPORT:** We still need a chair for this position.

**HISTORIAN REPORT:** **Bill Schmidt** deferred to **Margaret Bruckhart** who had sent an email requesting photographs she needed to complete the scrapbook, especially the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon. **Barbara Stewart** said she thought she had all the pictures Margaret needed for the 2009 show and the 60<sup>th</sup> luncheon.

**LIBRARY REPORT:** **Debbie Woodruff** did not have anything to report. **Josane Wagner** sorted through all the old magazines she had and pulled the ones needed to complete the library. **Barbara Stewart** will take the magazines and put them in order. The duplicate magazines can be given to new members and perhaps brought to the MAAVS convention. Barbara also brought the latest issue of *Petal Tones* for review.

**HORTICULTURE TIPS:**

**Violet Tips:** **Carolyn Smith** reminded members that during the winter months, plants with variegated leaves need less light and non-variegated plants can tolerate greater light and heat.

**Gesneriad Tips: Barbara Stewart** will be attending the NCAC (National Capitol Area Chapter) of the Gesneriad Society show in D.C. March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Arboretum. **Kitty Hedgepeth** will be clerking but they are looking for more clerks who also participate in the judging. Let Barbara know if interested in being a clerk.

**Barbara Stewart** showed a plant called *Nautilocalyx pemphidius* which is a fibrous root plant also called a “Bubble” leaf plant. It needs humidity and does well in a terrarium. The name came from the leaf which looks like a nautilus shell. It had been part of the *Episcia* class, but now is considered a separate class.

**EXHIBITS: Barbara Stewart:** Members are encouraged to sign up to bring a plant and/or design for exhibit.

**MAAVS REPORT: Kitty Hedgepeth:** The MAAVS Convention is November 12-15, 2009 in Williamsburg, VA. Kitty mentioned that they still need clerks. She passed out copies of the event schedule and said she has copies of exhibit entry forms and membership application forms. **Richard Follett** mentioned that they are in desperate need of design entries for the show and the entry deadline had been extended to November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**AVSA REPORT: Sharon Long:** No report. Sharon could not attend the meeting.

**RAVS 2010 SHOW REPORT: Bill Schmidt:** The show will be May 14, 15, and 16 in three rooms in the Education Building at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. We still need someone to handle publicity, staging and properties. The planning committee will be meeting at Bill’s home on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to discuss the show. **Richard Follett** volunteered to do publicity but he cannot attend the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

**OLD NEWS: Barbara Stewart** asked about the “Ma’s Ching Dynasty” 2011 project plant status as to replacing the plants that died or ask for reimbursement. Some members want to try again and some do not. Barbara will ask for several replacements. “Wizards Energy Storm” is the project plant for 2010. It was suggested that project plants be varied in the future instead of everyone having the same one. Barbara said she needed someone to organize the project plants and **Carolyn Smith** volunteered. .

**NEW NEWS: Josane Wagner** discussed the holiday luncheon which will be on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The business meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and anyone wanting to help decorate should come at 9:00 a.m. The sign-up sheet to bring food was distributed. Gifting was discussed and it was decided to have a Re-gift Exchange this year rather than buying a gift. It also was decided to purchase a cooked turkey using the RAVS treasury. **Sandra Moses** volunteered to purchase the turkey. The luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with time to clean up afterwards. **Richard Follett** said he might bring his guitar and sing, and **Bill Schmidt** said he will bring Christmas music.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by **Bill Schmidt**.

During the break **Bill Schmidt and Vicki Carr** judged the exhibits with **Margaret Bruckhart** assisting. **Kitty Hedgepeth** submitted “Kentucky Gooseberries” for a Blue Ribbon. **Barbara Stewart** submitted “Optimara Little Ottawa” for a Blue Ribbon. **Nell Reese** submitted “Rob’s Fuddy Duddy” for a perfect Blue Ribbon. **Barbara Stewart’s** design earned a Red Ribbon, Barbara said she had quickly put it together prior to the meeting proving that it is not that complicated to create a design. Following the exhibits discussion, a drawing was held for three donated plants.

#### **PROGRAM ON GROWING TRAILERS PRESENTED BY RICHARD FOLLET:**

**Richard** gave a very comprehensive and interesting presentation about Trailing African Violets which come in all sizes and have a pendulous growth habit. Trailers can be determined if the leaves have interstices (spaces between leaf nodes) as opposed to standard violets where leaves grow from a central stem. Richard showed his “Pixie Blue” and Barbara Elkin’s “Pink Mint” as good examples of trailers. He mentioned that pinching back the plant was the American method verses pinning which was originally the Japanese method. Richard handed out copies of Sue Gardner’s “Growing Trailing African Violets.” Trailers like natural light, shallow pots and porous soil. Richard puts gravel in deeper pots so that the plant does not try to fill the entire pot with roots which will result in few to no blooms. In the wild, trailers grow in cracks and crevices so they do not like a lot of soil. Richard prefers using 1/3 Miracle Grow Violet Soil, 1/3 Perlite and 1/3 Vermiculite. For fertilizer, he alternates between Peters Complex, Shultz’s and Optimara fertilizers. When showing trailers, there must be three or more crowns from only one plant, have a symmetrical, rounded appearance with lots of blooms. Sometimes a beautifully rounded trailer will die in the middle because light can no longer reach the roots. In these cases, it is easier to just start over and repot.

After Richard’s presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Barbara Newlin**, Secretary