



RICHMOND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

VOLUME 177

AFFILIATED WITH AVSA AND MAAVS

FEBRUARY 2008

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 2



Happy Valentines Day!
The weather has been so cold and nasty lately that I have spent extra time with my plants. My plant room is so bright, warm and cheery that it makes me feel like its spring; if only for a few hours. I can't think of a better way to chase away the winter time blues unless it's attending our next meeting! Come and "Discover Streptocarpus" with Kitty Hedgepeth. She asks that you bring in a blooming strep for show and tell.

Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jackie Frank - 5th

HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

- *February: Vicki Carr
- *March: Debbie Woodruff
- *April: Kitty Hedgepeth
- *May: Josane Wagner
- *June: Anniversary Luncheon

RAVS NEWS

The Violet Gallery had a problem with the project plant that we originally chose and gave us a selection of plants that could be supplied quickly in the quantity that we need. Photos and descriptions of the plants were passed around at last months meeting and members chose Debon's Misty Morning as our new project plant for the 2009 show.



Club pins are available for \$6.00. See Sharon Long at the meeting.

Barbara Stewart is asking each member that has not had their photo taken to please contact her to make arrangements. Also, please help her make this the best yearbook ever—fill out and return the questionnaires that were sent out.

If you would like to help with the planning of the anniversary luncheon in June, contact Josane Wagner or Carolyn Smith.

MAAVS

The MAAVS convention will be held November 13-15, 2008 in Fredericksburg, VA at the Virginia Hospitality House. "Shenandoah Violets" will be the theme. Members are invited to visit the MAAVS web site for more information.

VALENTINES DAY TRIVIA

- February 15th was the date of the Roman festival of Lupercalia - where young men held a lottery to decide which girl would be theirs.
- In the middle Ages, people believed that the first unmarried person of the opposite sex you met on the morning of St. Valentine's Day would become your spouse.
- In Wales, love spoons of wood were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes formed the favorite theme of decorations on the spoons, which together symbolized- "You unlock my heart!"
- It wasn't until 1537 that St. Valentine's Day was declared an official holiday. England's King Henry VIII declared February 14th a holiday in 1537 for the first time.
- Some people believed that if a woman saw a robin-flying overhead on



Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor and if she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a very rich person.

- Valentine was a Roman priest during the time of Claudis around AD269, who was martyred, then buried on the Flamian Way. He helped Christians during a time of persecution, was caught, put in jail, became a Christian, then was clubbed to death for this on February 14th, 269. While in prison, legend has it that he sent messages to friends saying "Remember your Valentine" and "I love you".
- In another story, it is said that Valentine was a priest that secretly married couples, defying the Emperor Claudius who had temporary forbid marriages.
- Valentine was jailed for refusing to worship pagan gods. Making friends with the Jailer's daughter, he is said to have cured her through prayer, and on the date of his execution (Feb. 14th), is said to have written her note signed "Your Valentine".

Deadline for articles for the March newsletter
is
February 19, 2008.