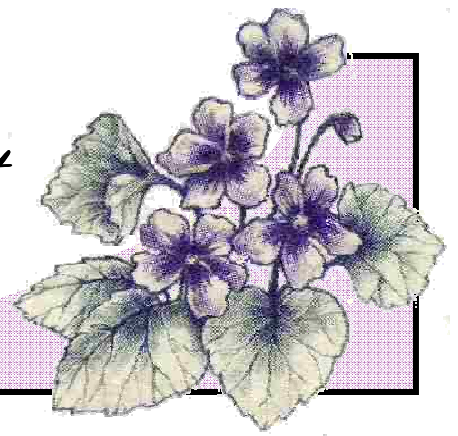


Richmond African Violet Society Newsletter



VOLUME 21, NO. 2

AFFILIATED WITH AVSA AND MAAVS

FEBRUARY 2010

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Happy Valentines Day!



The AVSA convention and show is just a little more than ten weeks away and our own display is only fourteen weeks away. The program for February is "Grow to Show".

Kitty Hedgepeth will help us and our plants to "get on track". We will also be working on getting our project plants ready for our display, so bring in your project plant of Wizard's Energy Storm for a "project plant clinic". Barbara Stewart will be bringing in some soil and tools for anyone who wants to repot their plant. Be sure to bring in an appropriate sized pot to re-pot into.

Meeting begins at 10:00. Plan to arrive a few minutes early to help set-up tables and to socialize with others.

Hospitality Box

February – Josane Wagner

March – Sharon Long

April – Barbara Newlin/Curtis & Darlene Stevens

May – Nell Reese/Sue Dompkowski

June: Club Outing. Location to be announced

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

Our Members:

Debbie Woodruff has a new email address. Please change her e-mail address in your yearbook to read [#####](#).

Supplies

Curtis Stevens will have supplies for sale before, after and during the break. He can also take your order via e-mail ([#####](#)) and have your purchases bagged and ready for pick up at the meeting.

Exhibits

Curtis Stevens earned a red ribbon for his "Maverick's Faded Jeans".

Darlene Stevens received a red ribbon for her "Music Box Dancer".

Nell Reese got a red ribbon for her Streptocarpus "Bristol's Yumpin Yiminy" and Bill Schmidt's design earned a Blue Ribbon.

Library

During the program last month, Vicki Carr mentioned the books *African Violets: Back to the Basics Your Questions Answered* and *African Violets: Gifts from Nature* both by Melvin Robey. *Gifts from Nature* has been out of print for years but Mr. Robey is working on updating this book and plans to republish it in a series of three books. As of yet, these books have not been released. *Back to Basics* can be ordered online through www.authorhouse.com Check with Debbie

Woodruff or Barbara Stewart to see if these books are available to check out of the RAVS Library.

Historians Corner

February

1952- Mr. Barron Howard spoke on growing orchids. He brought in a fine display of various orchids he had raised.

1968- The members enjoyed a house tour starting with coffee at the home of Mrs. Randolph Nuckols, and then on to the homes of Mrs. George Lewis, Mrs. Ray Doggett, and Mrs. D.J. Strading.

1995- A surprise Valentine's Day dinner was held at Byram's Lobster House to honor Alice Grundy for 19 years of service as treasurer of the society.

This & That

Barbara Stewart passed out a word search puzzle for everyone to enjoy. She upped the ante by announcing that there would be two prizes to win for those who completed the puzzle. Sandra Moses received a gesneriad for finding the most words and Nell Reese received a gesneriad for having grown the most different kinds of gesneriads. Congratulation Sandra and Nell and thank you Barbara for making meeting more fun!

Barbara Newlin included several great tips from the program last month in the minutes. Be sure to check them out.

The AVSA convention show and our display are right around the corner. It's not too late to get started. The "Grow to Show" schedule is included in this newsletter. Be sure to post it near your plants to keep you on schedule!

Going Green with Gesneriads!

The National Capital Chapter of the Gesneriad Society will be having their Show and Sale March 13-14, 2010 at the U.S. National Arboretum. The judges committee is still looking for judge's clerks so if you are interested in helping out, contact Barbara Stewart for further information.

Coming Events

Feb

6th - RAVS Meeting

14th - Valentine's Day

Mar

6th - RAVS Meeting

13-14th - National Capital Chapter of the Gesneriad Society

14th - Daylight Saving Time

April

3rd - Meeting

4th - Easter

11-18th - AVSA Convention and Show

May

1st - RAVS Meeting

14-16th - RAVS Display @ LGBG

June 5th - RAVS Meeting



**Minutes of the
Richmond African Violet Society
January 2, 2010**

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

DEVOTIONS: **Barbara Stewart** read the devotions "Did You Forget?" from a booklet titled "Violet Thoughts and others to live by..."

Vicki Carr called roll. A quorum of 14 members was present.

READING OF THE MINUTES: **Curtis Stevens** 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 \$3,372.67. Currently, there is \$19.85 in petty cash. Kitty clarified that the petty cash amount is separate from the checking account total.

HOSPITALITY REPORT: **Rika Rawles**. No report. **Josane Wagner** mentioned that no one had signed up for May hospitality yet. **Nell Reese** and **Sue Dompkowski** will host May. **Josane** reminded members about offering to co-host a month for refreshments. **Curtis Stevens** mentioned that he and his wife **Darlene** had signed up to co-host with **Barbara Newlin** for the month of April.

SUPPLIES/INVENTORY: **Curtis Stevens**. Curtis set up a table with supplies for purchase which was very much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: **Second Vice-President Vicki Carr:** **Nell Reese, Darlene Stevens** and **Grace Bailey** have January birthdays. **Barbara Stewart** mentioned that **Peggy Coley** had been sent a Christmas card and she had some New Year's cards to send to **Ruth Tate, Helen Pangola, Alice Doggett** and **Mary Sue Hudson** which were passed around for signatures.

WAYS AND MEANS REPORT: There still is no chair but it was decided to leave the position open since there is not a financial need at this time.

HISTORIAN REPORT: **Bill Schmidt**. It was noted that the historian section of the newsletter provided interesting historical information each month.

LIBRARY REPORT: **Debbie Woodruff/Barbara Stewart**. Barbara brought in the library collection of videos and violet books which she is handing over to Debbie. Barbara also is working on updating the gesneriad materials. Barbara suggested that a President's Binder be compiled that would have Roberts Rules of Order, position responsibilities, etc. that would be helpful for in-coming RAVS Presidents. **Kitty Hedgepeth** mentioned that she had all of the Treasurer information from Peggy Coley's receipt books which include notes, all receipts etc. Most probably could be discarded. It was agreed that Kitty would bring the items to the next meeting for review and disposition.

HORTICULTURE TIPS:

Violet Tips: **Carolyn Smith**. Carolyn was in Australia.

Gesneriad Tips: **Barbara Stewart**. Barbara brought two handouts on Chiritas and a handout on the Gesneriad Society March Show schedule. It is not necessary to be a member to attend the show. Barbara will be judging in the show. Barbara also mentioned the word search puzzle she had handed out earlier from Jim Roberts, president of NCAC. The member with the most found words will win a prize. As a result, **Sandra Moses** received a gesneriad for finding the most words on the word search, and **Nell Reese** received a gesneriad for having grown the most different kinds of gesneriads.

Barbara mentioned that she will be presenting a program at the National Capital Chapter of the Gesneriad Society on growing gesneriads in terrariums on January 9th. Barbara also will be presenting a program on dish garden designs at the Tidewater African Violet Society on January 24th. She will be driving, so if anyone wants to attend, they should contact Barbara.

EXHIBITS: Barbara Stewart: Members are encouraged to sign up to bring a plant and/or design for exhibit. The sign-up sheet was passed around.

MAAVS REPORT: Kitty Hedgepeth: No report.

AVSA REPORT: Sharon Long: No report.

RAVS 2010 SHOW REPORT: Bill Schmidt: Bill mentioned that Phyllis at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens said that the RAVS show (May 14, 15, and 16) will be mentioned in the LGBG newsletter and will be included during the Million Blooms event at the gardens, which is a plus. Everything is progressing well.

OLD NEWS: No one has volunteered to coordinate a project plant yet.

NEW NEWS: None

REFRESHMENTS: Everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by **Barbara Stewart**.

During the break **Barbara Stewart, Vicki Carr and Josane Wagner** judged the exhibits with **Barbara Newlin** assisting. **Curtis Stevens** submitted "Maverick's Faded Jeans" for a Red Ribbon. **Darlene Stevens** submitted "Music Box Dancer" for a Red Ribbon. Nell Reese submitted "Bristol's Yumpin Yiminy" for a Red Ribbon. **Bill Schmidt's** design earned a Blue Ribbon.

PROGRAM ON DESIGN AND REPOTTING TIPS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Bill Schmidt discussed the mechanics of making his design entry and members made comments and suggestions. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding background, color usage, accessories, proportions and plant presentation and preparation. **Kitty Hedgepeth** then demonstrated repotting a plant with a long neck. The main steps were: take off lower leaves and blooms; cut off bottom of root ball; scrap neck; fit a coffee filter in bottom of same size pot; place synthetic yarn (wick) in pot; center plant and fill pot with soil.

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The potting mix Kitty uses is 3 parts ProMix, 1 part vermiculite, 1 part perlite, and some charcoal; label pot with a freezer label; water using tap water and SuperThrive (10 drops to a gallon); and finally, clean utensils with alcohol.

Panel Discussion: **Kitty Hedgepeth, Vicki Carr and Bill Schmidt** were panel members fielding questions from members. A summary:

- Bill addressed pinching back blooms before a show and suggested checking the RAVS yearbook; the dates to debut are January 17th for the AVSA show in Raleigh (April 12-18) and February 20th for the RAVS show in May.
- Barbara said she had been experimenting with using ½ pots verses full pots of soil for rooting leaves. Apparently, it does not matter and the medium also can vary using water, regular potting medium, vermiculite, and combinations. The key is to have the soil moist not soaking. Only the tip of the stem is inserted in the medium. The stem should be cut at an angle and let dry a bit before putting in the pot. Vicki mentioned she sets her little pots in a large, plastic ice cream container and covers it creating a terrarium. Leave it alone until the leaves have rooted.
- While violets are not poisonous to animals, if Marathon pesticide is put in the soil, it will be absorbed by the plant making it poisonous. Cats and dogs have been known to eat the plants.
- Vicki mentioned two books by Melvin J. Robey as being very good: "African Violets – Back to the Basics, Your Questions Answered" and "African Violets – Gifts of Nature." Mr. Robey is in the process of updating his books into three volumes.
- Wicks generally have a six month life and fertilizer can clog the wick requiring earlier replacement.
- When using artificial lighting, a 12 inch distance between the plant and light is good for a standard size plant and eight to nine inches for miniature plants.
- When asked if there was anything else that should be added to the soil, Bill suggested a small amount of dolomite lime if needed.
- Vicki said that if members had other questions not answered, to email them to her and she would include them in the next newsletter.

With no more questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Newlin, Secretary

About three months before the show is the time to begin grooming plants for show. If problems are discovered now, they can be eliminated by show time without causing damage to your plants. Try to avoid bringing any new plants into your collection during the next three months. To help you along, the Pre-Show Schedule from Pauline Bartholomew's Growing to Show is printed below. Place it near your plants for a reference. The first date listed in parentheses is for the AVSA convention show April 11-18th. The second date is for our display May 15-16th.

GROWING TO SHOW

12 WEEKS (January 19/February 18): Remove leaves, pot down necks or pot up. Foliar feed once in addition to regular fertilizing program.

10 WEEKS (February 2/March 4): Completely disbud all plants except perhaps miniatures and trailers. Replace Put one new tube in each fixture. Start bloom booster fertilizer formula.

9 WEEKS (February 9/March 11): Increase light time by one hour. Disbud heavily variegated varieties and double varieties, such as Rhapsodies, etc. for the last time. Continue to disbud all other varieties. Continue "bloom booster" fertilizer.

8 WEEKS (February 16/March 18): Increase light time by one hour. Disbud doubles and lightly variegated varieties for the last time. Continue to disbud semi double stars and singles. Check for suckers. Continue "bloom booster" fertilizer. Foliar feed once more.

7 WEEKS (February 23/March 25): Increase light time by one hour. Disbud semi double stars for the last time. Change to 12-36-14 or 15-30-15 etc. fertilizer formula for the remaining weeks.

6 WEEKS (March 2/April 1): Disbud singles for the last time. Check for suckers. Wash foliage using tepid water.

1 WEEK (April 6/May 6): Remove spent blossoms, peduncles, and pedicel stubs. Check for suckers. Brush away soil particles, etc. Pot down necks or pot up only if necessary. Prepare boxes to transport plants to the show. Don't wait until the last moment to find boxes to fit your plants.

1 DAY (April 13/May 13): Again remove spent blossoms, etc. Remove leaf support rings and prepare pots as required by show schedule. Place plants in transporting boxes so that the foliage is supported.

From the book *Growing To Show* by Pauline Bartholomew

Have a safe trip and Best of Luck!!