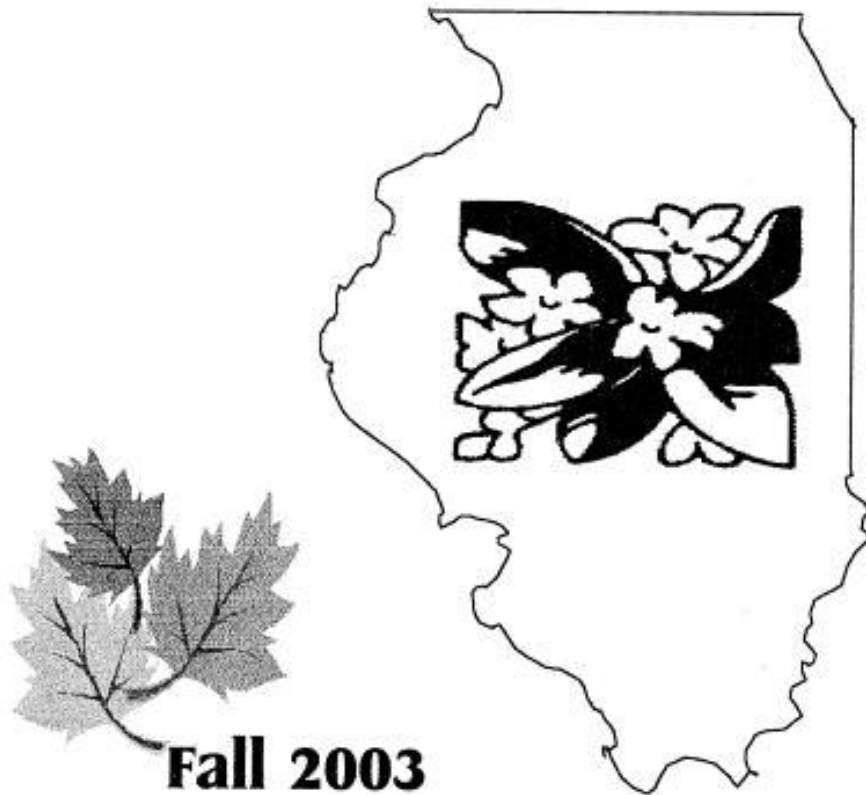


African Violet *Leaves*



Illinois African Violet Society, Inc.

Your Business
Information for conducting business with IAVS

IAVS Membership: Send check, payable to IAVS, for new or renewal membership, to Membership Secretary. Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$27.50 for three years, for an individual membership.

Affiliates: Clubs can affiliate with IA VS for the same rate as an individual membership. Send check to Membership Secretary, payable to IA VS

Membership Secretary: Joseph J. Bruns;
1220 Stratford Lane; Hanover Park, Illinois 60103-2667

Booster Fund: Send contributions to the IA VS Treasurer. If you wish to donate as a memorial, please designate.

Commercial Sales & Exhibits: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Janice Bruns; 1220 Stratford Lane; Hanover Park, Illinois 60103-2667

Convention Awards: Send suggestions or contributions to Awards Chairman Anna Jean Landgren; 20 Calvin Circle; Evanston, IL. 60201-1911

Convention Sponsors: If interested in sponsoring an IAVS convention in your area, contact the President.

Membership Applications: For use at shows, with sales, or wherever membership may be solicited. Free upon request from IA VS Membership Secretary. Please state quantity.

Information for conducting business with AVSA

AVSA Web site: AVSA.org; Membership, services, products and information.

AVSA Membership: Dues are \$20.00 per year for individual membership. Application on last page of *Leaves*.

AVSA's Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, 1998 Edition: Send \$10.25 check, payable to AVSA; 2375 North Street; Beaumont, Texas 77702

(continued inside back cover)

African Violet Leaves

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
ILLINOIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, INC.**

**Organized - May 21, 1955
Incorporated - September 17, 1955
Affiliated AVSA - January 16, 1956**

OBJECT

The object of the Society shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the African violet (*Saintpaulia*); to stimulate widespread interest in the propagation and culture of African violets; to promote ways and means for widespread distribution of all varieties and species of African violets among its members and others interested in growing them; and to gather and publish reliable practical information concerning the culture and propagation of African violets.

ILLINOIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, INC

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Fifth District

Southern Illinois

President's Column

Oh, for the good ole days. How often have we intoned that phrase without pausing to reflect on the multiplicity of good things in this day --to name a few: air conditioning when the temperature is hovering near 100, gas powered furnaces in the depth of winter, indoor plumbing and convenience foods. It's well and good to give thanks for our heritage and all the benefits of growing up in a less complex society (in the words of Garrison Keillor, "where all the girls were pretty and all the' boys were handsome.") I invite you to put away the rosy colored glasses and focus on the opportunities of the here-and-now.

I'm thinking particularly about the possibilities we have as partners in the creation of beauty, the endless varieties of violets and gesneriads at our disposal to grow for our own j1mazement, enjoyment and fulfillment to say nothing of sharing them with others. What a privilege it is to witness the cycles of plant life, from putting down a leaf to the elegance of a full grown plant crowned with an array of gorgeous blossoms. Ours is a special hobby that provides a foil and a solace for the chaos that plagues so much of our world. We are, indeed, a privileged group to have found such a rewarding avocation.

The Fall Meet, which is described elsewhere in *Leaves*, offers us a wonderful opportunity to expand our knowledge not only about the cultivation of violets but also about their cousins. The Andresens and Dale Martens are experts from whom we can learn much, and in addition we will have the pleasure of seeing beautiful plants grown by our host club members and of buying sale plants. Not to be overlooked is the happiness we derive from visiting with each other.

Such an event happens only because of the dedicated, hard work of many people, and I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for those who work so diligently behind the scenes to make our society the force for good that it is.

I hope to see many of you on October 11 for a joyous and rewarding day.

Morgan Simmons

From the Editor.....

If you are like me your violets have taken a back seat to other activities over the summer. But now is the time we all start thinking about those shows that are coming up. Time to start repotting, spraying, checking for any problems that may have sprung up. The Fair Get-together is a great kick off to a new season of growing and showing.

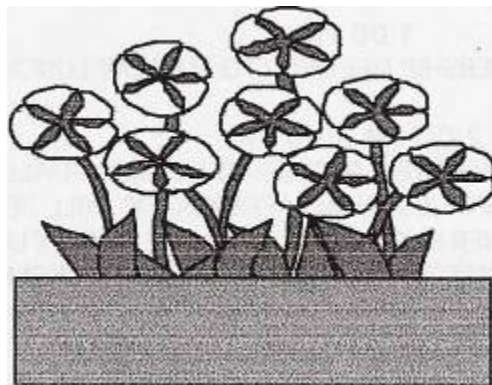
The folks at the Hoosier African Violet Society club have been working very hard and have promised a wonderful time for all. If any of you have some super samples of our favorite plant be sure to bring them to enter in the mini show.

Some hints from News Letters

From Harold and Sue (Hoosier A.V.S.) Try to repot their minis every 2 months and their large plants every 3 to 4 months. They have tried many super-mixes and additives and have decided the coir mix is what they like best. You might want to ask them about this at the Fall meet.

From the Quad Cities A.V.S. One member ordered a product called Tangletrap "to get those pesky thrips". She used pieces of yellow Styrofoam meat trays, since yellow attracts insects who like pollen, and coated both sides with the Tangletrap. She set them in little glass bottles or jars and placed them among her plants. In 5 or 6 months the trays were completely covered with the thrips.

The Georgia-Pacific Co. has a attractive window box you can build for next summer. They say it is easy to build and can be painted to match any decor. These plans can be downloaded free at www.gp.com or you can call 1-800-284-5347.



FALL GET-TOGETHER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

BEST WESTERN
NORTHWEST INDIANA INN
3830 179TH STREET
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46323
(219) 844-2140

HOST CLUB-HOOSIER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

DIRECTIONS---FROM I-80 EXIT ON CLINE AVENUE SOUTH TO FIRST
LIGHT AT
179TH AVENUE TURN RIGHT. FOLLOW THE FRONTAGE ROAD TO
THE INN.

DISCOUNTED RATE OF \$69.00 IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO MAY
WISH TO STAY AT THE INN. MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING THE
BEST WESTERN AT 219-844-2140

9:00 AM-10:15 AM

BOARD MEETING-PLEASE BE PROMPT SO MEMBERS CAN ATTEND
THE MORNING PROGRAM

10:30 AM-11:30 AM

MORNING PROGRAM---HOOSIER HYSTERIA ---HAROLD AND SUE
ANDRESEN

OF THE HOOSIER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY WILL SHARE "THEIR"
TECHNIQUES FOR GROWING THE BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS
THAT THEY HAVE BECOME KNOWN FOR.

12:00 NOON-1:00 PM

LUNCHEON - CHOICE OF CHICKEN SUPREME, BONELESS BREAST
OF CHICKEN WITH SUPREME SAUCE AND BLENDED RICE.
ROAST SIRLOIN OF BEEF, SERVED AU JUS WITH POTATOES AND
VEGETABLES.

ALL LUNCHEONS INCLUDE SALAD, POTATO, VEGETABLE,
ASSORTED ROLLS & BUTTER, DESSERT AND COFFEE, TEA OR MILK

1:00 PM

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (TO FOLLOW LUNCHEON)

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

AFTERNOON PROGRAM- NEW GESNERIAD HYBRIDS
DALE MARTENS

THE WELL RENOWNED GESNERIAD AFFICIONADO WILL BE SURE
TO ASTOUND US WITH HER KNOWLEDGE OF THESE BEAUTIFUL
PLANTS. DALE HAS ALSO PROMISED TO BRING "GIVE AWAYS"
INCLUDING THE BRAND NEW YELLOW-FLOWERING EPISCIA
"SUOMI" FROM EUROPE.

THE COST PER PERSON FOR THE DAY WILL BE \$16.00, INCLUDING THE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAMS. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS OCTOBER 5TH, 2003--NO CANCELLATIONS OR REFUNDS AFTER THAT DATE. SEND RESERVATIONS WITH MENU CHOICE AND A CHECK FOR \$16 PER PERSON (MADE PAYABLE TO IAVS) TO:

HAROLD ANDRESEN
354 E. 1125 S.
KOUTS, INDIANA 46347-9725
(219) 766-3882
dakraut2@earthlink.net

IN ADDITION TO A FUN FILLED DAY OF VIOLETS AND GESNERIADS THE HOOSIER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY HAS PROMISED TO DISPLAY A MINI SHOW OF IT'S CLUBS MEMBERS PLANTS FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL THIS IS ALSO AN OPEN INVITATION TO ANYONE ATTENDING THAT WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEIR BEAUTIFUL PLANTS. THERE WILL ALSO BE A WAYS AND MEANS RAFFLE FUND RAISER, SO IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM OR TWO TO DONATE PLEASE BRING THEM. IF THERE IS ROOM ON YOUR LIGHT STAND OR WINDOW SILL FOR ONE MORE ORPHAN--- PLANT SALES WILL BE AVAILABLE!

CONTACTS

GARY MIKITA---219-763-4861
ANNA BARNES---219-322-3173
JEAN WILLEY---219-663-5451
HAROLD ANDRESEN – 219-766-3882

From the Archives... by Joe Brun

These excerpts have been taken from old issues of *Leaves* magazine.

25 Years Ago - Fall 1978 issue:

Jimmy Dates was President of the Illinois African Violet Society. Among the new members was Evalyn Barborik. Also, the Quad Cities African Violet Society joined as a new affiliate club.

The Twin Cities African Violet Society hosted the Fall Get-Together at the Woodhill Towers in Bloomington. Those attending the meeting were asked to bring a covered dish and table service.

Affiliate club officers listed: Rosewood AVS (Alton) President Mrs. Tony Krueger, Vice President Mrs. C.P. Edsall, Secretary Mrs. Lloyd Ballard, Treasurer Mrs. O. Bm Yates; Exhibitors' Club President Dorothy Schroeder, Vice President Carla Ehas, Secretary Helen Lamm, Treasurer Eunice Bremer; Quad Cities A VS President Sally Stocker, Vice President Ollie Herrmann, Secretary Denise Pribble, Treasurer Erma Pribble; Margaret Scott A VS President Mrs. Lloyd Bierfeldt, Vice President Mrs. Victor Boettcher, Secretary Mrs. Maurice Wing, Treasurer Mrs. Max Hunt; Suburban African Violet Enthusiasts President Jim Whitfield, Vice President Claire

Byerly, Secretary Ellie Palm, Treasurer Jean Willey; Metropolitan A VS President Thelma Bangert, Vice President Hazel Parkin, Secretary Maude Teater, Treasurer Mille Van Ness.

10 Years Ago - Fall 1993 issue:

The Fall Get-Together was held at the Holiday Inn in Morris, Illinois. Speakers were Florise Hogan and Genola Cox.

Among the new members were Patsy Harms and Martha Coronado. A new AVS show rule stipulating that plants should be slip-potted into white pots caused some controversy, as some members grew in green pots and refused to show their plants.

The complete Constitution and Bylaws of IA VS were published. Connie Romanow was in a coma for two weeks following a fall down some stairs.

It was announced that Lake Shore AVS would host the 1994 IAVS Show and Convention at the Holiday Inn North Shore in Skokie.

Coming Events

Fox Valley African Violet Society Sale and Display

Saturday September, 27, 2003

Time: 10 am to 5 pm

Charlestowne Mall

3800 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174

Over 200 named African Violets will be for sale.

Glenview North Shore African Violet Society Sale, Display, educational exhibit and quilt wall hanging raffle

September 27, 2003 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 28, 2003 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Garden

100 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL

Illinois African Violet Society Fall Meet

October 11, 2003

Best Western Motel

3830 179th St., Hammond, IN. 46324

Directions - Exit Interstate 80 at South Cline to first stop light,

Turn right on Frontage Road which leads to the motel.

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society 47th Annual Convention

October 18 and 19, 2003 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. both days

Friendship Park

395 Algonquin Road, Mt. Prospect, IL

Lake Shore African Violet Society Show and Sale

A Violet for All Seasons

November 1, 2003 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m.

November 2, 2003 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Garden

100 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL.

Club News

African Violets Society of Northern Illinois. News Letter editor: Adell Johnson

In **June** the members enjoyed a trip to the Long Grove Confectionery Co. where they had lunch. The **July** meeting was their annual Salad Luncheon where they played Bingo. **August** brought the Dog days of summer and their Dog show for violets. In **September** they will be studying the culture of violets - their symptoms, causes and remedy a follow up to the Dog Show. Ness's Crinkle Blue is the club's project plant and they will be viewing and comparing their plants at the October meeting. November will be a study in Strips. The club meets the 1st Monday of the month at 11 a.m. at the home of Ed and Adelle Johnson and they have extended an invitation to anyone interested in visiting to phone 708-457-0661)

Barrington Bloomers. News Letter editor: Frances Jarnowski

The **June** program was their annual Pot Luck supper, which was a delicious experience. It was decided to cancel the **July** meeting as it was too close to the 4th. The **August** meeting consisted of a program on how to divide a plant with well grown suckers, update the membership list and a discussion on Sandy's idea, for **September**, for a hands on program on How to Construct a Dish Garden.

Hoosier African Violet Society. News Letter editor: Harold and Susan Andresen

The Hoosier African Violet Society held their Display and sale **June** 14th at the Civic Center. This was not a judged show, instead the public was able to choose their favorite plant) with the winner winning an African Violet tea pot. The winner was Lois Matusak with a semi-mini that stole the show. In **July** they had their Picnic where the new officers, for the next two years, were installed, and they discussed the Fall Meet which they are going to host. August brought their "Dog Show."

Lake Shore African Violet Society. News Letter editor: Patsy Harms

June was the annual Barbecue hosted by Helois Nathen all enjoyed her lovely home and garden and wonderful food. Officers were sworn in for the next year. **July** brought Bob Nicholson, from the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society, to give us an idea of all the wonderful relatives the African Violet has. There was no meeting in **August**.

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society. News Letter editor: R.David Harley

A program on Bromeliads was presented at the June meeting. A Safari- Trip to Rockford is planned for the August meeting. They will be going to the Fritchen's Nursery Greenhouses and Gift Gallery in Rockford, The Klehm Arboretum and botanic Garden, and the Anderson Gardens.

Quad Cities African Violet Society. News Letter editor: Helen Swanson

Helen gave some advice we could all remember; do not come in from the garden to your plant room, this is inviting unwanted guest from the green to come in with you. The club has five new members, congratulations. At the August meeting they received their starter plants for the project plant for next year. It is a plant Kent Stork introduced at Baton Rouge.

Chimera Propagation

from the KIWI Violet Room

Chimeras ie "Pinwheel Violets" only come true from suckers, most of the time, so a method to speed up the process is by pricking with a large needle, sterilized first, into the stem of the plant, where you want the sucker to grow, this is also useful for encouraging branches in Trailers, where here are bare stems, etc. It could also be called "acupuncture".

The more usual way of propping Chimeras is to take the suckers from between the leaves of the plant, from the stem. This is done by removing with a sharp knife, or flicking out with a blunt pencil, my preferred method.

New Chimeras by Bloomstalks

This is a marvelous way of increasing your collection, and they are usually true to name! ie with the desired stripe down each of the petals.

You take off the bloomstalk from the plant, while it is still fresh, cut the stalk on an angle to make it approximately 1/2 in long, trim off all the blooms etc, and just leave the 2 leaves there. Sometimes the bloomstalk is so big, that you will get 2 more bloomstalks from it, here you have taken the blooms off, from each side...as long as there is the 2 leaves there, and the stalk, you have something to work with.

Then plant the stalks in your favorite medium, up to the neck of the 2 leaves. The plantlets will arise from beside the leaves, and hopefully you will get 2, one from each little bloomstalk leaf.

I usually do a whole plant of bloomstalks, and put them all together, in a covered container, and wait. I do not disturb them at all again; just now and then I will check the moisture, and any growth. You need Patience, but it is well-rewarded, in time.

The rooting mix used is 50% Perlite and 50% Vermiculite mixed and dampened.

Neil Lipson gives this information in the May-June issue of the African Violet magazine. He starts his bloom stalk in sphagnum with no rooting powder and covers it. He warns that it may take up to three or four months. The best thing is to leave it alone. Constant checking can be the death of the stalk. He also warns not to use old flower stalks. Pick the freshest you have.

Some chimeras are natural born sucker producers, like Moonbeam, Mauna Loa, and Patsy Love.

"It's time to come in now"

An Essay by Katharine Byrne

Of course I talk to my plants. "Its time to come in now." I told them this morning. The chill in the air and the protective shrivel of certain leaves. tll me that the first frost, kilter of green things, will soon strike the garden, Into the house comes the baskets and pots that I carried out into the sunshine last spring. For the past months, Swedish ivy has swung from a branch of the plum tree: winding its way out of a ceramic pot. Boston ivy has been circling the- base of an American ash.

At first, after being housebound all winter, a year old fuchsia and a line of crooked geranium spurs looked wan and puny out there on patio br1ck:s or tree stumps, but after a summer of sun and rain, like city children let loose in the country, they are taller, heartier, prettier - and their color is much improved.

Some plants, like pupils who do not like classrooms and yearn for vacation time, will not like to come indoors, The red-and yellow croton will shed leaves and turn pale. A certain philodendron will just stand there sullenly, refusing to turn out a new leaf until spring comes again, But the begonias, like fresh-faced agreeable children, will keep on blooming, and so will the pink clumps of impatiens if they can see the sun from a south-facing window.

Working in my own potting shed-actually, it's my kitchen table-I must find bigger living quarters for plants that are crowed and furnish them with the right mixture of soil and pet moss. They all need vitamins: food to make up for lost hours of sunshine in the shorter, darker days- ahead.

If I handle each one with affection, it is because I remember where it Game from. I acquired them one at a time over many years, and each has a story tied to it.

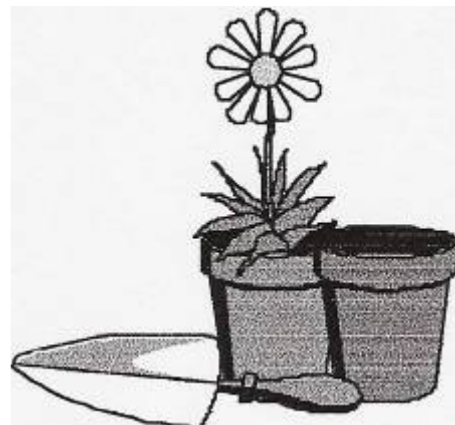
This giant spider plant was handed over the fence by a neighbor who could not take it along to their new home in Florida. For 10 years it has lived here, sending forth dozens of long arms covered with tiny white flowers and green and white plantlets I can nip off and give away. This asparagus fern sheds like an Airedale, but what can I do? It was a Christmas present. This fat

pot of pungent basil? It was a rootless sprig when I carried it home in a plastic envelope from a Greek island last year. Long ago, a little bay gave me a 6inch rubber plant: now the plant and the boy are 6 feet tall.

I have read about floral engineers who come to your home like interior decorators-taking the temperature measuring the light rays. Moving in hundreds of dollars' worth of greenery in coordinated colors and appropriate combination of thick and thin, tall and short, upright and dangling. Guaranteed to flourish. No room for error.

Every though my own green thumb has sometimes failed me and I have had to bury my failures, I do not think I could enjoy such instant, large-scale luxury. Nor could I speak with confidence to imported green things arranged in scientifically determined positions and relationships. In the long winter ahead, I will talk to my plants as I used to talk to the children who lived here, encouraging them to perk up and persevere. Waiting out winter looking forward to one more spring when they and I will get out into the yard, warmed by the sun again.

But what could I say to a crowd of strangers?



Master Variety List (# 10 July 2001): Send \$20.00 for loose leaf, three hole punched, \$22.00 for spiral bound, or \$12.50 for 3.5 inch diskette, by check, payable to AVSA; 2375 North Street; Beaumont, Texas 77702

First Class MVL Program: First Class is a Windows based computer program that allows you to quickly and accurately look up species and cultivar names and descriptions found in the Master Variety List. Sent \$12.50 check, payable to AVSA: 2375 North Street; Beaumont, Texas 77702

AVSA Booster Fund: Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 4343 Schumacher Road-196E, SSebring, FL, 33872-2639

Boyce Edens Research Fund: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave. Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund: Send contributions to Helen Blanton; 622 Riverside Street; Saint Charles, Missouri 63303

Your Magazine

Editor: Patsy Harms; 2133 Crawford Avenue; Evanston, Illinois 60201-1870 (847) 864-6467. Email avharms@aol.com

Advertising: For advertising rates and copy information write to the Editor.

Articles: Please send to the Editor

Club News and Coming Events: please send details to the Editor.

Deadline Dates: Spring, (before March 10th), Summer, (before June 10th)
Fall, (before September 10th), Winter (before December 10th).

Change of Address: Send notice of new address to Membership Secretary.

Failure to receive magazine: Notify Membership Secretary,

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E-mail steffan02@aol.com