



AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES

A publication of the Illinois African Violet Society, Inc.

Spring / Summer 2007

President's Message

Hello African violet lovers,

I bet you thought we forgot about you — but no, our members and African violets are always on our minds. My apologies for a late issue, sometimes “life” puts us a little behind, but luckily our violets are very forgiving. And rest assured, we’re still always working behind the scenes on the business and events that keep our club going.

Since my last message we have had our Spring show at the Lisle Hilton a few months ago. Once again, it was a beautiful show, thanks to our loyal and dedicated violet growers. The programs were very informative, thanks to Judi DuPont and Mike England. Everything from the “goodie bags” to the banquet dinner were over the top. Thanks again to all who participated and helped with the show. Congratulations to all of our growers and designers.

For those of you who missed the banquet, you missed the “special event.” Well, it was a night to remember. We had our own members’ roast of Joe Bruns. In the tradition of the old Dean Martin Celebrity Roasts, the evening was filled with jabs, digs, jokes and revealing stories. As the moderator, I made sure no one, Joe or the roasters, escaped without their own share of the fun. Included in the roast panel were Morgan Simmons, Anna Jean Landgren, Celia Shafer, Patsy Harms, Tom Moore and Jackie Jones. I think it’s safe to say you will never have the privilege of seeing a panel of this violet “pedigree” assembled together again for such an event, and if you missed it, you really missed the big one this time! I think we all laughed off our meal throughout the evening. Thanks again to all of my panel members, who not only did a great job at the roast, but successfully kept it a surprise for Joe until the very last moment. For those of you who missed it, I hope it’s the last IAVS event you have to miss, because we have more fun in store for you!

That leads me to our Fall Get-Together. By now you have received your invitations sent out by Mike England. We are doing something very different and

special this time. Thanks to Fox Valley AVS members Mike England and Tomi Griesenauer, we are having an international violet experience! In addition, they’re spicing it up with a murder mystery and some traditional Tanzanian dishes. (Our Fox Valley members got a pre-tasting of the dishes and they are delectable.) This event is open not only to IAVS members, but to the general public as well. Please, bring your spouses, significant others, friends, and family. Everyone will enjoy this experience, and will learn a little more about violets at the same time. What could be better? So please call your friends, and get your reservations in. Remember, your participation is what keeps our organization alive. The generous and enthusiastic efforts of our members putting on this event deserve our support, so don’t let them down, and don’t let yourself down by missing another unprecedented violet event. Be there!

See you soon, and until then enjoy tending to your violets.

Happy Growing,
Andrea Worrell

A Note From the Editor...

Hello IAVS members!

I’m sure by now you will see that *Leaves* has a new format. As a way to save money in these days of rising printing and USPS charges, a decision was made at the IAVS Spring convention to change a few details with *Leaves*.

First, you have noticed the change in the look, format and contents. The second change is that Joe Bruns will be doing the printing and mailing, as well as posting the web site version of *Leaves*.

Another change is a personal one. My husband has taken a job in New Jersey. Since the job is temporary it was decided that I would remain in Illinois during this separation. I have found that I have been doing a “little” bit of traveling to NJ to visit him. One thing that makes

the separation a little easier is that Steve does come home occasionally. Since my Dad lives in New Jersey, I have the advantage of visiting him when I visit Steve.

Unfortunately, I have found that I have had to pick up the "chores" that Steve did, and this has added to my many things that I do. So when the Board members change in the spring of 2008 I will be handing the reins of Editor to someone who (hopefully) will be able to give it the attention to get it out in a reasonable time.

The next issue of Leaves will be out in October 2007.

Until then,
Judi

IAVS Annual Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 6, 2007
Chicago, Illinois

Murder Mystery Event — *Murder at Amani*
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (approximately)

(Imaginary) Destination: Tanga Town, Tanzania

Amani Nature Reserve - Amboni Caves



Our event will take you directly to the heart of the famous Amani Nature Reserve in modern-day Tanzania. As a guest of the Reserve, you've come to participate in a hunt for the last wild *Saintpaulia rupicola*, and an effort to restore the subspecies to the wild. As our adventure unwinds, you'll enjoy a five-course luncheon (including some authentic Tanzanian dishes), served family style, and play a role in the mystery written especially for you.

During the event you'll learn about African violets in the wild, and the eco-challenges they face to survive in today's Tanzania.

Tickets for Murder At Amani are \$15/person or \$25/couple. Reservations are necessary, please, and need to be made by September 22 (remember that roles are written especially for each participant, and are mailed directly to you.) Murder mystery participants need not be a member of IAVS to attend, so bring a friend to join in the fun!

Reserve today — this event is limited to 80 participants only. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact me (meeze@wowway.com) for a reservation form!

Thanks, Mike England

Special Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this year's IAVS Show and Convention a very special one for me. To finally have the theme of "Violets and Sausages" accepted was beyond belief, but then to "honor" me with a roast was totally unexpected.

Morgan, Patsy, Anna Jean, Jackie, Celia, and Tom (I can't wait until it's your turn, Tom) had me anticipating the worst, but they were relatively kind in the long run. I want to especially thank Andrea for arranging everything and for the *very* nice pen that was given to me as a gift. I will remember the occasion with gratitude forever.

Joe Bruns

Show Awards

Hello Everyone!

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your generous contributions to the IAVS Awards Fund for 2007. You made a lot of winners very happy this year. Thanks to you, \$730 was raised for awards for "Violets & Sausages." Wow!

As we head into fall (hard to believe that the summer is almost over, isn't it?), it's never too early to start thinking about your plants for the 2008 show. Now is the time for some repotting, grooming and disbudding to keep things on track.

I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support of our annual State show, and I encourage you to think about participating next year with more than your wallet ;-D Even if you only enter one plant and/or one design, you will learn so much and expand your growing and design skills. The judges are always available for questions after the judging is finished; and, of course, you will see your old friends and hopefully make some new ones :-)

Thanks again,
Adrienne "Annie" Rieck
Awards Chairman

Illinois African Violet Society

Award Winners

April 28, 2007

"Violets and Sausages"

Best in Show – Aca's Flying Free – Won by Harold Andresen

Runner-Up to Best in Show – Beacon Trail – Won by Susan Andresen

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Best AVSA Collection (Standard/Species) – Aca's Flying Free, Fire 'n' Ice, Lela Marie – Won by Harold Andresen

Second Best AVSA Collection (Standard/Species) – Ma's Silk Flower, Scenario, Rebel's Centennial Star – Won by Susan Andresen

Best AVSA Collection (Miniature/Semiminiature) – Rob's Antique Rose, Boo Man, Bogeyman – Won by Susan Andresen

Second Best AVSA Collection (Miniature/Semiminiature) – Ness' Mini Sota, Rob's Whodunit, Ness' Crinkle Blue – Won by Harold Andresen

Best Design – "Truffles" – Won by Frances Jarnowski

Runner-Up to Best Design – "Trail Mix" – Won by Micheline England

Best Standard – Aca's Flying Free – Won by Harold Andresen

Best Semiminiature – Ness' Mini Sota – Won by Harold Andresen

Best Miniature – Rob's Smarty Pants – Won by Susan Andresen

Best Gesneriad – Streptocarpus 'Iced Canadian Sunset' – Won by Morgan Simmons

Best Trailer – Beacon Trail – Won by Susan Andresen

Helen Rhoades Memorial Award – Buffalo Hunt – Won by Susan Andresen

Ruth Tiedeman Award (Best Design) – "Truffles" – Won by Frances Jarnowski

Rose Marie Burback Memorial Award (Best Lavender Standard) – Rebel's Midnight Mauve – Won by Patricia Harms

Anita Rae McCormac Memorial Award (Best Blue and White Semiminiature) – Von's Baby Jay – Won by Andrea Worrell

Eleanor Kinast Memorial Award (Best Variegated Violet) – Ma's Silk Flower – Won by Susan Andresen

Best Species – *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea* – Won by Morgan Simmons

Horticulture Sweepstakes – 36 blue ribbons – Won by Susan Andresen

Runner-Up to Horticulture Sweepstakes – 28 blue ribbons – Won by Patricia Harms

Design Sweepstakes – 7 blue ribbons – Won by Susan Andresen

Runner-Up to Design Sweepstakes – 6 blue ribbons – Won by Micheline England

From the Archives...

by Joe Bruns

50 Years Ago – March/April 1957 and May/June 1957 issues:

There were 31 new members listed; among them was Mildred Schroeder.

The cover of the May/June issue had a photo of the five plants that won the first Magill Challenge Cup, exhibited by Mrs. Samuel Greenfield.

Helen Rhoades, the first IAVS President, wrote her farewell message as the Society celebrated its second birthday.

25 Years Ago – Spring 1982 issue:

The Illinois Council of African Violet Judges made three recommendations to IAVS: (1) Judge the AVSA Collection class [there was only one then] as early as possible, (2) When inviting judges, specify what compensation will be give, and (3) All plants scoring 94 and above should be rescored by a panel of at least three judges, to determine Queen of Show. [And you think judging takes forever now!]

Among the six new members were Anita Fiori and Jean Krewer.

Anna Jean Landgren reported on her visit to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. Their young grandson, Paul, was getting very involved in the operation of the greenhouse.

Membership dues were \$5.00 per year.

10 Years Ago – Spring 1997 and Summer 1997 issues:

The Glenview/North Shore AVS hosted the IAVS spring show and convention, and the show resulted in a *profit!* Winners: Best in Show, 'Bleu Lorraine', won by Adelle Johnson; Best Design, "Fourth of July Party" (mobile), won by Ed Johnson; Sweepstakes, 30 blue ribbons, won by Jean Willey; AVSA Collections were won by Steve Covolo and Andrea Worrell. The Magill Cup Collection was won by Jean Willey.

Anna Jean Landgren, the Membership Secretary, reported that over the past year we gained 9 new members, while losing 23.

Amid some controversy, it was decided that we will require all show plants to be slip-potted into clean, white pots.

Editor

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IAVS Board Meeting Minutes

Date/time: April 27, 2007 @ 9:37 – 10:38 a.m.

Location: Hilton Hotel, Lisle IL

Attendees: Joe Bruns, Andrea Worrell, Judi Du Pont, Cel Schafer, Susan Yee

Recording secretary

- Read meeting minutes, motion passed to accept

Membership Report

- As of Sept 2006 had 90 members
- Added 8 new members
- Dropped 6 members
- Net gain of 2 members

Treasurers' Report

- none

Club Correspondence

- none

Leaves Magazine

- Printing is expensive. Lengthy discussion followed on modifying the format. Mailing costs currently between \$72-75 each quarter. Suggestion to go to newsletter format and slightly modifying content was also discussed. Joe Bruns to print and mail newsletter and then charge the club for the costs. Motion to change *Leaves* passed.

Webmaster

- Bill Meier is stepping down. Joe Bruns will be Webmaster.

Unfinished Business

- Financial Books; there was only half the money in account than expected.
- No CD; last report of one had it to be \$10 or 15k. A letter to former treasurer Gary Duchein will be sent requesting him to send the financial books to current treasurer LuAnn Christenson will be sent by certified mail. If necessary IAVS will arrange to pick up books in person.
- Bylaws; start from scratch. Andrea to put together new map.
- Magill cup; Annie's name still needs to be added.
- Helen Rhoades Plant for 2009 plant to be announced in *Leaves*.

New business

- Nomination Committee; One board member is required, the others don't have to be board members.
- Fall Meet; host club being sought. Restructuring was discussed in light of finances. Example, the spring show costs include \$896 for plants, \$25 for table, \$550 for rooms.

- Not losing money on sales plants. Anything not sold, FVAVS will buy to sell at their fall show.
- Judges lunch costs
- Fall meet doesn't bring in revenue, no registration fee, only meal costs. Pay for speaker. Financial loss for fall meet. Suggest family style, picnic lunch. Bylaws only require a meeting. Look into perhaps being at arboretum. Format will be changing due to costs, details to be worked out.
- Spring show; ask at general meeting for a host club. Deadline by submission date for Summer *Leaves* magazine. No host club then will book Hilton and look for a host club.
- Have secretary email board minutes out in advance.

IAVS General Meeting Minutes

Date/time: April 27, 2007 @ 3:05 – 3:38 p.m.

Location: Hilton Hotel, Lisle IL

Attending: 18 members

Recording secretary

- Read board meeting minutes. Motion passed to accept

Unfinished Business

- Financial books; Move to legal action to get them.
- Website; Joe Bruns taking over.
- Helen Rhoades plant; 2008 is Rob's Scrumptious.

New business

- Leaves Magazine; Change to newsletter format. Verify AVSA guidelines for newsletter. Savings of 30-50% with new format.
- Fall Meet; spring shows financially in the black. Fall shows are in the red. Redoing fall meet format. Lengthy discussion followed. Ideas include large sale for revenue. Fall sale and publicize like crazy. Quad Cities members discussed how they set up their plant sales which included unusual gesneriads. Violet murder mystery fund raising for fall meet can accommodate. Location would be close to the expressway. Can have silent auction and plant sales. Suggested fee \$15 a person, \$25 for a couple. Motion to have murder mystery hosted by Tomi Greisenauer and Mike England, passed. Dates to avoid are the weekends the clubs have events planned. Try for October 6. at First Congregational Church of Forest Glen in Chicago. Appetizer, conversation, then murder, soup and conversation, talk to suspects, salad, talk to more suspects, dinner, talk to more suspects, then dessert. Can accommodate special dietary needs. Mike and Tomi have put together about 20 dinners.