

THE ROSETTE

Albuquerque African Violet Club (AAVC)

AAVC Officers:

President: Sharon Shannon

Vice President: Michael Garcia

Secretary: Lindsey Kirchhevel

Treasurer: JoEllen Bowden

Garden Council Representative:

Carl Soderberg

Newsletter Editor:

Michael Garcia

News Bits:

- Albuquerque Garden Center hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 9:30 to 2:30. Contact the Garden Center by phone: 505-296-6020 or by email: info@abqgardencenter.org;
- Annual Garden Center Rummage Sale, February 25 & 26, 8am to 3pm. (Bring only usable items for the sale: "Garden tools, books, kitchenware, jewelry, clothing, etc.");
- Hybrid AAVC Zoom call & onsite meeting February 9, 2022, 1:00pm.

Sharon's Notes:

Greetings Violeteers!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday! As you may be setting New Year's goals and resolutions, you may want to include goals and resolutions for your beautiful violets.

For me, although I regularly water my violets, my goal is to spend just a little time doing more than just throwing water at them. I need schedule time regularly to groom and observe, keeping an eye out for struggling violets or problems developing. I got bit by this a couple weeks ago when I discovered a fungus problem in advanced stages. At first, I thought the fungus had infected all my violets, but thankfully, only a couple shelves were infected. I ended up throwing away many violets, and decapitating and replanting many more. If I had been more observant, I might have caught the problem in time to save all those violets.

Although we had our struggles last year, I'm proud to say that our club has done very well! Against our druthers, we embraced Zoom meetings as a "better-than-nothing" option. We still had a beautiful show (even though it was just for us). And we had a really delightful holiday luncheon! And all the while we still grew and loved our violets.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year as we have some fun programs planned, and unless the COVID situation worsens, we should be able to have our regular

AV Q&A's

What is foliar feeding and the principle behind it?

Vera Covert (New York) explains it this way: "It is a method of giving plants food through the leaves instead of the roots. The principle is to duplicate nature. During thunderstorms, nitrogen is washed onto leaves by rain. In the tropics those plants that live in trees (orchids, etc.) receive feeding from rains in the form of nitrogen and dissolved bird dropping, etc. It is Natures way of taking care of her own."

What are the effects of foliar feeding?

Mrs Covert (above) found that on older plants the outer layer of leaves stays clean and rich in color and takes on a heavier texture. The young center leaves show more rapid growth. On young starts the results are amazing. From "mouse ear" period, one flat of young stuff has been foliar fed once every five or six days. The foliage is beautiful and growth is rapid ... more rapid than plants in the flat that have not been foliar-fed. Also a tray of rooting leaves responded faster than the tray that wasn't sprayed with a balanced fertilizer mix.

Note: "The recommended ratio for foliar feeding African violets is: 14-12-14."

annual show and sale. I think we have lots to look forward to in 2022!

Happy violeting!

Sharon

Sara Trice: Growing African violets - Anything Goes!

There are a number of lessons that can be learned growing these marvelous plants. At times the plants seem easy to grow and at other times they can be a nightmare. Unfortunately, over the years I have experienced some difficult times with my plants. One such time a few months ago, all of a sudden, most of my plants got brown leaves, withered away and soon died. The real surprise was how quickly the plants went from appearing healthy to being just dreadful!

Over time, I eventually lost nearly three out of four plants. Fortunately, members of the club provided some helpful advice including: changing the soil, washing all of the little pots and replacing all the wicks. After all the changes, the plants seem to be improving and beginning to look better. Though the plants are improving there are a limited number of blooms. On the positive side, there are no longer the brown leaves that first appeared when all the trouble started. Hopefully, I am through this but I am still holding my breath! I am looking forward to seeing all the plants healthy and blooming again.

After all the issues, you must ask yourself, what was the cause of the trouble with my plants? Well there may be no specific answer but in the end the beauty of these marvelous little plants keeps you going along with the hope of seeing those wonderful blooms!

AAVC Highlights, August - January, Editor

As we closed out 2021, we can all reflect on all the challenges we faced during the past year including personal, and in some cases, issues with our wonderful little plants. In particular, my plants seem to be doing okay but as Sara mentioned in her note, "there is room for improvement," especially with regards to having healthy plants with some great blooms.

In preparation for this newsletter, I asked some members to send me some photos of their plants and my request was happily answered by two of our members, Dena Brent and Renee Bernard. The photos sent by Dena and Renee, in a word were "spectacular". I was just overwhelmed when I saw the wonderful photos.

Seeing Dena's plants was super awesome particularly given all the issues she faced not only last year, but also over the last few years. On seeing the photos below, I got a big smile and my hope is that you all will get a smile knowing there is an opportunity for a bright new year for us all!

Renee's violet and Streptocarpus:

Steffano's Azure Diamonds:

S. Rupicola:



Winter, 2022

January 21, 2022

Dena's violets:

