

The Rosette

Albuquerque African Violet Club

Sharon's Minute

It's the beginning of a new year and, as they say, it's time for in with the new and out with the old. Some of us may need to do this with our violets... that is... those of us with violets on the floor cause we don't have enough shelf space. It takes no time at all to overdo on our collections and get so many violets that we can't take care of them. Just ask me - I'm an expert in the field!

We had a really great year last year! We had some really awesome presentations at our meetings, we had a great spring show and a great sale at the ABQ Botanic Garden, and we got several new members - welcome to Debra, Jessica, Patty, Gillian, Mike, Lisa, and Anneka! I'm looking forward to another great year, which will kick off with our board meeting on January 9 where we'll choose the design class titles for our 2018 spring show, "Violets in Fairyland" (all members are welcome and encouraged to attend). We have an tremendous group of members and I'm looking forward to another year of working, visiting, and goggling over violets with all of you. Happy New Year!

Check out AAVC on our web site:
www.albuquerqueafricanvioletclub.org
and on Facebook

AAVC is an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America
and a member of the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs

Two Blue Faces



Streptocarpus

Two Smiling Faces



Sharon and Mary Ann

Two Happy Faces



JoEllen and Charlie

A Thank You from the ABQ Botanic Garden

Dear African Violet Club: As I get ready to retire from the Botanic Garden in December, I just wanted to let know how much I have enjoyed working with you, Sharon especially. I know you have taught many people about the fun of growing violets through your shows here, and I have appreciated so much the chance to interact with you. Keep up your good work! Catherine

Ilsobia Peeking Thru



WICK WATERING

by Joan Halford from her book, Growing African Violets in Southern Africa reprinted in AVSA's African Violet Magazine / May/June 2004

This is an excellent method of watering, one that is ideal when plants have to be left unattended for any length of time. The plant has a wick inserted into the soil at the time of potting, with the end hanging out of the bottom of the pot and into a reservoir. The wick can be made of strips of nylon stocking, polypropylene cord, or twisted nylon fishing cord. The thickness of the wick depends on the size of the plant. A frayed end of the nylon cord is in the root ball, thus the plant receives a constant, even amount of moisture all the time. A clear plastic reservoir with a snap-on lid with two holes burnt or cut into the lid is ideal. One hole is made in the middle of the lid to allow the wick to pass through and go down into the water, and the other hole, to one side of the lid, facilitates topping up the water level in the reservoir.

With wick watering, there is no need to move the plant except for routine turning, which is something that must not be overlooked.

Repotting a Blooming Plant

From "Question Box" AVSA's African Violet Magazine Jan.Feb 2007

"Answer" by Ralph Robinson of Rob's Violets—The Violet Barn

Question: It's been quite a while since I repotted my violet, but it continues to bloom, and this makes me reluctant to do so. Can I repot it while it's still blooming?

Answer: Yes. It's always best to take care of your plant when necessary, not when convenient. A well-cared for violet can continue to bloom almost indefinitely, producing new leaves and blooms from the top, while having older leaves removed from the bottom, creating a "neck," or stem, above the soil and beneath the lowest leaves. The longer you wait, the more drastic the necessary repotting to lower the plant and bury the neck. If done while the neck is short, repotting is easy and the plant suffers little stress, continuing to bloom. If done when the neck is much longer, more of the root ball needs to be removed to lower the plant sufficiently in the pot. A smaller root system will support fewer leaves, and fewer blooms. The plant then is more likely to be stressed and temporarily, at least, to stop blooming. Carefully done, you may repot your violet now and have it continue blooming.

AAVC OFFICERS

President – Sharon Shannon

V President - Dodie Nelson

Secretary – Gilliam Barker

Treasurer – JoEllen Bowden

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Editor – Carl Soderberg

Tip

Never fertilize a 'dry plant'. Use plain water before watering with a fertilizer-water mixture.

Sara's 'Story'

So a new beginning and new adventures are on the horizon. But adventures always are in the future. I think of our club always experimenting with new ideas. We come to meetings to learn, to ask questions, and to give information on the how's of growing these rather delicate, different plants. The how's and why's are sometimes overwhelming. We falter and become downhearted. But then something marvelous happens! A sickly plant suddenly becomes healthy! Grows beautifully! And then wonders of wonders! Blooms!!! We are elated! Life is good! We move on with more confidence! Yes, we are can do this!!!! We can overcome!

I had this experience when most of my plants died of blight. I called Sharon in tears! Life was black! No more!! I am through! I am Done! The plant person at Osuna diagnosed the disease as blight and sort of told me what to do - washing the walls and trays, disinfecting the room - so much work! Forget it!!!! My granddaughter said "ah, no, Mom, we will do this." And so we did. The other plants in the house that were not in the blight room were doing ok. So I kept up going to meetings and listening to everyone's opinions and after 3 months of quarantine, you wonderful members started bringing me plants. Oh glory, you all are such sensitive, giving people. Slowly my self attitude changed - I can do this - and then a new adventure! A plant bloomed! I brought it to the meeting. A celebration! So in closing, we need to welcome all new adventures this year with confidence, strength, and inquiring pursuit; deal with the fun and setbacks and successes. This is what, I say, raising violets is all about. (by Sara Trice)

Upcoming Programs & Events

Monthly Meetings

February 14, 2018

Dabbling With Design by Shirley Tetreault
Hosted by Kay Anderson & Sara Trice

March 13, 2018

Getting Ready for the Show by Joellen Bowden
Hosted by Debra Browitt & Lisa Jackson

March 13, 2018

Getting Ready for Show by JoEllen Bowden
Hosted by Debra Browitt & Lisa Jackson

Forty-Ninth Annual Spring Show & Sale "Violets in Fairy Land"

April 21 & 22, 2018

Be getting your plants ready and start thinking about designs for our annual show!

2018 National Convention and Show

The African Violet Society of America and the African Violet Society of Canada are teaming up to bring us a united and exciting convention experience.

May 20 through May 27, 2018

Buffalo, NY

Editor

By now you all recognize the need for a new editor. Will someone please 'step up to the plate' and take over this very important part of our club's life. Sure would be appreciated.