

MAAVS

Affiliate of AVSA
Founded March 9, 1991



MEMO

Published Quarterly by the

MID-ATLANTIC AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

March 2009

Volume 19, Number 1

Hello, everyone!

Spring is nearly upon us once again; somehow, my violets seem to know that the ground is warming, the days are lengthening and green things are pushing their way demurely through the mulch in the garden beds. They may sit on the window sill, but those little Saintpaulias have a direct line to the cycle of the seasons! They are perking up and looking more ready to burst into bloom with each passing day. Our 2009 convention “Things go Better With African Violets,” sponsored by the Tidewater AV Society, is beginning to set buds of its own. Pat Knight has written our show schedule (look for it in the next MAAVS Memo), committees and chairs are hard at work and all indications are that we’ll have a wonderful show at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites (www.colonialwilliamsburgresort.com/hotels/deluxe/woodlands in Williamsburg, Virginia, (instead of the Surfside Inn and Suites in Virginia Beach), from November 12th - 14th, 2009. Please mark the date and join us in beautiful historic Williamsburg.



MAAVS President Rich Follett

Last year at this time, I published a list of my “top 10” simple things MAAVS members can do to support our convention. That little list brought many wonderful results, so I think it bears repeating. Even if you have only a few minutes of time to give, you can do something to help make our 2009 convention a success. Here, then, is the list that started it all:

1. Enter plants and/or designs
2. Come to the convention yourself, even if just for a day
3. Bring one or more friends
4. Sponsor an award
5. Encourage a friend or fellow club member to sponsor an award
6. TALK ABOUT the convention - help build excitement!
7. Think positively
8. Find a way to share the convention with one or more children
9. Contribute something collectible, unique or handmade to Ways and Means
10. Volunteer to cover an on-site convention duty, even if only for an hour

I also stated at this time last year that one of my goals as your President is to see our membership grow by 25% in two years. We are well on our way to reaching that goal! We have grown from 142 members at this time last year to our current 154; in addition, convention registrants increased from 65 in 2008 to 83 in 2009. We also had more than 125 non-member visitors (count based on admission fees to the show). Clearly, we are a growing enterprise! MAAVS is quite remarkable in this aspect - - almost all of the African violet clubs across the country are experiencing a decline in membership, especially with our current economic challenges and people cutting down on 'extras'. We have great cause to be thankful. We must continue this trend! We can be an inspiration for African violet enthusiasts across the country - - perhaps we will even encourage new clubs to form! Please join with me in defying the odds and helping our society continue to grow. We have got a good thing going. Somewhere near you is someone who would thoroughly enjoy the benefits of MAAVS membership; please take it upon yourself to approach him or her and promote the benefits of belonging to MAAVS. Don't forget former members, too! Many wonderful folks would be with us right now if someone had thought to remind them to renew.

Along with our growth has come a new opportunity. On January 29th, I received the following e-mail from Gwynn Hubbard of the Virginia State Fair:

“My name is Gwynn Hubbard. I am the Horticulture Specialist for the State Fair of VA. We are looking for an African violet group or groups that may be interested in participating in our fair this year. Would that be something that MAAVS would be interested in taking on?”

“The dates for the SFVA this year are September 24th - October 4th. Participation could be as minimal as 2 - 3 days or, as with our Master Gardeners, as much as all 11 days. We would be interested in educating the public as well as

possible African violet sales. If you could help me in any way I would appreciate it. Thanks for your time.”

If any of you feel that you might be able to help staff an educational table at the Virginia State Fair, even for a few hours, please contact me at richfoll@yahoo.com or at 540.465.2976, and I will put together a schedule. This is an unprecedented opportunity for us to do outreach and to share our wealth of knowledge and our fellowship!

African violet people are some of the most interesting, warm-hearted, sweet-spirited folks on Earth, and I never miss an opportunity to spread the word that the beautiful people give the violets a run for their money, year after year and show after show. To quote my students, “YOU ROCK!” Thank you all for your contributions to this wonderful society - - I hope spring will find you with your violets and your hearts in full bloom.

Rich

The Tidewater African Violet Society will host next year's Convention and Show in Williamsburg, Virginia. The dates will be November 12 - 14, 2009, at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites.

Low Cost Leaf Support Ring

by Wally Behnke

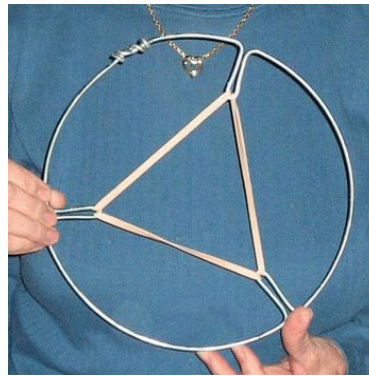
Simple, inexpensive and effective - - these leaf supports will keep large African violets ready for show.

Here are the materials you will need to make these rings:

- 1 Support board - at least 3/4 inch thick, 2 inches larger than support ring

you are building

- 2 # 6 or # 8 finishing nails (total of 18 nails)
- 3 Aluminum clothes line which may be plastic covered
- 4 Rubber bands - about 1 1/4 by 3 1/2 inch (#64 rubber bands at Staples)
- 5 Dark green spray paint if desired



Close up view of ring

Cut the support board (which is the form to make the rings) 2 inches larger than the support ring you are making and remove any rough edges. Draw a circle equal to the final support size and 3 radii, each 120 degrees apart. The ring should be about 5 inches larger in diameter than the pot size (e.g. a 4 1/2 inch pot should have a 9 or 10 inch support.)

Place the nails as follows: (the points of the nails may come through the back side of the board, so work in a place where it does not matter - not the dining room table).



Libby Behnke with leaf support designed by her husband Wally

- 1 One on each radius, about 1/3 of the way in from the large circle
- 2 Two at the intercept of the circle and each radius, about 1 inch apart (6 nails)
- 3 Three nails on each third of the circle, equally spaced (18 nails)
- 4 Turn board over and flatten any nails that are sticking through

Support Circle

Start wire about 1/3 of the distance from a radius of the circle and follow the nail pattern to form the leaf support. Overlap the ends by

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Articles and advertising must be received by:
February 25th for the First Quarterly Issue
May 25th for the Second Quarterly Issue
September 10th for the Third Quarterly Issue
November 25th for the Fourth Quarterly Issue

Advertising Rates are \$35 per edition for full page ads, \$20 per edition for half page ads, and \$10 per edition for quarter page ads. A 10% discount is given for annual advertising. Please contact Ken Barbi.

Former MAAVS Presidents:

Diane Richardson	1991 - 1995
Sue Hoffmann	1995 - 1999
Linda Abplanalp	1999 - 2001
Ken Barbi	2001 - 2005
Rodney Barnett	2005 - 2007
Rich Follett	2007 - Present

about 1 1/2 inches, and then secure the ends by twisting them around the adjacent wire. Remove the support from the form and spray paint a dark green. When dry, attach 3 rubber bands between adjacent supports.

MAAVS Affiliate Shows

The Tidewater African Violet Society presents its 26th Annual Show and Sale "Violets on Vacation" May 2nd & 3rd. It will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, VA. There is free parking and free admission. Saturday May 2nd the sale starts at 9am/showroom opens at 1pm and both continue until 5pm. Sunday May 3rd sale/show run from 12pm until 5pm. For more info email Brenda Taylor at hydrafly@cox.net. St. John's Lutheran Church is located at 8919 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk VA.

The Richmond African Violet Society Show and Sale at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. April 24th 9 pm - 5 pm show and sale (show opens at 1:00); April 25th 9 am - 5 pm show and sale; and April 26th 9 am - 4 pm display and sale. Contact: Barbara Stewart 804.594.0643 e-mail info@richmondavs.org or visit our website at www.richmondavs.org.

The African Violet Society of Syracuse will hold its 56th Annual Show and Sale on May

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2nd and 3rd, at the Beaver Lake Nature Center, 8477 Mud Lake Road, Baldwinsville, New York. This year's theme is "Violets on the Silver Screen". For more information, please contact Kathy Garbarino at 315.829.3679 or email at kgarb@twcny.rr.com.

The African Violet Society of Canada

40th Annual Convention & Show will be held May 17 - 23, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For more information contact Laurel Goretsky, Convention Registrations at 403.241.8300 or by e mail at laurel@goretsky.ca.

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia

Species Rosette for Best Saintpaulia species or natural hybrid is available for any MAAVS - AVSA affiliate show.

Send request and a check for \$5 made out to Judith Smith, at least one month in advance to:

Judith Smith, Species Chairman

7808 Conwell Road

Laverock, PA 19038-7205

smithja@mail.med.upenn.edu

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The Once and Future Violet

by Tom Glembocki

Plans have been moving along smoothly for the MAAVS hosted 2010 AVSA National Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. Convention Show chair Brenda Petry is currently collecting items for our MAAVS promotions table at the AVSA National Convention in Reno from April 12 - 18, 2009. We need your help with donations of

items to auction at the MAAVS promotions table.

Mary Boland has gotten us off to a good start with her donations of AVSA First Day covers and AVSA merchandise. Brenda Petry is soliciting plant donations from our MAAVS vendors and affiliates. If you have items you feel would help our cause in raising money to host the AVSA convention please contact Brenda at 717-528-8268 or mpetry@embarqmail.com.

Brenda is going to drive her van to Reno and is willing to haul our promotional items for us.



At the MAAVS convention in Fredericksburg this past November, we held a series of meetings open to the MAAVS membership for convention planning. One of those meetings resulted in the theme of the 2010 convention which is "The Once and Future Violet". This will be a tribute to African Violets over the years from the earliest species to our present hybrids. Laurene Jones has submitted a schedule which encompasses a

“violet time line” of African Violets reflecting our theme.

MAAVS award winning designer, Olive Ma Robinson, has designed a logo reflecting the theme of the “Once and Future Violet”. The logo depicts a tree with violets on the branches. Olive is also staging chair and will be utilizing a similar tree for our honors table.

Irwin Wagman has graciously accepted the job of convention treasurer. In that role he has started up our convention bank account and checkbook. It’s now our job to “fill the piggy bank”. Our first major fund raiser is the promotional table mentioned above. Please help us!

New York State AVS has agreed to provide the table favors for the convention banquets. This is a big job but with the traditional help MAAVS has always received from the New York AVS we’ll be in great shape for some fun convention banquets.

There’s still time for MAAVS members to sign up for key AVSA 2010 convention committees. We’re looking for a souvenir book assistant as well as a chairperson for the President’s Reception, Information Table, Presentations Assistant and Hospitality. Contact Tom Glembocki at 919-362-8532 or tom@maavs.org Your help in making this a great AVSA convention is truly appreciated.

MAAVS Board of Directors Meeting

November 14, 2008

Rich Follett called the meeting to order at 9:12 pm.

Rich Follett, Laurene Jones, George Mac Donald, Kitty Hedgepeth, Fay Wagman, Mary Boland, Judi Du Pont and Adrienne Topping present, Ken Barbi

George Mac Donald made a motion to accept last years minutes as printed. Motion passed.

George gave the Treasures report

Beginning balance	\$9,020.36
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Convention beginning balance \$15,580.41

Ken Barbi reported that MAAVS has 154 members.

Affiliate members	16
Commercial members	12
Individual members	126

Ken reported that the newsletter expenses using e-mail and regular mail has a low cost of \$276.00 a year. This may double for postage, printing and toner. He has an issue of 70 unknown e-mails address that he can only identify 19. He isn't sure if a paper newsletter is also going out to members receiving an e-mail.

Membership expiring - send letters to renew for \$15.00 for July - through the next year.

Letter to Tom from Ken requesting information from unknowns.

Ken suggested that free advertising for the commercial members be included in the MAAVS Memo.

Rich reported that there had been drop in membership because of the New York and Canadian convention at the same time as ours in York, PA in 2008. He reported that the membership that was lost has been replaced with new members.

It was suggested that we get membership information from AVSA for AVSA members in our area so that letters can be e-mailed to join MAAVS.

Susan Barbi sent out collection Rosettes to Richmond AVS. There was a motion for Susan to pick new rosettes. The motion was seconded; there was a call for vote. Motion passed.

The 2009 Convention title is: "Things Go Better With African Violets". The convention would be based on advertising jingles. Trademark infringement was brought up. Judi Du Pont volunteered to contact companies for permission and get items. Laurene Jones brought up that it would be better to make sure we aren't skirting.

Tom reported that the Raleigh Hilton will not be able to accommodate MAAVS in 2009. It is a busy time for college games.

Sue Hoffman has been contacted by a Virginia Beach hotel to get a convention at their location.

The dates of the New York State and Tri-State 2009 convention dates are unknown. We do not want to have conventions on the same date. We need to co-ordinate with the two groups.

Appoint a committee Richard and Ken looking into Virginia Beach.

New business -

George Mac Donald talked about the African Rainforest Conservancy and made a motion to ask the membership about making a \$200.00 donation. Ken Barbi seconded, a call for a vote. The motion voted was passed.

The issue with the IRS concerning the non-profit status of MAAVS. Tax-exempt organizations have to fill out a large package and submit \$750.00. Our FEIN has expired; we have applied for a new one.

The status of the group as an educational or social club was discussed. Terri Post, (in Iowa) is handling for AVSA.

Sharon Long has been working on the issue for the RAVS.

Ken Barbi made a motion for George Mac Donald to employ his CPA to clarify the tax exempt status contacting the IRS does not clear up 501C 7 Tax Exempt status. Motion was retracted after discussion.

Rich suggested that Ken write in the MAAVS memo asking the membership if there is anyone that can assist with the status.

Registration report -

Registered members	83
Guests of members	8
Guests of AVSA	3

Nominating Committee. Ken is in need to select two new members to be on the committee. He will ask members until he two accept.

Fay Wagman - Regarding 2010 convention, it was suggested to present to the general membership that an invitation be made to New York to hold a joint convention.

Ken- A motion for Ken to ask suggested members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Ann seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed. The Board of Directors authorized Ken Barbi to appoint two members for the coming term.

Rich Follett presented George Mac Donald with a volume of "Duh The Stupid History of the Human Race".

There was a motion to adjourn, seconded and voted on

Respectfully submitted, Adrian Topping

MAAVS General Membership Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 14, 2008.

Rich Follett called the MAAVS general meeting to order at 1:30. A quorum was present. Irvin made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. There was a second, it was voted on and passed.

Ken Barbi reported that the membership is 154 that it has gone up some and gone down some. At present there are about 70 MAAVS memos going to unidentified e-mail addresses. Ken wants to track the electronic e-mails and identify these addresses to see if they are active or inactive members, and add e-mail information to the membership application and renewal. Ken also brought up adding free commercial advertising to our commercial members.

Rich reported that he was not aware of any special committees from last year.

New Business

Judi Du Pont reported that the 2009 MAAVS is based on commercial jingles and that she would contact companies for permission so that we do not infringe on the company's trademarks.

George Mac Donald made a motion to accept TAVS's offer to sponsor the MAAVS 2009 convention. Tom seconded and a call for a vote was made. Motion passed.

Tom Glembocki brought up a discussion of having a table at the 2009 AVSA convention in Reno to have information about the Raleigh area manned by MAAVS members.

Tom announced that there are convention chair positions needed to be filled for the 2010 convention. These positions are listed in the convention book.

Janet Reimer made an announcement that there is a need for AVSA director and if interested there were questionnaires available to complete.



Judy Carter, the Awards Chairman for the AVSA, 2009 convection, offered to deliver awards for Reno.

Richard Follett, President, appointed Irwin Wagman as Treasurer and Fay Wagman as

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**ELECTED OFFICERS (Executive Committee)**

President	- Rich Follett
Vice President	- Judi DuPont
Secretary	- Adrienne Topping
Treasurer	- George McDonald

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS

AVS of Philadelphia	- Marianne Gershon
AVS of Rochester	- Fay Wagman
AVS of Springfield	- Joan Santino
AVS of Syracuse	- Mary Ryan
Long Island AVS	- Carol Sulewski
Old Dominion AVS	- Laurene Jones
Piedmont Triad AVS	- Dennis Hale
Richmond AVS	- Kitty Hedgepeth
Shenandoah Saintpaulia Society	- Rich Follett
Tidewater AVS	- Carol Van
Triangle AVS	- Libbie Glembocki
Southern Member-at-Large	- Gary Gordon
Northern Member-at-Large	- Doris Brownlie

CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Advertising	- Ken Barbi
Affiliates	- Diane Richardson
Awards	- Rich Follett
Bylaws & Standing Rules	- Jack Wilson
Commercial Activities	- Dave Rollins
Finance	- George McDonald
Future Conventions	- Judi DuPont
Membership & Promotions	- Ken Barbi
Newsletter & Documentation	- Ken Barbi
Ways & Means	- Barbara Stewart
Immediate Past President	- Rodney Barnett

CHAIRMEN OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nominating	- Rodney Barnett
2009 Convention in Raleigh-Durham, NC	- Tom Glembocki
2010 Convention in Owego, NY	- Open

APPOINTED Non-Board POSITIONS

Parliamentarian	- Mary Boland
Editor of The MAAVS MEMO	- Ken Barbi
MAAVS Collection Rosette	- Susan Barbi
Historian	- Shirley Huffman
Properties	- Ken Barbi
Convention Registrar	- Laurene Jones
Webmaster	- Tom Glembocki

Assistant Treasurer for the 2010 AVSA Convention.

New York State AVS has offered to host the MAAVS convention in 2010 in Owego, New York. They have a very good proposal from the hotel for the meeting. The offer was approved.

George Mac Donald made a motion for MAAVS to make a donation of \$200.00 to the African Rainforest Conservancy. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved. George offered to take care of the donation. He also has three DVDs of the ARC available for programs. They can be borrowed for the postage expense to and from the club. George also asked that the clubs be asked to make a contribution to the ARC.

Rich reported that \$120.00 - \$125.00 had been received in admission fees to the show at \$1.00 each.

Rich talked about presenting George with the book of Duh.

George Mac Donald announced that he would not be treasurer after November 2009. There is a need for interested people

to apply for the position.

Nancy Hayes suggested that someone be responsible for room sharing. She suggested that information on the room sharing be on the convention registration form.

Stanley Ko, a new member has also donated \$200.00.

All four positions, President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary will be open to be filled in 2009. Rich offered to serve another term as President.

The Tidewater African Violet Society will host next year's Convention and Show in Williamsburg, Virginia. The dates will be November 12 - 14, 2009, at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Adrian Topping

New MAAVS Collection Rosette



A new MAAVS Collection Rosette for an exhibit consisting of three African violets of the same type (standard, miniature, semiminature, trailer [standard, miniature, or semiminature], or species) is available to affiliate clubs. This rosette is smaller than before, and has a more intricate design on the button.

These plants must be entered by a MAAVS member and need not be AVSA-registered varieties. Each plant will be point scored in accordance with *The African Violet Society of America Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* and awarded a ribbon as merited. Exhibitor **must** be a MAAVS member.

To order a rosette, please contact Susan Barbi at 1809 View Top Court, Annapolis, MD 21409-5873, and remit \$5.00 with each request. If you have unused rosettes from previous years, you may request new score sheets at no cost, use the score sheets from the AVSA Entries Program, or download score sheets from www.maavs.org. For additional information, or to check on a request, call 410.757.5044, or E Mail susanbarbi@verizon.net

MAAVS Financial Report

January 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008

Category Description OVERALL TOTAL

INCOME

2008 registration \$11,457.00

2008 convention booklet ad 15.00

2008 convention awards 695.00 (I am sure there was more, but was listed under registration) dues 840.00

interest 4.56

Rosette Sales 10.00

_____ TOTAL INCOME **\$13,021.56**

EXPENSES

2008 convention expense \$8,762.38

2008 Judges clerks 200.00

2008 Plant Sales 233.60

2008 show rosettes 561.34

Administration and postage 208.55

AVSA Dues 35.00

AVSA membership for Fr. Borja

(3 years) 20.00

AVSA Insurance 320.00

MAAVS MEMO 276.13

website 59.40

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$10,776.40**

OVERALL TOTAL for 2008 is a plus \$ **2,245.16**

Balance January 1, 2009 **\$11,040.52**

Once again, the convention was a financial success as well as a beautiful show, and a wonderful time!

(I am sure there was more in award receipts, but it was listed under registration.)

Thanks to Laurene Jones for doing such a stellar job on convention registration, to Ken Barbi, our membership chair, to Susan Barbi, who manages the MAAVS rosettes for our local club shows, and to Rich Follett, for his fund-raising skills for our awards.

Respectfully submitted,

George McDonald

**MAAVS regrets the passing of
Wayne Coley and *Jerry Gordon*.
Both were life long MAAVS
supporters who attended many
conventions since our founding.**

The MAAVS Memo

Kenneth W. Barbi - Membership Chairman
1809 View Top Court
Annapolis, MD 21409-5973

Next Edition at the End of May 2009 (Deadline for Submissions is May 25th)