

MAAVS

Founded on March 9, 1991
MAAVS is an Affiliate of AVSA



MEMO

Published Quarterly by the

MID-ATLANTIC AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

November 2020

Volume 30, Number 3



Sue Hoffmann, MAAVS
President

Hello MAAVS Friends,

I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. What a year this has been! We've been in quarantine, had to wear masks, found grocery shelves empty and restaurants closed. We've washed our hands and sanitized over and over; nothing has been "normal".

The Pandemic has created new routines. To avoid groups, some clubs hold their meetings via ZOOM or "Go to Meeting". Facebook groups like Violet Nerds and Violet Buddies, and our Facebook Page that Jackie Leitzel manages at Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society are busy with people showing off their pretty plants. "Virtual violet shows" are something new. Growers display pictures of their plants for others to admire.

Virtual MAAVS Show is Coming - -

Thanks to the AVS of Springfield, MAAVS will have its own virtual show this year. Entry information is included in this MEMO. Linda Kilby and Minh Bui will work with Cindy Castaldi to present submitted photographs. It's nice to see pretty plants. Don't worry! These do not have to be top show plants. If they make you happy, they will make others happy, too. There is no judging. Let's have fun, show off your plants - please participate! **Check out the details on page 8. Deadline for participation is November 30th.**

Quite a few MAAVS members entered the AVSA Virtual Show in May: La Donna Hopson (MAAVS Ways & Means), Linda Stinnette (MAAVS Treasurer), Pat Knight, Cindy Castaldi, Donna Biggs, Alice Dulaney, and Lisa Bradley. Congratulations! All participants were entered in a drawing, random names pulled, and several lucky winners received gift certificates. Minh Bui presented a virtual program entitled **Spectral Enlightenment: One light does not fit all**. All the AVSA programs can be seen on the AVSA YouTube channel, and Bill Schmidt appears in the Selfies section.

Postponing the MAAVS 2020 convention was not an easy decision, but our members' health and safety was our deciding factor. Sandy Pine arranged with the hotel to welcome everyone to a fun, safe convention in November 2021.

Since we will not be together in 2020, MAAVS annual dues have been waived until 2021, and your expiration dates adjusted accordingly. Multiple years were also adjusted.

Minh visited the Delta Hunt Valley Hotel by Marriot, in Baltimore. He was happy with the floor plan and amenities. Sandy negotiated an open contract for 2021. Delta Hunt Valley Hotel will be the site of our 2022 convention. We hope everyone likes it.

Our hearts go out to Mary Boland whose husband Art passed away on June 22; our heartfelt condolences to the Boland family.

I must also report the passing of Hortense Pittman. Hortense was a charter member of MAAVS and attended several of our shows. She was a Past President of AVSA. We all grow and show her creations, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

A digital version of The African Violet Magazine became available with the Sept/Oct issue under the www.avsa.org members' section. It is a nice convenience for internet browsing. No changes will be made to current AVSA memberships. If you wish to opt for a new Green membership (\$28/year) contact the office.

Pat Hancock has retired. Her Buckeye and Jitterbug violets will be available through Violet Peddlers Plus, located in Ohio.

CONGRATULATIONS!! Miranda and Blaise were married August 29, 2020. Proud parents Donna and Chuck Brining & Grandma Sandy Pine. Best wishes!



Miranda and Blaise

Thanks to Ken Barbi for keeping us together with another MAAVS MEMO and E Mails. This year is not normal, but we will survive and can look forward to many more years of caring and sharing our great hobby.

Our violet friends make us stronger. Take care, stay healthy and look at your flowers.

Sue Hoffmann, MAAVS President

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Russian Hybridizer - Alexey Kuznetsov

(This article is a collaboration between Sue Hoffmann, Ken Barbi, Vladimir Kalgin, and Ekaterina Zybinova. Photos by: Alexey Kuznetsov, Tatiana Stoliarova, Ekaterina Zybinova, Irina Titova, and Alena Koshkarova)



Russian Hybridizer Alexey Kuznetsov
September 29, 1982 - June 4, 2017

Russian hybrids prefaced with "SK meaning Scales/Kuznetsov" in America and "CK" in Russia and the Ukraine, are crosses from Alexey Kuznetsov who passed away on June 4, 2017, at age 32. His hybrids are in great demand now, and hard to find. Imagine what we would see



SK-Afrodita (SK-Aphrodite) Semiminiature

now if he had lived!!

Hoffmann's original plants came from the Turners - *Starz and Streps*. Sue really enjoys the SK hybrids because they have natural symmetry, seldom sucker, and are always in bloom.

What most growers find so intriguing about Russian and Ukrainian hybrids are their hybridizers' methods of achieving their unique trait of



SK-Lunatic with wasp foliage

spectacular blossoms. It has been reported by (Dr. Jeff Smith in the November/December 2018 AVM) that Russian and Ukrainian growers use natural light conditions in their apartments or homes. Window sills with natural light, and cooler shelf temperatures. As shown here in Vladimir Kalgin's **Violet Shop (Dom Fialki)** (<http://www.domfialki.ru/>) in Moscow

where Alexey worked, they do well under artificial light.



SK-Voliushka

In Russia, Alexey's plants are a standard of ideal quality because of his Systematic Approach in hybridizing. He was widely known and respected in Russia thou a



Alexey in Dom Fialki with his Violets

very modest and private person. His varieties became very successful as being colorful and floriferous. Many international hybridizers do not always produce such varieties that are so easy to grow! From Ekatrina's interview, "Just a few months after planting a leaf, the result is ready as a bouquet of good flowers on the compact rosette". An interesting sidelight is the role of Alexey's wife - "not infected with his passion" - but responsible for naming all his plants.

Alexey's Systematic Approach in Hybridizing

The first successful pollination experiments resulted in the semi-miniatures SK-Osminozhka (SK-Octopus) and SK-Pervotsvet (SK-Primrose), which he first presented at a show in 2007. Their rosettes are large, because one of the parents was the standard Raskolotoie Nebo (Split Sky by Prilutskaya). Rob's Penny Ante (miniature by Ralph Robinson) was taken as the mother plant. SK-Osminozhka



Sprouts and spiked young plants

inherited from his father a rare feature of a venous pattern on the petals, and thus immediately attracted the interest of local growers.

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Alexey's Growing Methodology



SK-Osminozshka (SK-Octopus)
the first variety hybridized by Alexey

Quoting from Ekaterina Zybinova's Interview:

"The planting mix consists of 70-75% perlite and 25-30% top peat. That's all, there's nothing else in it, not even coal [charcoal]. There is also no drainage in the pots. This mixture he uses for leaves, babies and adult plants. The leaves take root and germinate in the same mixture, but without a wick: just in greenhouses! After the babies are

separated from the mother's leaf [mother leaf] start to grow, Alexey moves them to wick watering. Pots 2 or 2 1/4 inch, no more. Including for large semi-miniatures (such as Mac's - George McDonald), to restrain the growth of the rosette and encourage the laying of a large number of buds. It is especially important for the hybridizer to achieve the most abundant flowering in order to correctly assess the potential of the variety both when choosing parent pairs and when checking the seedlings obtained.

"The watering reservoirs constantly contain a solution of "green" Etisso fertilizer, diluted in the proportion of 2 ml of per 1 liter of water - for leaves and children [babies], and a little less than 1 ml of "pink" Etisso per 1 liter of water - for plants that need to bloom. As reservoirs, Alexey uses transparent plastic disposable food containers with a capacity of 250ml, making holes in the lids with the above-mentioned punch [Alexey uses an awl to punch a hole in the lids]. The water supply in these reservoirs is enough for about a month. Fluorescent lamps are the most common, from the hardware store, type L36W/640, on EPRA. He tried the much-vaunted "fluora", but he was not too happy with it - most violets under these lamps turned out to be dark, pink light is uncomfortable for human eyes, and there are practically no pluses (by the way, I came to the same conclusions regardless of Alexey). Each shelf, regardless of its width, is illuminated by two lamps. Distance from lamps to foliage 12 - 15 cm; daylight duration 12 hours. The room temperature is about 23°C in the area of the upper shelves and, accordingly, around 18°C at floor level."

Alexey's Other Hybrids are:

SK-Ablonevyi Sad (SK-Apple Orchard)	SK-Pered Grozoi (SK-Before the Storm)
SK-Afrodita (SK-Aphrodite) semiminiature	SK-Pervaya Lyubov (SK-First Love) miniature
SK-Aktrisa Brodyachego Tsirka (SC-Actress of the Wandering Circus)	SK-Pervotsvet (SK-Primrose)
SK-Evridika	SK-Planeta Zemla (SK-Planet Earth)
SK-Fenix (SK-Phoenix)	SK-Polyarnaya noch' (SK-Polar night)
SK-Flamingo (SK-Flamingo)	SK-Romans SK-Romance (pink wasp bloom)
SK-In Vino Veritas (SK-In Wine Truth)	SK-Satori (SK-Enlightenment) (bell-shaped wasp bloom)
SK-Konfityur (SK-Confection)	SK-Soblazn (SK-Temptation)
SK-Lunatic (with wasp foliage)	SK-Tanets Zhuraviya (SK-Dance Crane)
SK-Na Luzhayke (SK-On the Lawn)	SK-Tropikanka (SK-Tropikanka)
SK-Nevskiy Bereg (SK-Nevesky Coast)	SK-Utro s Liubimoi (SK-Morning with his Beloved)
SK-Novaia Zhim (SK-New Life)	SK-Vernisazh (SK-Vernissage)
SK-Osminozhshka (SK-Octopus - the first variety hybridized by Alexey)	SK-Volioushka
SK-Pangeia (the last variety hybridized by Alexey)	SK-Yunost'(SK-Youth)
SK-Peizahz v Tumane (SK-Misty Landscape)	

There are many active Russian and Ukrainian hybridizers who are registering their plants in First Class, however, **none of Alexey's plants have been registered yet.** Something we need to change! It was said that Alexey's new introductions "*disappeared faster than cold beer on a hot summer day.*"

For more information, take a look at an interview posted by Ekaterina Zybinova <http://miniviolets.ru/blog/selekcija/aleksej-kuznecov-interview> which you'll have to translate from Russian with a Google tool. Additionally, Rich Follett has written an article about Alexey on page 54 in the November/December 2020 AVM. Contact our Commercial Members to see if they have any of these beautiful plants, and let's see them exhibited at our 2021 MAAVS Convention Show next year.

The Baltimore African Violet Club

Is offering a rosette for the **Best Fantasy** in any MAAVS or AVSA affiliate show. Send request and a check for \$5 made out to Carolyn Epstein at:

Carolyn Epstein
14317 Yosemite Court
Rockville, MD 20853
inky4ever@aol.com

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia

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Judith Smith, Species Chairman

7808 Conwell Road

Laverock, PA 19038-7205

judithsmith0@gmail.com



Hortense Pittman

1926 - 2020

On a sad note, we want you all to know of the passing of Hortense Pittman on August 26th at age 94 in Texas. Hortense has hybridized many of our most favorite African violets, was a past President of AVSA, and was a Charter Member of MAAVS.

Virtual MAAVS Show On-Line

Moderated by Linda Kilby and Minh Bui

This year Linda Kilby and Minh Bui are going to conduct a Virtual MAAVS Show On-Line. Entries will take place until **November 30th**. Cindy Castaldi will prepare the show, and Tom Glembocki will get it running on our MAAVS Web Site www.maavs.org this December.

MAAVS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Nominating	- Brenda Petry
2020 Virtual Show	- Linda Kilby and Minh Bui
2021 Convention Chair	- Sandy Pine and Donna Brining
2021 Show Chair	- Linda Kilby and Minh Bui

APPOINTED Non-Board POSITIONS

Parliamentarian	- VACANT
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MAAVS Collection Rosette	- Vicki Carr
Historian	- Tom Glembocki
Properties	- Donna Brining
Convention Registrar	- Jackie Leitzel
Webmaster of the Best African Violet Web Site	- Tom Glembocki

We are living through a time that none of us have ever experienced. Being aware of the need to wash our hands often, especially when we have been out of the house, sanitizing our personal space and now wearing a mask when we are outside of our homes is crucial to staying healthy! I would say it pays to stay home if you can!

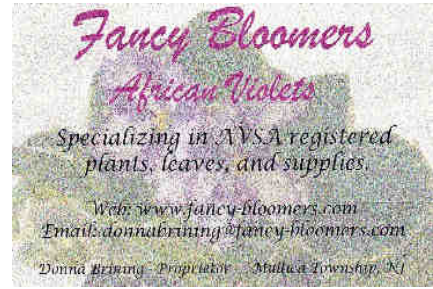
WE HAVE NOT GIVEN UP ON OUR PLANTS!

Our regular November Show and Sale was scheduled to begin on November 11th with our Judges School and continue through November 14th. Since we voted to cancel all activities this year, the officers and committee chairs chose to offer us the ability to have a Virtual Show. Thanks to the officers of African Violet Society of Springfield led by their president Cindy Castaldi, we will have a virtual show this year! Remember that you must be a MAAVS member to enter plants in this virtual show.

If you would like to participate in our virtual show please follow these **simple directions:**

- Unlike the multiple sections we have in a normal show, we have limited the sections to:

- * Standards - Green
- * Standards - Variegated
- * Semiminiature - Green
- * Semiminiature - Variegated
- * Miniature
- * Species
- * Trailers
- * Other Gesneriads



-Each member is asked to limit their **number of entries to 7.**

- If you would like to show a collection, please follow the guidelines that we have used in previous years. A collection will be entered in the appropriate section listed above, and **count as one entry from that exhibitor.** Since, *Russian Originated collections may consist of a mix of standard green and variegated varieties, they may be entered in the predominant Section.*

- Decide which plants you would have taken to our show.

- Take a picture as you would want the plant to be seen with the plant placed on a dark background.

- Don't forget to Include the name of the violet and **your contact information** should we need to get in touch with you.

- **Email your entries to Cindy at cynthia.castaldi@sap.com or text them to her at 610-457-1047 by **November 30th**.** You can also mail your pictures to Cindy at 800 Crestview Drive, Springfield, PA 19064, who will render them for inclusion.

Our Virtual Show will debut on our website www.maavs.org in December, and be published in the first MAAVS Memo of 2021.

Linda and Minh
On-Line Show Co-Chairs

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Individual	_____	\$15.00
Joint (2 members, same address)	_____	\$20.00
Affiliate/Commercial	_____	\$20.00
MAAVS Pin	_____	\$ 5.00

(If you join now, your membership will expire on December 31st 2021)

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