

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

April 2018 - No. 50

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Our calendar:

April 17, 2018.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of April 23.

April 21, 2018.

Rochester AV & Gesneriad Society Display and Sale.

Info: avgsr.org

May 25-26, 2018.

AVSA/AVSC Convention Show.

In Buffalo, New York, at the Adams Mark Hotel. Jointly held national conventions of African Violet Societies of America and Canada!

Mark your calendar! This is the event of a lifetime. Exhibitors and vendors from across North America will be there. We will have showplants, display, and sales booth. For more info: www.avsa.org or www.avsc.ca

Spring Shipping!

Safe delivery guaranteed when shipped by any means begins April 15. *Note: we may delay some orders if weather in your area necessitates.*

Free stuff and how to get it!

2018 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections
1st place: \$200
2nd place: \$100

(Some of) What's New:



LE Golden Lily. New standard variety with fully double white and variable golden yellow stars, variable peach-pink blush. Medium green, quilted, foliage.

RS Angel. New standard variety from Ukraine with large, fully double white flowers with light pink markings. Medium green foliage.

AE Charlene Nostalgia. Double white blooms with orchid-lavender thumbprints spotted purple fantasy. Medium green standard foliage.

AE Milky Way. Double purple blooms with white puffs throughout. Medium green standard foliage.

Many new **Saintpaulia species!** We've added quite a number of new species (the "original" African violets native to Africa) to our already extensive collection. We will add even more as they become available.

What's News:

Rochester GardenScape.

After an absence of six years (due to a loss of venue), the Greater Rochester Flower & Garden show returned last month. Despite the short time for preparation, the show was well attended and successful. The landscape displays were beautiful, and sales at our booth were better than we expected. Check out our ['facebook'](#) page to view photos from the show.

This month's questions:

I just ordered three violets from you and have been reading through your lessons and FAQs. You have a wonderfully informative site. I've found that I'm doing most things right and a few things wrong in caring for my violets. I have just one question at this point: when I repot my violets, I often wind up breaking leaves off the plant. How can this be avoided (and yes, I know, be more careful)? Do you have any tips for handling the violet plants to keep from damaging them?

To do anything well, it takes practice and, yes, it does help to be careful. A few tips, though. Repot when the soil is a bit moist (but not soggy), since this will help hold the soil together when you remove the plant from its pot. Try to handle the plant by holding the root ball or neck (if any) beneath the leaves, rather than the leaves themselves. This will also help keep the leaves from getting too dirty in the process. If you find that

Write a review.

Write a review before ordering, good or bad, we'd like to know. Get a free plant added to order.

Contact us:

email. comments@violetbarn.com

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512

phone. 585-374-8592

Mon. thru Sat., 12-5 pm ET

Our shop and glasshouse at:

7209 County Road 12

Naples, New York 14512

Visitor hours for April & May:

Shop and glasshouse open to public Weds-Friday, 12-5 pm

For those attending the 2018 AVSA/AVSC convention, we are a 2 hour drive from Buffalo.

Are you a member?

Consider joining the African Violet Society of America. Sign up through our website and get a free plant! For more information, visit www.avsa.org

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org

your fingers are too big (or the plant is too small) to handle easily, (large) tweezers are a great tool to have, since they can hold things your fingers may be too large for. Of course, using them will require some practice as well.

Standard advice says to place the plant in an empty, or partly empty, pot and fill soil around it. We do things a bit differently, since we are into production and have to be neat and fast. First, fill your pot with moist (not soggy) soil, and press it in firmly (firm, not hard). This will make the next step easier. Then, create a hole in the center of the soil the size of the rootball that you will be placing into it--like a "jello mold". If the soil is slightly mounded above the pot rim, that's fine. Once you place the plant in the hole, all you need to do is "fold in" the extra mounded soil around the plant and "firm it in". If your fingers are too large to do this beneath the leaves, you can use the backside of an old spoon (another useful tool) to do this.

I have a question about kohleria. In your [lessons section](#), you show an overgrown plant with several long stems. Couldn't you grow it as a hanging plant and leave the branches on? That plant would probably break off because it is used to growing upright, but if I grew it as a hanger from the beginning, wouldn't it be alright?

You could let it grow as a "hanging" basket. If not pruned, rolled, or repotted, the stems will grow long, weak, and spindly. Eventually their weight will make them lay down or over the edge of the pot. In the wild, this is how they spread--tall plants will lay down on the soil surface, then root and produce rhizomes and plants along its length. An "attractive" appearance is in the eye of the beholder, though. We prefer the bushy, upright, habit, since you'll get a fuller look, and more blooms that way.

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