

PRESENTATIONS

2012 AVSA/AVSC DETROIT CONVENTION

Session 1

Basic Skills for African Violet Growers – Canadian Style!

Thursday, June 7, 2012 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Carolyn Conlin-Lane, Ajax, Ontario

Are you a fairly new grower of African violets? Would you like to know more about how Canadians manage their growing in a colder climate? This class is especially for you! Carolyn, an AVSA judge and teacher from Canada, has extensive experience in both AVSA and the Gesneriad Society. She is a hybridizer, working mom, and prize-winning grower. Carolyn intends to poll other Canadian growers on their techniques so that she can present a comprehensive picture of what brings success north of the border. She will cover all of the basics of growing and will happily answer any of your questions. All levels of growers are welcome, but novice growers are especially invited to attend.

Session 2

Beneficial Insects

Friday, June 8, 2012 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By spokesman from Biobest Ltd., Leamington, Ontario

Do you need another weapon in your arsenal for controlling insect infestations? How about fighting bugs with bugs? Beneficial insects can be highly effective and safer than many insecticides. Biobest is an international authority in the field of biological pest control. With facilities across North America and Europe, they are well-positioned to assist growers with their expertise and product line. If you are lucky, you will never need this valuable information, but you'll never regret learning about it. This presentation will be especially useful for those who have a large collection of plants and for anyone who prefers to grow organically.

Session 3

Pavé Your Way to Design Happiness

Friday, June 8, 2012 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

By Joyce Stork, Fremont, Nebraska

Pavé (pronounced pah - vay´) is a design technique used by jewelers and now floral designers who pave a surface with materials to create a beautiful effect. It is a challenge to use with African violets, but once the methods are learned, it is a surprisingly accessible style of design for all levels of designers. Joyce will demonstrate methods to integrate African violets into pave' and explain how the principles of design apply. In addition, a few lucky audience members will be invited to do hands-on pavé designs during the presentation. This should be a fresh topic for all, but especially for those who write design schedules or enter the design division of AVSA and AVSC shows.

Session 4

The Last Tasks of Judging

Saturday, June 9, 2012 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

By Bill Foster, Mesquite, Texas, and members of the AVSA Shows and Judges Committee

Judging isn't over until the last tasks are done. Bill Foster and his trusted committee will discuss how the final panel of judges should go about making the decision for Best in Show and the importance of filling out the AVSA Standard Show Award and the Show Critique Sheet correctly. Every level of AVSA judge will benefit from this brush-up on a familiar task that might otherwise be slighted in the rush to get the judging finished quickly. While primarily of interest to AVSA judges, this information will appeal to anyone who is curious about the inner workings of AVSA shows.

Session 5

Growing *Streptocarpus*

Saturday June 9, 2012 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

By David Thompson, Waterloo, Iowa

David Thompson, a well-known *Streptocarpus* hybridizer, grower and commercial vendor, will share his vast knowledge of this popular genus in the Gesneriad family. He will share methods for growing and propagating, including the proper lighting, watering, and grooming techniques, as well as the best choices for containers and potting media. In addition, he will cover the pests and diseases that are known to infest or infect *Streptocarpus*. David will also provide criteria for evaluating cultivars, using live plants, so you will better understand how to choose plants which will grow best for you. Do not miss this lively, informational program!