Are You Ready for 2013?

By Diane Buck, First Austin AVS • *Photo Credit: Glenda Williams*

The First Austin African Violet Society is proud to be hosting the 2013 National African Violet Convention in Austin, Texas. Currently, we are in the process of finalizing all the show committees, tours, programs, and everything that goes into offering a National Convention that will be enjoyed and remembered by all. We are fortunate to have so many active African violet clubs and wonderful AVSA members in the state of Texas who have offered their time, energy, and talents to help "make it happen." And we can't wait to show off our little piece of Texas.

Now, let me tell you a little bit about the convention site. Located in northwest Austin, the beautiful Renaissance Hotel is positioned on the edge of the Central Texas Hill Country. The Renaissance has nine floors of rooms (over 450 rooms) with walkways that open around a bright and cheerful central atrium. Other amenities include two pools (an indoor and outdoor pool), 24-hour fitness center, business center with computer access, restaurants, and a nature trail adjacent to the site. For those of you who are early risers, pack a good pair of walking shoes and think about joining us for an early morning stroll down to the duck pond.

Renaissance Austin Hotel

Texas State Capitol

While being close to major highways (Mopac, Loop 360, and US Hwy 183) is a plus, we also have shopping options within walking distance from the hotel. Adjacent to the hotel is the Arboretum at Great Hills that has Chico's, Coldwater Creek, Gap and Gap Kids, Pottery Barn, Barnes and Nobles Booksellers, and many specialty stores and dining options. And if you can't find it there, several other shopping centers are within a few mile radius of the hotel including The Domain, Gateway, and Arbor Walk.

Willie Nelson Statue

Texas Blue Bonnets

So, if you think you might have a little time between all the tours, attending presentations and luncheons, finalizing your designs, entering your horticultural exhibits, and the ever important visits to the commercial sales room for a few new gesneriads to complete your collection, you can add enjoying a little shopping to your list of things to do while in Austin. So mark your calendars, put on your dancin' shoes, and plan to visit Austin to see ***Violets Dance Across Texas***. See you soon.