

# VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

March 2017 - No. 37

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## Our calendar:

### March 14, 2017.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of March 20.

### Winter shipping now applies!

Safe delivery guaranteed only via *Express mail*.

### Free stuff and how to get it!

#### 2017 AVSA Show awards.

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

#### Write a review.

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

#### Enter our photo contest!

First prize \$50, Second prize \$10  
Entry deadline April 1, 2017. See: [www.violetbarn.com/contest](http://www.violetbarn.com/contest)

#### Contact us:

email. [comments@violetbarn.com](mailto: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  
Open Tuesday-Saturday 12-5 pm

#### Are you a member?

Consider joining the African Violet Society of America. Sign up through our website and get a free



## (Some of) What's "New":

**Bristol's Chicken Little.** A wonderful, cheerful, streptocarpus that never fails to please. Lots of large, white, blooms with dark maroon inner throat blending to rusty-orange, then yellow on lower throat. Blooms seemingly last forever. An easy, small to compact, grower that always seems in bloom. Limited quantities at moment, but will soon have many more.

## What's News:

Don't forget to enter our **photo contest!** Our January contest was so popular, we're doing it again! Entry deadline is April 1. For contest details and rules, and to view many of the past entries, see [www.violetbarn.com/contest](http://www.violetbarn.com/contest)

**Connecticut Flower and Garden Show.** Another successful show. As always, the Federated Garden Clubs did put on a nice show with many wonderful designs. View our ['facebook'](#) page for a sampling of photos.

**Inventory updates.** After some time of very limited choices, we again have most [kohleria](#) in stock and ready to ship. Selection of miniature [terrarium](#) plants is improving as well as plants continue to mature enough to be shipped. [Mini 'dandy' pots](#) are also again available.

## This month's questions:

I tried to propagate a leaf with the stem back in August. The leaf still looks healthy and strong, but I haven't seen anything sprouting yet. Is there a chance something will still come out of it or should I give up?

*It's been nearly five months, so it should have produced plantlets by now. You didn't say how you rooted the leaf, so we'll provide some general tips. First, root leaves that are not old and tough. Most people tend to use very old, outer, leaves that they would normally discard anyway, for propagation. These tend to be slowest to root and produce plantlets. Young, but mature, leaves are best. Trim the tip of the leaf blade to encourage production of roots rather than growth of the leaf blade. Cut leaf petiole (stem) at a 45-degree angle (cut side up), about 1/4" to 3/8" long, and plant into rooting mix at slight angle (i.e. "leaning back").*

*Rooting mix should be very light--lighter than your regular potting mix, with plenty of vermiculite and/or perlite. You don't want to rot your cuttings and/or make it difficult for emerging plantlets to make their way to the soil surface. Water moderately (not soggy), place in clear baggie or covered container, and leave in moderate light and temperature. More tips can be found on the ["plant care"](#) pages of our website.*

plant! For more information, visit [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org)

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)

### **This month's tip:**

One customer wondered why we didn't use plant labels (stakes), and suggested we include these with plants for use when they are repotted. Here was our reply:

*We always put names on pots, either the adhesive labels you see on most of our sales plants, or we'll write them on the side or bottom of the pot with a wax marker (like a crayon). Plant stakes tend to fall out of the pots or get put into the wrong pots (by curious customers in our greenhouse). They also tend to get in the way of leaves as the plant grows, a particular problem for plants that like to grow flat on the pot rim, like African violets. The wax marker doesn't fade, and can be easily erased when the pot is reused.*

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