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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

May 9, 2016

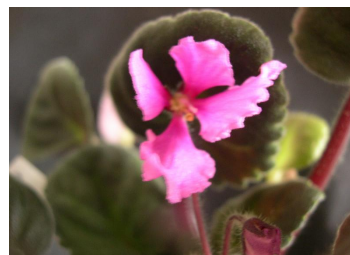
Greetings!

Welcome to today's Growing Tip email from the [African Violet Society of America](#).

So odd, you might have to love them...

Saintpaulia ionantha... that's the botanical name for African violets. It means "violet like." Today we are going to look at some of the novelty violets that aren't very "violet like" at all!

Take a look at "Drucilla" (right), a rare hybrid featuring **wasp** flowers. This was bred by Jimmy Dates who worked to develop novelty traits about 50 years ago.



Drucilla (Dates)
Photo Credit M. Petry



Arctic Fox
Photo Credit Patrick Delaney

David Senk has done more recent hybridizing work with the wasp trait. See the photo (left) of "Senk's Arctic Fox" with its curious trumpet-shaped flower parts. Many of the wasp hybrids also have **bustle-back foliage** which is very hard to show in photographs but sketches may be seen (along with other blossom and foliage types) [in files](#) on the AVSA website.



Mac's Walkabout Uluru
Photo credit Beth Baker

Here's another oddity called "Mac's Walkabout Uluru" bred by George MacDonald with very unusual foliage. This foliage pattern is called **clackamas**. All the veins radiate from near the base of the leaf which is different from the branching pattern more commonly seen.

Interest in these oddities is growing. A Facebook African violet group called [Love for Wasps and Unusual African Violets](#) is dedicated to growing and sharing photos and information about the novelty African violets in their collections. The African Violet Society of America is also offering a special educational display of the novelty or unusual Saintpaulia at the [2016 convention in Albuquerque](#).

They are not ordinary violets. They are not for everyone. But they are interesting!

Do you know someone else who would like to receive the weekly growing tip from the African Violet Society of America? All interested persons are welcome to sign up on the "Join Our Mailing List!" icon below. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA.

Have a growing question? Feel free to contact us at the [AVSA Office!](#)

Sincerely,

Joyce Stork
African Violet Society of America, Membership & Promotion

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World!**

**The African Violet
Society of America**

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