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March 15, 2021



AVSA 75th Anniversary

African Violets Enter the Electronic Age

The First AVSA Website Landing Page - 1996



The last 25 years of AVSA history has been dominated by the Internet. It all began in 1996, our 51st year.

- **May 1996** - Cindy Chatelain, AVSA Office Manager, shared her email address and mentioned the Internet in her column in the *African Violet Magazine*.

- **July 1996** - First AVSA website launched at <http://avsa.org>. A second site would launch in 2013 and a third at <https://africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/> in January 2021.
- **November 1996** - A software database of the Master Variety List was offered for sale as *MVL Windows*. It would later be named *First Class*, and now is called [*First Class for All*](#).
- **January 1997** - Bluebird Greenhouses, Apex, NC, advertised a website address - the first AVSA Commercial to do so. The owners, Tom and Libbie Glembocki, have now retired.
- **May 1997** - The [*Gesneriphiles*](#), an online group, sharing information files, was described by Dale Martens in her column "Gesneri-Advice" in the *African Violet Magazine*.

Read back issues of the *African Violet Magazine* (1947-2011) in the [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#).

In 2003, Violet Voice Forum formed and later became a "Virtual AVSA Affiliate."

The group shared interviews with many of the leading hybridizers of the day and were an early version of social media groups. The forum closed in 2018. The Violet Voice Forum has preserved some of their blogpost content, including a fascinating article written by David Senk "The Wizard of Wasps" in 2013.

Read: David Senk - The Wizard of Wasps

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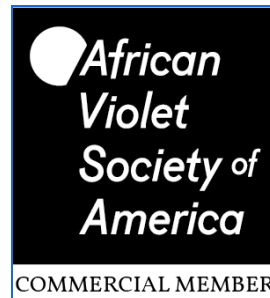
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