



**The Friends of The Fullerton Arboretum**

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## **News Release**

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### **Huge African Violet Show and Sale at Fullerton Arboretum February 23 & 24, 2008**

(Fullerton, CA) – The Fullerton Arboretum is pleased to announce a new special plant sale and show will be added to its winter event calendar in 2008. The first ever Tri-Counties African Violet Society Show and Sale will be held at the Fullerton Arboretum on February 23 & 24, 2008, in conjunction with the Arboretum's Potting Shed.

Sale hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day during the sale and admission is free. This show promises to offer the amateur through advanced collector a huge selection of plants to view and buy. For historical perspective, the Gesneriad family, of which violets are the most well-known, contains over 2,500 species. They come in a huge variety of sizes, shapes, flowers, colors, etc. In addition to the African Violet, some of the more common Gesneriads are the Florist Gloxinia (*Sinningia speciosa*), Lipstick Plant (*Aeschynanthus*), Goldfish Plant (*Nematanthus*), Cape Primrose (*Streptocarpus*), Flame Violet (*Episcia*), and Cupid's Bower (*Achimenes*). There should be an ample variety of these

species available for sale at this show, in addition to a large selection of Begonias, which are part of the Begoniaceae family.

The Tri-Counties African Violet Society is a new club, formed in November 2006, although the founding members have been with other African violet clubs in the area for many years. The club has approximately 20 members, from beginners to very advanced growers. Within this group, there are 7 judges--2 master judges, 2 senior judges, and 3 advanced judges. Since there are only 14 judges in Southern California region, the Tri-Counties African Violet Society is well represented. The club meets the second Sunday of each month at the East Anaheim Hills Community Center from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the public is always welcome at no charge.

Established in 1979, the Fullerton Arboretum has served the community as a premier resource for ecological, horticultural and historical education. The Arboretum is the largest botanical garden in Orange County. Encompassing 26 lush acres, The Fullerton Arboretum has assembled a permanent collection of over 4,000 unique and unusual plant species from around the world. With its ponds, streams and wildlife, the Fullerton Arboretum offers a tranquil retreat from a fast-paced urban life. The Fullerton Arboretum is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Check our website at [www.arboretum.fullerton.edu](http://www.arboretum.fullerton.edu) for more information or call (714)278-3407.

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