

African violet aficionado raises them by the hundreds

Forget everything you've heard about shrinking violets. Carl Geistler, who's raised as many as 800 African violets at one time proves the plants are anything but the shy retiring types.

Given the proper care, they will bloom continuously and could possibly reach a ripe old age of 10 years.

To Geistler, who collects African violets like others acquire knickknacks, the flowers are "essentially easy to raise." All they need is the right amount of sunlight, the correct amount of water and a fertilizer designed for violets.

In his Farmington home, Geistler allows his plants a southern exposure but takes care not to keep them too close to the window. Intense sunlight will burn the violet's leaves giving them a golden brown hue more suitable for french fried potatoes.

Once settled down in a spot with filtered light, such as light shining through sheer curtains, the flower should prove their blooming ability providing they are kept damp instead of soggy and are given a fertilizer designed for them.

Geistler, who is a technician at Redford Community Hospital in Redford Township, maintains his flowers thrive when exposed to the beneficial effects of hot water.

CUTTING BACK a plant will increase its life span and the number of African violets in a collection. Overcrowded plants should be divided using a sharp knife. The divisions should follow the natural lines of the plant, which almost divides itself.

A few portions of the plant may end up without roots. In these cases, the plants can be placed in a pot filled with vermiculite and kept damp until it roots.

One leaf cut from a violet can

receive similar treatment. Out of the one leaf, six leaves can sprout. Sets of two new leaves can be planted together to form the nucleus of a new violet with the main leaf remaining in the vermiculite to produce another set of young leaves.

If the plants are kept in plastic pots, they remain damp longer than they would in clay pots. Clay pots absorb the water.

Geistler's fancy for violets began almost 20 years ago after watching his grandmother and mother raise the flowers.

"I worked on the farm when I was young and it stuck," Geistler explained simply.

"VIOLETS strike my fancy. They're not difficult. They're easy if you spend some time with them," he said.

His knack for raising the plants isn't lost on his wife, Mary Jo.

"If someone gave me a violet before, I killed it," she said.

"Carl does extra things for the plants that I wouldn't do, like take them outside for air," she said.



Carl Geistler believes African violets are something he is more than proud to display. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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REPORT OF CONDITION, CONSOLIDATING DOMESTIC SUBSIDIARIES, OF THE		National Bank Regon No. "
MICHIGAN NATIONAL BANK-FARMINGTON		
OF FARMINGTON HILLS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON JUNE 30, 1980, FURNISHED IN RESPONSE TO CALL MADE BY COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY UNDER TITLE 12, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 161. Charter Number 16660		
Statement of Resources and Liabilities		Thousands of dollars
Cash and due from depository institutions	2,161	
U.S. Treasury securities	3,958	
Obligations of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations	-NONE-	
Obligations of States and political subdivisions in the United States	1,839	
Other bonds, notes, and debentures	-NONE-	
Federal Reserve stock and corporate stock	39	
Trading account securities	-NONE-	
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	7,800	
Loans, Total (excluding unearned income)	18,604	
Less: Allowance for possible loan losses	82	
Loans, Net	18,522	
Lease financing receivables	-NONE-	
Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premises	583	
Real estate owned other than bank premises	-NONE-	
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	-NONE-	
Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding	-NONE-	
Other assets	416	
TOTAL ASSETS	35,318	
Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	6,236	
Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	20,606	
Deposits of United States Government	15	
Deposits of States and political subdivisions in the United States	3,403	
Deposits of foreign governments and official institutions	-NONE-	
Deposits of commercial banks	1,650	
Certified and officers' checks	288	
Total Deposits	32,198	
Total demand deposits	8,189	
Total time and savings deposits	24,009	
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	-NONE-	
Interest-bearing demand notes (note balances) issued to the U.S. Treasury	351	
Other liabilities for borrowed money	490	
Mortgage indebtedness and liability for capitalized leases	-NONE-	
Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding	-NONE-	
Other liabilities	388	
TOTAL LIABILITIES (excluding subordinated notes and debentures)	33,427	
Subordinated notes and debentures	-NONE-	
Preferred stock	No. shares outstanding -NONE- (par value) -NONE-	
Common stock	No. shares authorized 50,000 (par value) 500	
Surplus	800	
Undivided profits	518	
Reserve for contingencies and other capital reserves	73	
TOTAL EQUITY CAPITAL	1,891	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY CAPITAL	35,318	
Amounts outstanding as of report date:		
Standby letters of credit	-NONE-	
Standby letters of credit, total	-NONE-	
Amount of standby letters of credit conveyed to others through participations	-NONE-	
Time certificates of deposit in denominations of \$100,000 or more	7,157	
Other time deposits in amounts of \$100,000 or more	-NONE-	
Average for 30 calendar days (or calendar month) ending with report date:		
Cash and due from depository institutions	2,540	
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	8,260	
Total loans	18,673	
Time certificates of deposits in denominations of \$100,000 or more	7,094	
Total deposits	31,901	
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	-NONE-	
Other liabilities for borrowed money	490	
Total assets	34,474	
We, the undersigned directors attest the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief is true and correct.		
I, <u>Albert L. Huff</u> Name		
President		
Time		
of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.		
Directors		
<u>Allen Zieger, D.O.</u>		
<u>William W. Bowman</u>		
<u>John C. Verdon</u>		
<u>Albert L. Huff</u>		
JUL 25 1980		
Date		