

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

April, 2007

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The Show Approaches!

The month of May has a way of arriving extremely fast - as does December, but for very different reasons. December arrives before many are ready for it because there are so many things to prepare for Christmas. May arrives before many in our Chapter are ready for it because there are so many things to do before our Show launches. Well, it looks like the reasons aren't really so different.

However, while the Show isn't until May 27th, the Chapter meeting on May 6th moves the clock still further ahead because in order for the Show to be discussed in that meeting virtually all of the planning has to be completed. And lots of additional planning is required this year since our Show is moving to the Fair Grounds! (New location, new challenges!) And yes, we did say the Chapter meeting was on the **first** Sunday of the month, - May 6th. That is, of course, because Mother's Day is on the second Sunday, May 13th.

The sum of the preceding two paragraphs is that the Show is just around the corner and that it is important for everyone to attend the May Chapter meeting since that is when everything will be discussed about the show and its new location. Everyone needs to be there! Secondly, the election of officers and Board members for the coming year will be held at the May meeting (see the article "2007 Slate").

Time to Pay Dues!

Many members paid their Chapter dues at the picnic, but some didn't and many more weren't even at the picnic! Therefore, the May Chapter meeting would be a good time for a good many of our members to take care of that little item. The dues remain \$27.50 for single memberships and \$30.00 for family memberships. Make your check to the "Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS".

Lennart Erikson (82), April 10, 2007

Len Erikson was both a leader and an anchor of the Golby-Reasoner Chapter, a person who achieved. Had the Chapter been a business it couldn't have afforded him. He was president in 1994 and held several other positions in the Chapter, but whatever his role he always did what needed to be done - no matter what demands were being made of him by his other interests. Above all, he was a gentleman - and a gentle man.

As long as we here at PETAL POWER can remember, Len contributed poinsettia door prizes for the Annual Chapter Christmas Luncheon. In an off-handed manner at this year's luncheon he said, "This will be my last year for the poinsettias."

Chapter members will be called about the memorial service to be held at 11:00a.m., on May 19th at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church.

2007 Slate...

Here is the slate of officers and board members nominated at the picnic, and which will be voted on at the May Chapter Meeting:

Officers

President	Gayler Boettcher
1 st Vice President	Janet Love
2 nd Vice President	Pat Grant
Secretary	Gene Haugh
Treasurer	Shirley Adams

Board of Directors

2008/09	Rae Flanders
2009/10	Frank Vejrostek
2009/10	Belle Hilt

Continuing their terms as Directors are Dottie Taaffe (2007/8), Trudy Topolosky (@007/08), and Betty

Seipel (2008/09).

No April Fool Trick

There was no April Fools Day trick – on April Fools Day. At least there wasn't for close to 40 Chapter members and friends. In fact, as it turned out, it was a wonderful day for almost everything or anything, but it was a particularly wonderful day for a picnic. Therefore, weren't we fortunate to have scheduled a picnic for April first!

Indeed the weather was wonderful, as was the food and the fellowship. Many thanks go to **Dottie Erikson** for all her efforts and to the several folks who stepped in when Dottie was unable to attend. Those "several folks" included **Beege Hunter, Dottie Taaffe, Jeanne Nathan, and Betty Seipel** (sorry if we missed someone!).

This year's picnic will surely go down in the record book as being the one with the most cake. Our memory is faulty so we can't attest to the number of cakes that appeared as a part of the potluck, but in addition to those was a sheet cake appropriately decorated to say that the Chapter members were certainly going to miss Karen and Leo Delbert (who is moving north). And then, - yes there was more! And then – there was another cake welcoming Sandy and Tom Brown's first granddaughter! One could say that there was a happy cake and a sad cake – and other cakes – all of which were mighty tasty cakes. As we said at the outset, "it was a wonderful day"!



Marilyn Young and Mike Topolosky digging in.

Excerpts - Board Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and approved to (1) sell plants at the upcoming show at the price of \$15 for nonmembers and \$12 for members, and (2) nonmembers who join the Chapter at the show and pay annual dues will be allowed the \$12 price and will also receive a copy of Hibiscus Care Month by Month.

Show Season is Here!

Two Florida hibiscus shows were scheduled to be held prior to May (one in West Palm Beach on April 28th, for instance), but things really get moving in May. Port Charlotte has their show on May 13th and Venice has theirs the week before ours – on May 20th. These shows are just "down the road a piece" and it would be nice if our members were to enter blooms or just attend these shows – of course we hope they would reciprocate. How quickly things change. It wasn't too many years ago that most shows were in the fall – now there are none latter than June.

Too late for this year, but...

We heard that a florist type person said that if the stamens are removed from Easter Lilies they will last two or three weeks longer. We had nothing to test the concept on, but it does make some amount of sense because after the pollen, which comes from the stamen, gets on the pistil the bloom starts to close because its work is done – which is to attract some insect to the pollen. Now if we can only remember ...

Hibiscus Gardening in May

May is still part of the dry season – don't forget it. The three or four days of rain we might get could give a gardener a false sense of security that the rainy season had begun. Not so! Watch carefully so that plants do not dry out. The bloom that may be lost because a plant goes into shock because of a lack of water may just be the one that would have been awarded at least a gold ribbon at our Show that is just around the corner.

We spent about a page of the March issue of PETAL POWER discussing the feeding and the controlling of insects on our hibiscus. Because the Show is so



Dottie and Jack Taaffe enjoying themselves.



Pat Grant, Leo Delbert, Frank Vejrostek

close you will want to continue a schedule of both those aspects of pushing hibiscus toward blooming.

Part of last month's discussion of fertilizing involved a mixture of water soluble 20-20-20 with minor elements that we had read about somewhere – and couldn't remember where. But we had had some experience with it and were impressed. Now we are pretty sure it came from a column written by Jo Conrad in the Conrad-Sunrise Chapter newsletter. In her April 2007 column she mentioned that solution - used as a spray (not as a drench as we recommended) sort of in passing. She also reminded us about using Epsom salts regularly on hibiscus. We have, when we haven't forgotten about it, espoused the use of Epsom salts as a granular application – 1 tablespoon monthly in a three gallon pot – more or less depending on the pot or plant size. And remember, Epsom salts tend to be cheaper

in the drug department than in the garden center.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS Chapter Meeting Minutes April 1, 2007

President Boettcher called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. at the Palma Sola Botanical Park picnic and thanked Dottie Erikson for planning the picnic.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the March 11, 2007 minutes as published in Petal Power. Treasurer Adams' report for March was accepted and showed an initial balance of \$3870.61, income of \$72.00, expenses of \$66.89, and ending balance of \$3875.72.

Marilyn Young circulated a sign-up sheet for Hospitality volunteers.

President Boettcher noted that:

- The Annual Restaurant Meeting on 6/10 will be at the Peridia Country Club and will cost \$10.00 for members and about \$16.50 for guests.
- The Board approved Rae Flanders as the replacement for Leo Delbert's board seat, and decided that people joining the chapter at the show will receive a copy of the Monthly Care booklet and can buy plants at the special member price of \$12.00.
- The next chapter meeting on May 6 will cover plans for our annual show (May 27).

Carl Kramer announced the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee for the annual election of chapter officers to be held at the Restaurant Meeting. There were no further nominations from the floor.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m. when cake and ice cream bars prevailed.

Gene Haugh, Secretary.

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Cold Porcelain Creations! Lifelike Hibiscus and other flowers, singles/bouquets. Yvonne Santiago: Yvonne@coldporcelaincreations.com, (941) 538-9521, or www.coldporcelaincreations.com

Coming Events

April 27, 10 a.m.: Board Meeting, Manatee County Library South

May 6, 1:00 p.m.: Chapter Meeting: Show Details

May 27: Annual Show