

Christmas Luncheon Saturday, December 8th

The Chapter Christmas Luncheon will again be on Saturday, December 8th and will also again be at the Bradenton Yacht Club. For many of our Chapter members, the annual Christmas Luncheon will again act as the beginning of their Christmas Season – the Season known for good fellowship with good people.

The festivities will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a period of camaraderie and with lunch being served around one o'clock. The Chapter is picking up some of the tab again this year – our financial outlook would not permit last years' largesse – resulting in a cost for members of \$15.00. (Guests - \$16.50) Of course, the rationale for underwriting the luncheon cost is to return to members some of what they have earned for the Chapter with their efforts at the annual Show.

If you have not purchased tickets at a Chapter event and have not received a call about the Luncheon – and you wish to attend or have a question – please call Dottie Erikson (753-7785).

Bring blooms! While we have surely decorated Christmas trees with hibiscus blooms in all twelve of the months during the many years the Chapter has been doing that – so therefore it is only right that we decorate a Christmas tree during the Christmas Season. Therefore, bring what blooms you have – in fact pick blooms the day (or two) before and refrigerate them, thereby giving you two or three days worth of blooms on the 8th! Please leave the ants behind that may be on the blooms. Places that serve food are funny about ants being brought into their dining area. (Picky, picky ...)

Bring presents! Not just any presents of course, but presents that are suitable for the children of migrant workers in Manatee County. Sally Beesley was an active member of the Chapter several years ago who gave up almost everything, including

Golby-Reasoner, to operate a doll store in The Red Barn. However, she maintained her interest in the gifts for migrant kids program (although she no longer Chairs the effort) and assures us that the gifts from our members will go directly to children in the labor camps in our area. The presents are to be wrapped new articles of clothing with a note on the outside stating what is inside, whether it is for a boy or girl, and the size of the article or the age of the intended recipient.

Directions: For those who haven't been there and for those experiencing a "Senior Moment", let's start out by saying that the Yacht Club is on Sneed Island. Then let's say you take one of the bridges over the Manatee River going north out of beautiful downtown Bradenton. Eight or ten blocks after crossing the river, turn left (west) on 10th Street (remember, "Streets" run east and west in Palmetto). After several miles you will cross the relatively small bridge to Sneed Island. Immediately after crossing that bridge, you will see the Yacht Club on your left.

November Weather/Fiorelli Winery...

It was just about as good as it gets ... a beautiful Florida November day and a wine tasting in an open shed kind of structure. As we said – "it was just about as good as it gets." A number of Chapter members and several guests tasted six or eight vintages of the Fiorelli wine and were served a couple kinds of cheese and some crackers - and listened to the patter of a host – who was a retired police officer. All seemed to have a good time and it appeared that a number of bottles of wine were purchased.

Now some would say that the something like 12 ounces of wine that the attendees consumed might have some bearing on how "good" it seemed – out at the winery on that beautiful Florida day ...

*** Words of Wisdom ***

Remember that you are unique, like everyone else.

No campaigners!?

The candidates for national office begin campaigning about two years before the election. Therefore, since the Chapter election is only six months away, it is surprising that candidates for officers and Board member positions aren't wooing the members with promises of many fine things – such as an ever-blooming hibiscus in every pot.

OK so that's a bit much to expect, but we would urge all members to think about serving in some capacity. We have heard some of the current officers saying that it is time to have newer members play a role in directing the future of the Chapter. We assume that does not mean those with numerous years of membership will be excluded by any means.

We recently received a newsletter from the Sunset Chapter that discussed their elections which apparently come up in December. In jest (we think) the editor indicated that the requirements for candidates involved having a body temperature around 98.6 ... While we would agree that that is indeed important – and we understand that the qualification was mentioned in jest (we think) – we hope our Chapter members understand that we would hope for a few more qualities than that. (How many more our current president has is debatable.)

Should any of our member readers have interest in being an officer or Board member they should let any of the current leadership or the Nomination Committee Chairman, Carl Kramer, know. It's really fun – try it, you'll like it!

It was yummy!

Last month our first headline read "Potluck Coming! Yummy!!". It is therefore only proper that this month's headline on the subject should confirm that indeed "It was yummy!". Once again the great cooks (or other great providers) of the Chapter out-did themselves and everything was just as we said – "yummy".

What was surely the biggest surprise of the evening was the announcement of the engagement of Shirley Adams and Gayler Boettcher. Yes, it appears those two silly kids are getting married!

On second thought, the biggest surprise of the evening was the appearance of GOD! Well, it was Mark Love – playing God – in a short skit that also starred Donny Waldroup and Janet Love. One never knows what is coming next at a Golby-Reasoner function!

Eric Golby remembered...

The name of our Chapter was enlarged a number of years ago to include the name "Golby" in recognition of the efforts of Sally and Eric Golby, who among other achievements, were founders of our Chapter. Eric greatly enjoyed the Chapter Christmas Party which this year falls three days prior to what would have been Eric's 99th birthday. It seems important to recall that fact as the number of those who knew Eric diminish.

Hibiscus gardening in December

December is another of our dry months and of course it is one of our cooler months. We therefore will have to continue regularly watering our plants and being aware of weather patterns that could mean frosts/freezes for our area. Of course we have a rather wide range of possible temperatures – with the islands being insulated by the water and the inland areas not having that protection. While frost/freezes can occur on the islands, it is quite unusual and so therefore as we discuss protecting plants from the cold, we are mainly talking to our inland members.

Hibiscus planted in the ground are, in general, like sitting ducks for cold weather damage since they cannot be moved into a garage, etc. Therefore, plans for protecting them from the cold are more than likely more involved and may require more preparation. Plants that are really wide and tall – like 5'x10' or some such – are pretty much impossible to cover. Perhaps they should have been pruned back a couple of months ago in order for them to get over the shock and be small enough to be covered with something in the coming months.

“Normal” size plants can be simply covered with quilts or blankets. Large plants may require some type of frame-work – like a tomato cage or wood posts, plastic pipe, conduit, etc. These structures can then be covered with cloth or plastic when the forecast says it’s appropriate.

Remember that any portion of a plant that touches cold plastic will “burn” and most-likely die. It is therefore suggested that if not enough “heavy” cloth items (quilts, blankets, etc.) are available, sheets covered by plastic could be used. Even then, should temperatures get into the twenties some “burn” may occur.

Every so often we remember to “instruct” the transplanted northern gardeners to make sure the cold weather covers over plants touch the ground, thereby gaining the benefit of the warmth retained in the ground. In the north, it doesn’t take long for the ground to be about as cold as the air, but here the ground is almost always warmer than the air.

A number of years ago Chapter members engaged in an experiment with a product called Wilt Pruf which is a spray that provides plants a couple degrees of protection. As we recall the experiment provided some noteworthy results, but about then we had some years with few cold weather problems and interest waned. However, it and other similar products are still available should the interest return. Also, some say that applying the nutrient potassium magnesium sulfate may toughen plants to the cold.

Just a few words about potted plants. Of course everything we said about covering in-ground plants applies to potted plants. The great benefit about have plants in pots is that they can be moved around – into a garage for instance. If you don’t want that much exertion, they can be shoved together so that a number of them can be covered with just a few blankets. When the potted plants are pretty tall, some have resorted to laying them down – next to or on top of each other if there are a number of them – and again covering them with just a few blankets, etc.

Remember that coverings should be removed promptly. In our part of paradise, cold temperatures

don’t last very long and by mid-morning the sun is pretty hot and will start to cook plant leaves fairly soon.

Chapter Meeting Minutes October 25, 2007

President Boettcher called the meeting to order after the potluck dinner at the Boettcher home. The September 9th minutes were approved.

Rae Flanders discussed the tour of the Fiorelli Winery coming up November 11th.

Zelma Neef asked that those in attendance consider becoming judges - and officers in the AHS.

It was announced that tickets for the Christmas Party would be \$15.00 for each member, with the Chapter assuming \$1.50 for each lunch. Non member tickets will be \$16.50 each. Dottie Erikson had made tickets and sold many that evening.

Rae Flanders introduced the Golby-Reasoner Chapter’s answer to the *Not Ready for Prime Time Players* – Donny Waldroup, Mark Love and Janet Love who presented a skit starring **GOD!**

The meeting adjourned with much applause ...

Acting Secretary, Gayler Boettcher

Coming Events

November 30, 10:00 a.m.: Board Meeting, Boettcher home

December 8, 12:30 p.m.: Christmas Luncheon, Bradenton Yacht Club

January 13, 1:00 p.m.: Chapter Meeting, “Grafting” by Kathy Grandoff and Don Mixon