

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

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At Last!

While in some ways it seems we just had the last show – in other ways it seems like it has taken forever for the next show to arrive. However it feels, show time is just around the corner – at last!

Much of this month's issue of PETAL POWER will treat various and sundry show topics – many in the form of reminders – something of which many of us can't have too many. Let's start with an overview of the process of putting on another outstanding hibiscus show!

The show production process actually started months ago as Co-chairs Janet and Mark Love began preliminary space and staffing planning/projections and interactions with Fair Grounds staff. Virtually all Chapter members have received at least one telephone call from (most likely) Mark Love, perhaps along with a face to face visit with him at one of the recent Chapter events. The Chapter is most fortunate to have Mark and Janet in the role as Show Chairs.

Friday, May 23rd, is Set-up Day and begins at **10:00 AM** for everyone except a few stalwarts who will be bringing our "stuff" from storage to the Fair Grounds. **EVERYONE** is needed to set up the show. Everything should be completed around noon. Oh yes, the show will be held at the Manatee County Fair Grounds on 17th Street West in Palmetto.

Items to Consider:

1. Bring scissors with your name on them – a return address label works well.
2. Bring some new paper bags. The large ones from your favorite grocery store. Any remaining ones will be wrapped in plastic and saved for next year's show.
3. If you need a Chapter shirt – and you wear the sizes remaining – you could consider buying one. All Chapter members are encouraged to wear a Chapter shirt at the Show. (Please do not stay away from the Show because you do not have a Chapter shirt!)
4. If you are providing tables for use in the plant sales area – don't forget them!

Sunday, May 25th, is "Show Day" and it begins at **8:30 AM** for everyone except for a few members who have assignments that require them to be there earlier. It is

thought that everyone has assignments during the day; however some may not have a specific assignment during the Show itself: 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Those folks should circulate around in the bloom display area providing information and just generally being a good host.

The pack-up, clean-up begins at **4:00 PM** on Show Day. **Everyone** is needed for this part of the show. This is when we clean-up and all our stuff is packed up prior to being returned to storage. This generally takes around an hour – if everyone lends a hand.

Perhaps a list of things to remember would be of help in, - remembering...

- Bring blooms! Bring any blooms you have – not just hybrids. Each person can only enter one bloom per variety and the person entering the bloom should be the person that brought the bloom. If you haven't entered blooms before, the folks at the registration desk will help you with the details.
- Don't forget your contribution to the refreshment table! In the years prior to 1996 (or there "abouts") the Chapter served a lunch/dinner at noon primarily for judges and Chapter members. It required a lot of effort and the Bradenton Auditorium facilities at the time were less than adequate. The advent of the refreshment table (sometimes referred to as "grazing table") was a most welcome addition to our Show and at the time it was introduced, set it apart from others.
- Wear your Golby-Reasoner shirt – if you have one (and it still fits).
- Wear your Chapter name tag when you get there. If you can't find the name tag box ask someone who has one on, where they are.
- Wear comfortable shoes – and perhaps bring another pair you can change into late in the day.
- If you didn't take the paper bags you got at the grocery store to the Fair Grounds on Friday – take them Sunday.

The biggest change this year is that we will be conducting the plant sales in a tent located "sorta" between and behind the two buildings we used last year – and are using this year. The reason we are using a tent is that last year we didn't have enough space for

*** Words of Wisdom ***

*There are two ways to win arguments with your mate.
Neither works.*

exhibitors to prepare their blooms prior to their being judged. In the previous two sentences we have used the singular “tent” however, to be accurate; the “tent” will actually be a 30’x30’ tent with three 10’x10’ tents placed along one side. Whatever the number or configuration of the tents, preparing them for our use will be something new as will actually using them for the plant sales function. (The big tent will be put up by the rental company on Thursday, May 22nd and we will put up the small tents the next day, Friday, May 23rd, Set up Day.)

We are advertising that plant sales will be conducted between 1 and 4 PM. However, should someone wish to purchase plants prior to that – and Donny Waldroup (who heads up the plant sales) feels the sales area is ready – sales may start earlier. Purchased plants may be placed in a holding area for later pick-up. **Only** plants that have been paid for may be placed in the holding area.

Chapter members may purchase plants whenever plants are being sold, however they may purchase plants at cost (\$10.00 each) after 4 PM.

For a good number of years our chapter purchased a ton (the smallest amount available) of custom mixed fertilizer, formulated according to the formula recommended in the Hibiscus Handbook for hibiscus. We made this purchase just prior to the show and sold it at the show. In the last few years we literally gave a good portion away so that we wouldn’t have to store it - and sales were not particularly successful. (Also, we didn’t have many members fighting for the opportunity to carry around 50 pound bags of fertilizer.) Therefore, we did not sell hibiscus fertilizer at the Show last year. However, Mark Love strongly felt we should provide fertilizer to show attendees and finally found a Palm/Ixora fertilizer at Southern Ag that was pretty close to the recommended hibiscus formula. Perhaps best of all is that it comes packaged in 5 pound bags – so we don’t have to go through the packaging process – which will make several of our members very happy. The result of the preceding 164 words is that we will again be selling fertilizer at \$5.00 for 5 pounds. Particularly pleasing is the fact that we can return unopened boxes of 5 pound bags of fertilizer to Southern Ag thereby not incurring the cost or the storage problem of unsold product.

Chapter members may purchase fertilizer whenever it is being sold, however they may purchase fertilizer at its (approximate) cost (\$2.50 for 5 pounds) after 4:00 PM.

Installation Luncheon, June 8th!

The annual Installation Luncheon will again be held at Peridia Country Club on June 8th at 12:00, noon. Arriving late should not be a concern since we will be treating ourselves to the buffet – and it is one of the better ones in the area. The Chapter is sharing the cost with members paying \$12.00 – guests \$17.50. Several members will be “paying at the door” so if you told a caller that you were not going and change your mind – go and “pay at the door.”

We have changed what has always been called “the restaurant meeting” to the “Installation Luncheon” since that is more descriptive of what happens at, well – at the restaurant meeting. The incoming officers and board members are installed in June according to the “new” bylaws and it was decided that that it would be nice if the installation was made special by having it occur at a luncheon. We shall see if “the powers that be” pick up on the new name or if we will continue to have a just a restaurant meeting.

Part Two: Dues Are Due

In Part Two of our annual reminder that Chapter (and AHS) dues are due we remind everyone that Chapter (and AHS) dues are indeed due. A significant number of memberships have been renewed, but a significant number of memberships remain un-renewed. (And thus ends our annual “repeating words” competition.) Shirley Boettcher, Chapter Treasurer, will accept payments for dues at the show and at the June Chapter meeting at Peridia Country Club. Or payments may be mailed to Shirley at 9213 Forrester Drive, Bradenton, FL 34202. Dues are \$27.50 for singles and \$30.00 for family membership. Make checks to “Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS.”

AHS election ballots

Each AHS membership (individual or “family”) has by now received a ballot containing the names of the nominees for the various elected offices in the American Hibiscus Society. Since each chapter of the AHS is somewhat measured by the number of ballots returned, it is important that they be completed and returned – by June 1st. Accompanying the ballot is an instruction sheet for voting “legally” which should be followed “to the letter.” Should you need a fun reason for completing the voting process – try counting the words that are capitalized on the instruction sheet ...

Eric Golby, 12/11/08-4/21/04

Since we recently passed the fourth anniversary of Eric Golby's passing, it seemed appropriate that we say a few words about him. After all, he and his wife Sally are memorialized in our Chapter name. To us, and to many not involved with hibiscus, Eric Golby was "Mr. Hibiscus". That being the case, then Sally Golby was surely "Mrs. Hibiscus." It was felt by many who knew them that whatever Eric accomplished Sally was part of the equation.

However, hibiscus was not his only area of expertise. The nomination form that was completed to nominate Eric to the Manatee County Agricultural Hall of Fame gives a view of the extent and scope of his interests. Here are some of the organizations he was part of and some of the awards or recognitions he received:

Palm Society International (Founding Member)

Horticulturist of the Year, University of Florida

Department of Ornamental Horticulture (1976)

Rare Fruit Council International

The Cycad Society

Sarasota Fruit & Nut Society (Founding Member)

American Hibiscus Society (Charter & Founding Member)

Norman Reasoner Chapter, AHS (Co-Founding Member)

Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association –
Nurseryman of the Year

Royal Horticultural Society (Honorary Fellow)

American Horticultural Society

Inter-American Society for Tropical Horticulture

Sarasota Succulent Society

Honorary Member of the Future Farmers of
America (!)

While he was many things agricultural to many people, he was Mr. Hibiscus to us. While he was an author, TV personality, and public speaker, he was a gentle man, a Gentleman, and the kind of guy you'd like to have as a friend.

Chapter Meeting Minutes, May 4, 2008

President Boettcher called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and guests were introduced. Betty Seipel gave new

members Jay Cowart and Tammy Wise membership certificates and "survival kits".

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2008 and April 13, 2008 meetings as published in PETAL POWER was made, seconded and passed. Shirley Boettcher gave the April 25th financial report which showed an ending balance of \$3255.59. It was accepted and directed to file.

Dottie Erikson accepted reservations for the June 8th Installation Luncheon at Peridia CC (\$12.00 members, \$17.50 non-members).

New Officers and Board Members nominated at the recent chapter picnic were unanimously elected and take office on July 1, 2008

Jane Love reviewed show preparation jobs for the show setup on May 23rd at 10:00 a.m., and Mark Love discussed various tasks and passed out assignment slips. President Boettcher thanked the Loves for their Herculean Efforts, discussed plans for using tents and solicited required tables. A special raffle will be held for a porcelain hibiscus contributed by Yvonne Santiago. Jeanne Nathan circulated a signup sheet for food or \$ contributions for feeding show judges, etc. Members are requested to be at the show by 8:30 a.m. on May 25th.

Dave Flanders advised members to vote in the upcoming National AHS Election and offered rides to two interested people to the National Convention on June 12-15 at Boca Raton.

Dave Flanders conducted the raffle for two plants provided by Donny Waldroup.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m. Jennifer Murdoch provided and served refreshments.

Gene Haugh, Secretary

Coming Events

May 23, 10:00 a.m. Show Setup, Manatee County Fairgrounds

May 25, 8:30 a.m. 44th Annual Hibiscus Show and Plant Sale, Manatee County Fairgrounds

May 30, 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, Manatee County Library South

June 8, Noon. Installation Luncheon, Peridia Country Club

