

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

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Editor: Gayler Boettcher: gboet@gte.net

Publisher: Gene Haugh: gene.haugh@gmail.com

Web Site: 4hibiscus.com

July Chapter Meeting

On June 16th we emailed our new president David Flanders to ask what we could say about July's Chapter meeting. Later that day we received a responding email from Dave that surely says all that needs to be said on the subject. Therefore, here is what July's meeting will be all about – sounds neat!

“The July 13 chapter meeting program will be an informal one, with a bit of a new format. We will initiate a monthly Q&A session about what's happening with the hibiscus in our yards and exchange information and hints with other members. Bring your ‘show and tell’ items to share with other members. We will talk about what you want to see and hear in our programs, and we have a committee chaired by Pat Grant who will pursue those. We will talk about our committees and the opportunities you will have as a member to do tasks of interest to you. Finally, we will report on what happened at the National AHS Convention last week.”

Fantastic Show!

Everyone who helped produce the Golby-Reasoner annual show surely realizes just how great the show was. Our reporter on the scene reported that spirits were high and lots of laughs were enjoyed by Chapter members during the set-up and the show itself. The only real bummer was the lack of attendees on the day of the show. Everyone is trying to explain why so few folks attended – the same types of advertising were used as in previous years, etc. The Indianapolis 500 was on TV – had it been on Monday (Memorial Day) in the previous several years?

Altogether, 553 blooms and 44 seedlings were entered. Tom Miller took many pictures of members at work and participants, and winning blooms, and posted them at:

tropicalhibiscus.com/08gr.html

This also includes a link to a YouTube presentation.

In keeping with our long time precedent (that we started last year) we will again attempt to list all the members, and non-members, who worked on the show. And so here is the list in no particular order – and many apologies to those we may have forgotten:

MEMBERS: David Kaplan, Bill Faulls, Bob Haendel, Jack and Doty Taaffe, Norm and Marlyn Marshall, Betty Seipel, Petey Birchall, Bill and Pat Grant, Frank Vejrostek, Tootie Baldini, Beege Hunter, Carl and Pat Kramer, Maynard and Dee Pastorius, Marion and Judy Duncan, Jay and Josh Cowart, Tammy Wise, Jeri Lovett, Bob Peterson, Jeanne Nathan, Jennifer Murdoch, Gayler and Shirley Boettcher, Dave and Rae Flanders, Mark and Janet Love, Donny Waldroup. “MEMBERS FOR A DAY”: Danielle Seipel, Dave Seipel, Dean White, Doris Kessell, Preston and Helen True.

You we will tell you that there are 43 names listed which certainly indicates an almost astounding commitment to producing an outstanding show by the Chapter members and friends. As then President Boettcher said at the Installation Luncheon, “You should give yourself a round of applause!”

Special thanks go to those who loaned tables for the show. We would love to mention them by name, but our Fairly Faithful reporter discarded the list before we could publish it. We remember most contributors, but we learned long ago to print no names if we can't print a complete list. So let us say again – we sure do appreciate the use of the 6-8 tables loaned by members. Also appreciated were tables loaned from the First Baptist Church and tables and tents from Longboat Key.

Some members also had time to enter blooms in the show! Here are the names of those who entered and the ribbons awarded. In the Amateur Class Janet Love (1 gold), Dee Pastorius (1gold, 2 blues), Jay Cowart (2 golds), and Judy Duncan (1gold, 1 blue). In the Collector Class there were Donny Waldroup (1 gold) and Dave and Rae Flanders (2 golds, 1 blue). There was another member entrant in the Amateur Class, but you will have to read about him below.

Carl Kramer is a winner!

Of course we have known for years that Carl Kramer was a winner, but on May 25, 2008 it was made a matter of public record – complete with a ribbon – for on that date Carl was awarded the Amateur Class Best of Show for an un-named miniature hibiscus bloom. May 25th was when the award was proclaimed, but it wasn't until June 8th at the Installation Luncheon that Carl was formally presented with the ribbon and prize and was acknowledged by the applause of all those attending. Congratulations Carl!

* Words of Wisdom *

If at first you don't succeed, don't skydive.

The bottom line ...

Everyone is always interested in “the bottom line” – how much money the Chapter made (or didn't make) from the show. There is no way to sugar-coat the news. One bill has not been received, but it is one that we can estimate to within a dollar or two. With that in mind, it looks like we will have a loss of about \$665.00.

We have already addressed the subject of the lack of people attending the show. That factor is the only known reason why we didn't sell more than 181 plants and which is why our expenses were more than our income. Of course the fact that our show is on Memorial Day weekend has a bearing on the attendance at our show. We have inquired with the fair grounds people about some other date for our show, but they said the only reason we were at the fair ground at all was the fact that we took the Memorial Day weekend. Does anyone know of somewhere else that we could have our show? All suggestions would be appreciated.

Words of thanks - Yvonne Santiago

Again at this year's show the 21 prizes for Best of Show and such were beautifully made by Yvonne Santiago. This year's prizes were four napkin holders with a hibiscus bloom perched on each one. Lovely, just lovely. Now let's see if you can guess what next year's prizes might be – prizes that will prepare repeat winners to be ready for parties of eight. We surely must say a big “thank you” to Yvonne for sharing her artistic abilities – and for doing so at such a reasonable cost.

In addition to providing the show prizes, again this year Yvonne donated a real piece of art to our Chapter to be taken to the national convention to be sold at the fund raising auction which is a part of each convention. This year's contribution was a 36” wall hanging that featured seven 2½ inch hibiscus blooms, three butterflies and numerous leaves - all on a branch. As we said, a real work of art. Again, thank you Yvonne.

President's Report

At each annual AHS convention, reports from the various Chapter presidents are read at a general session. The Golby-Reasoner's report was written by the outgoing president, Gayler Boettcher, and was read by the incoming president, David Flanders the weekend of June 14th. Here is that report:

“From my perspective the Chapter Year 2007-08 which ends this month was a year most notably marked by the dedication to the interests of the Chapter by more than a few Chapter members. The commitment of these members to do whatever is necessary is an amazing, greatly appreciated, and very humbling aspect of being Chapter president. I should mention that I would write that even if this report was not going to be published in our monthly newsletter.

“We had seven regular type Chapter meetings and five social type meetings during the year including events such as the Christmas luncheon at the local Yacht Club, the annual installation luncheon at a country club, a picnic, a potluck, and a tour of a local winery. Our seven regular Chapter meetings were held in the very plush Community Room of a Synovus Bank, since the church we had our meetings in for over 30 years began a room rental program which was more than we could afford. And then there is the cost and availability of places we can have our show, but that is a subject for another place and time.

“Although we continue to add members, Chapter membership remains fairly constant. We have lost two active couples to the migration north movement. Recently we also lost Dick Hodill. Dick was a long time Chapter and AHS member and was active in both. Perhaps of interest is the fact that James Wallace, our first president in 1963-64, is still a member, - but is not active.

“We look forward to a year of membership growth and financial improvement under the leadership of our new president Dave Flanders and several new board of director members, all of whom will contribute fresh ideas for Chapter development.”

Signed, Gayler Boettcher, Past President

Another Installation Luncheon ...

Yummy!

There were only 29 at the Installation Luncheon, but those folks made 846 trips to the food tables – by actual count. Well we didn't really count and we are stretching a point to make it, but believe us when we say there were quite a few trips made to replenish emptied plates. And rightfully so – the food was good and there were an almost overwhelming number of choices. What a delightful situation to have!

Many, many thanks to Dottie Erikson for coordinating everything and for the many decorations – center pieces, place mats, napkins and napkin holders – everything

with a hibiscus theme and everything beautifully done. Thank you again Dottie!

Hibiscus Gardening in July

Due to show related subjects, we are running out of space for this issue so let's discuss a problem that some of us are having – bud drop. That is, the buds are dropping off hibiscus before they open into blooms. This can be caused by weather-related circumstances, cultivation missteps (including a lack of water) or mishaps, and several types of critters. In the latter category, thrips are perhaps the leading culprit. If you feel your bud drop is caused by critters, peel open a newly fallen bud and see if there are tiny varmints there, particularly at the base. They will be less than an eighth inch long and about as thick as a sharp pencil mark. They are relatively easy to control, but they require a consistent approach, like spraying only the buds twice a week – and after every rain. For the hobbyist grower with only a few plants that isn't all that big a chore. For this application we have had good results using a pre-mixed Bayer product called *Rose and Flower Insect Killer*. It is rather expensive, but since you will only be spraying the buds it goes a long way. If needed, continue an every-other-week schedule of spraying all parts of plants with something like *Ortho's Systemic Insect Killer* (which contains the old standby Acephate) or *Bayer Insect, Disease, & Mite Control* (which contains the systemic Imidacloprid, plus a miticide).

Chapter Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2008

President Boettcher thanked Dorothy Erickson for setting up the tables at Peridia Country Club so beautifully with hibiscus decorated placemats and napkin rings. The floating hibiscus candle centerpieces were later given as door prizes. The buffet brunch-luncheon was much enjoyed by the 30 members present. Everyone concurred that Dorothy did another fabulous job as our Special Events chairman.

President Boettcher called Carl Kramer to the front and presented him with his gold Best of Show Miniature tri-ribbon for his entry in our show. Carl also received four cold porcelain napkin rings created by Yvonne Santiago.

President Boettcher reported on the fine efforts of 43 members and non-members at our May 25 Hibiscus Show. Attendance at the show was down this year, resulting in fewer plants sold and less profit. This may have been due to the Memorial Day weekend and the slower economy this year. Mark Love has checked with the Extension office and the fourth Sunday in May

(Memorial Day weekend) is again the only date available to us in 2009.

Pat Grant, Gene Haugh, Dottie Taaffe and Trudy Topolosky, who have completed their terms on the Board, were recognized and thanked for their services. The following new officers were called to the front and installed:

Jennifer Murdoch – Director 2010/11
Dave Kaplan – Director 2010/11
Dorothy Erickson Director 2009
Shirley Boettcher – Treasurer
Rae Flanders – Secretary
Donny Waldroup – 2nd Vice President
Dave Flanders – President

The returning Directors, Betty Seipel and Frank Vejrostek were called to the front. Janet Love – 1st Vice President and Belle Hilt – Director were absent.

Gayler Boettcher will serve as Past-President on the new 2008-9 Board.

Our new President, Dave Flanders' first official act was to award a Presidential citation to Gayler Boettcher for his fine leadership, distinguished service and many contributions to the Chapter.

President Flanders then reported that the July 13th Chapter meeting will be informal. He will initiate a monthly Q and A session about what's happening to the hibiscus in our yards and get helpful hints from other members. We will talk about what members want to see and hear in our programs with the Programs Committee, chaired by Pat Grant. We will talk about our committees and the opportunities you will have as a member. A short report will be given on what happened at the AHS Convention.

The meeting was adjourned.

Rae Flanders, Secretary

Coming Events

Monday, July 7, 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting, **Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd.W.**

Sunday, July 13, 1:00 p.m. Chapter Meeting: "What's With Your Hibiscus?", Synovus Bank, Manatee & 26th St. W.

Monday, August 4, 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting