

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

December, 2008

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January Program All Wet!

The January Chapter meeting program will feature President Dave Flanders visiting with us on the subject, "Micro-Irrigation Simplified". Micro-irrigation has many benefits providing real savings in both labor and water while still getting plants "all wet" in just the right places. Dave has had experience over a period of several years with a fairly large system, but is still a hobbyist and can therefore "talk the talk" we can all understand. Whether you have a couple plants or 50, it's a program you shouldn't miss. That's 1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 11th at the Synovus Bank, Manatee and 26th Street W. (It has been so long since we had a "regular" meeting we thought we'd remind everyone where we have meetings!)

Sara Bay Super...

The annual Christmas Luncheon of the Chapter was held on December 14th at the Sara Bay Country Club and, according to everyone contacted by our reporter on the scene, it was a super setting and lunch that was enjoyed by all. A special word of "thanks" goes to **Dottie Erikson** for, first of all, thinking of Sara Bay as a place for the luncheon and then for doing all the coordinating things necessary to make it such a success, including making and selling tickets and making a delightful wreath for a door prize.

One of the features of Christmas Luncheons past is a Christmas tree covered with hibiscus blooms. It appears that Gayler Boettcher didn't have the little Christmas tree he thought he had and therefore there was no tree at this year's event. However, the blooms that were there looked beautiful distributed around on the various tables. The area around the tree is usually where the gifts for migrant workers children are placed – which of course was not possible this year. However, the numerous gifts on the tables looked great. Again this year **Donny and Eva Waldroup** took the gifts after the luncheon to (past members) Sally and Bill Beesley's home, the first step in their journey to the children.

There was a short business meeting efficiently conducted by President **Dave Flanders**, elements of which are related in other articles and the meeting minutes in this issue of PETAL POWER. After the meeting, the annual door prize extravaganza was conducted by **Dottie Erikson**. This year's poinsettias

were contributed by **Dave and Rae Flanders**, **Gayler and Shirley Boettcher**, and **Betty Seipel**.

Hunters Honored

The highlight of the Chapter Christmas Luncheon was the well deserved recognition of **Bob and Beege Hunter** for their many years of very active involvement in the Chapter. During the business meeting, President Flanders called Bob and Beege to the front of the room to accept a Presidential Citation which read as follows:

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society
PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

For Distinguished Service
Robert and Beege Hunter

are hereby awarded this Presidential Citation
for distinguished service to this chapter.

Presented this 14th day of December
(signed)

David Flanders, President

Any attempt to enumerate the many roles Bob and Beege have played and the achievements and contributions they have made, first to the Norman Reasoner Chapter and then to the Golby-Reasoner Chapter, would only result in failure. First because they are so many and varied, but also because many of their achievements occurred before the current Chapter membership was on board. Chapter members whose memberships date into the early to mid-nineties may recall that at that time a sizeable number of members were totally dedicated – to both the local Chapter and the national organization. Bob and Beege were at the forefront of that group and today continue to exemplify that outlook. As an organization, the Chapter has been most fortunate to have had Beege and Bob as members. As individual members – the opportunity we have had to know them, as the commercial says, is priceless.

Gift Table?

In recent months these pages have contained requests for members to save their garage sale items since there was interest in having a Chapter garage sale. There is still interest in having a sale at some member's home, perhaps in conjunction with a park or development garage sale. However, as discussed below, now there is another part to the "story".

* Words of Wisdom *

Happy New Year. Let's hope this one goes right.

After some amount of adjustment and considerable discussion the Board of Directors in their December 8th meeting accepted a budget for the 2009 show of approximately \$2,200.00. That amount includes everything it costs to produce the show (such as advertising and ribbons) as well as those costs incurred because we produce a show (such as the storage costs for the show “stuff”).

The Chapter has virtually only the income from the sale of hibiscus plants at the show to off-set the costs contained in the show budget. Beginning last year, the cost of the plants we sell is \$10.00 – and they are sold for \$15.00. At this time there is little interest in raising the selling price, considering the economy of the area. Therefore, we make \$5.00 from the sale of each plant which means we have to sell 440 plants to “make” \$2,200.00 – the amount budgeted to put on the show.

Here in the hallowed halls of PETAL POWER, we can't recall ever selling even 350 plants at a show. Also, when the sales of plants were in the 300's they were selling for less than \$15.00 each. For discussion purposes, let's say we sell 300 plants at our 2009 show – 140 plant sales under the break even point – or **\$700.00** under the break even point!

It seems evident that the Chapter needs additional income in order to (1.) reduce the loss; (2.) break even; (3.) or make a profit. Given the three choices listed, let's vote for #3!

Until a few years ago our Shows included what was called a “Gift Table”, which we understand, started as a place to pick up some pretty nice gifts from among items contributed by Chapter members. Over the years, the Gift Table became the depository for garage sale type items which led a staff person at First Baptist to say something like, “This is a really nice show – except that junky looking stuff over there”. He was of course referring to the “garage sale tables” which had become something we couldn't be proud of – and so they were eliminated. But, that move also eliminated the income from that function – which 10 years or more ago brought in over \$500.00 and more recently in the low \$200.00's.

Since we are looking for income sources, the Chapter is moving toward re-establishing the “Gift Table” as a part of the 2009 show. Therefore, we members are being asked to accumulate or make (for those crafty folks among us) hibiscus or garden related items for the gift table – and – to set aside the nicer 20% of the items you have been saving for the garage sale we have discussed in PETAL POWER during the past several months.

And what should you do with the other 80% of the items you have saved (or will save in the future) for a garage sale? Continue to save those items too since the Chapter still hopes to have a true garage sale sometime after the first of the year.

Crosley Tree Big Success!

It is true that the Christmas tree filled with hibiscus blooms was again a successful crowd favorite at the Crosley Festival of Trees, but the real measure of success surely involves the way in which Chapter members signed up for “tree duty” of one type or another. The Festival was certainly better because of our participation and Pat Grant was surely pleased and proud – of the tree and everyone who participated in its “care and feeding”.

We obtained a copy of the sign-up sheet in order to publish the name of everyone listed on it, which we do as follows – assuming we can read the writing:

Making the drive to pick up blooms at Randy Cox's are: **Tom and Sandy Brown, Dave Kaplan, Bob Haendel, Dave and Rae Flanders**, and it appears that **Randy and Arnell Cox** brought blooms up on the last day and stayed for the “first shift”. **Shirley and Gayler Boettcher** were involved in the initial setup of the tree.

Those representing the Chapter at the tree during the Festival were as follows: **Janet and Mark Love, Sue and Gene Haugh, Petey Birchall, Marion and Judy Duncan, Frank Vejrostek, Tootie Baldini, Yvonne Santiago, Jeri Lovett, Jennifer Murdoch, Betty Seipel, Jack and Dotty Taaffe, Maynard and Dee Pastorius, Bob and Beege Hunter**. According to the sign-up sheet, which includes numerous corrections and up-dates, it appears that some folks were present for more than one “shift”. While there may be others, those shown on the sign-up/schedule for more than one shift are **Dee and Maynard Pastorius, Dave and Rae Flanders, Petey Birchall, and Yvonne Santiago**.

WOW! What a group! We will save you the time and effort necessary to count the number of folks involved – there were 27 participating in the Crosley Tree project! That's an outstanding Chapter effort, particularly in view of how busy many people are at this time of year.

Excerpts from 12/8 Board Meeting

Treasurer Shirley Boettcher passed out two financial statements, the first being for the period ending October 31, 2008. It showed a beginning balance of \$1,672.23, no income, and expenses of \$184.76, with an ending balance of \$1,487.47. The second was for the period ending November 30, 2008 with the beginning balance of \$1,487.47 with no financial activity through the month, with the ending balance remaining at \$1,487.47.

Janet Love passed out a 2009 proposed budget for our annual show. Much discussion took place regarding expenses and income estimates, and methods to have the show at least break even. A motion was made and passed to eliminate the stage awards to bloom winners. Another motion was made to purchase a three-year supply of stage ribbons. The revised budget was approved.

Discussion took place of ways to raise additional funds. We will explore the possibility of a gift table with upscale items at the show, as well as a garage-type sale. Shirley Boettcher's Show Sponsors Committee will actively pursue finding sponsors for the annual show.

Hibiscus Gardening in January

Normally, the winter months from mid-November through mid-February require little activity from the hibiscus gardener. By far the most labor intensive activity for us during that time involve the temporary protection of our plants from sudden frosts/freezes – or due to the prospect of such events. Luckily, many predictions of damaging cold weather do not materialize, but the work of protecting plants is the same whether the prediction is accurate or not.

It is a fact that plants drink less during the cooler weather, but don't assume your plants have enough moisture to help withstand a frost or freeze should one appear. Check them! Check them in the morning proceeding the night the frost/freezing is expected. We stress "morning", because if you have to water them they need as much time as you can give them to take up all the water they can before the cold arrives. All plants will survive better if they are totally "engorged" (Peggy Dessaint's terminology) with water before the cold temperature hits. This is true for plants in pots as well as those in the ground. Of course we would assume you will move your prize potted plants into a garage or some such and would water them after moving them and save your back.

Should higher than normal temperatures be part of January's scene, we can expect to see infestations of critters that we normally don't expect during the winter months. Be alert and take what ever action is appropriate. If we don't have some continuous cold weather to drop the upper soil temperature we can expect lots and lots of critters looking forward to "doing lunch" on our plants next spring. And with that happy note we will say "Adieu".

Chapter Christmas Luncheon: December 14, 2008

The atmosphere was festive for the annual Christmas Luncheon held at the Sara Bay Country Club. Twenty-

six members enjoyed a beautiful dinner and afternoon in the beautifully decorated dining room. Dorothy Erikson is to be commended and applauded for her usual excellent planning and execution.

Many wrapped Christmas gifts were provided by members to be given to migrant children. Donny Waldroup will see that they go to the appropriate place.

A short business meeting was held. The November minutes were approved as printed in the Petal Power. A motion was made to dispense with the Treasurer's report this month.

Gayler announced the possible plans to have a "gift" table with upscale, possibly garden related items, at the Show and that we are also still looking for a place to hold a garage sale fund-raiser before the Show.

President Flanders presented a Presidential Citation to Beege and Dr. Bob Hunter for their many years of excellent service to the Golby-Reasoner Hibiscus Society. They received resounding applause from the members.

The Boettchers, Betty Seipel, and the Flanders provided poinsettias for the raffle. Dorothy Erikson made a beautiful, lighted Christmas wreath won by the Loves.

The next Chapter Meeting will be January 11 at the Synovus Bank. Dave Flanders will demonstrate the use of "Micro Irrigation Simplified". The February 8 meeting will be a field trip to Don Mixon and Kathy Grandoff's "Unbelievable Hibiscus" nursery in Wesley Chapel. This meeting is not to be missed. Come and see where our beautiful plants come from for our show. Car pooling and a pot luck luncheon will be planned.

The meeting was adjourned with lots of "Merry Christmases and Happy New Years!" and caroling lead by Carl Kramer.

Rae Flanders
Secretary

Coming Events

Monday, January 5, 6:30 p.m.: Board Meeting, Central Library

Sunday, January 11, 1:00 p.m.: Chapter Meeting.
"Micro-Irrigation Simplified, Dave Flanders. Synovus bank, Manatee and 26th Street W

Saturday, March 21, 2009: Annual Show and Plant Sale, First Baptist Church

