

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

November, 2009

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Can It Be?

We wonder if others are having the same feeling about the arrival of the Christmas season. And of course that feeling is something like, "Can it really be that Thanksgiving is just around the corner and then BAM, tis the Season?!!" Perhaps we should really be expecting that the Yule Season is much closer than it is since many of the stores had their Christmas items out well before Halloween. We may give up on Christmas (except for celebrating the real reason for the Season) when the stores put out their Santa's before the Fourth of July.

However, since if we are anything here at PETAL POWER, we are rational and realistic and therefore we understand that, even though it doesn't seem possible, Christmas is less than a month and a half away and it is quite appropriate that the Chapter Christmas Luncheon is the next event on the Chapter calendar. Gads. And when is it exactly?

Date: Saturday, December 5th

Time: Noon.

This year's Christmas Luncheon is shaping up to be really special. Dottie Erikson has arranged for it to be held at the Bradenton Country Club, largely because of the menu selection and reasonable cost. We are under the impression that Dottie has, through a signing up of folks at Chapter events or by calling them, determined who is going. If our understanding is not correct and you want to attend, please call Dottie at 753-7785. The cost this year (which is not being subsidized by the Chapter and you can guess why) is \$15.00 per person, which includes tax, tip and dessert. Might as well lead into the Season with a dessert – it's all down hill from then on.....

As usual, you should remember to bring a few things. A few hibiscus blooms to go on the little Christmas tree and a few gifts for migrant worker children to go under the tree. The presents have become sort of a kick-off to the Christmas season for many members, most of whom will recall that they should bring one or more gifts of new clothing, in Christmas wrapping, with a note or tag on the outside indicating the gender and age of the child for whom the gift is intended. Join

Mary Hodill

October 16, 1922 – October 9, 2009

in this expression of giving that is so much a part of the Season.

DIRECTIONS: The Bradenton County Club is located at 4649 9th Avenue W. If you are on Manatee Avenue, turn south (toward Sarasota) on 43rd Street W. for 5 blocks and turn right on 9th Ave. and go three blocks and BCC will be on the left. If you would turn off Manatee onto 51st St. W. you would go five blocks and turn left onto 9th Ave. and after going 5 blocks the Club will be on your right. After that maze of information we can only hope that everyone has some kind of a GPS instrument...

New Ideas!

The November Chapter meeting "program" was perhaps somewhat frightening to some since a number of new ideas and some new approaches to old ideas were presented and discussed. This occurred during a presentation by Dave Kaplan, who did an outstanding job presenting to the members the high points of an "Outline for Promoting the G-R Annual Show" (OPGRAS). That document was a considerable refinement of Dr. Russ Kitching's presentation to the Board about improving the show (rough notes of which were in the September PETAL POWER), which was developed during work sessions in two Board meetings and subsequently refined by Dave Kaplan. As we stated earlier, Dave did an outstanding job, but time restrictions limited the discussion and the formation of the subcommittees necessary to implement the action plans suggested.

In order to provide for getting what needs to be done – done, according to the action plans formulated in the OPGRAS, a Steering Committee is to be established which, among other things, oversees the role of several subcommittees. There are four subcommittees, which are as follows:

- Subcommittee for Demonstrations
- Subcommittee for Locating the Placement of Posters and Flyers
- Subcommittee for Show Day Publicity
- Subcommittee for Mass Media Publicity

Whether it be new ideas or refurbished old ideas, we all can see that something must be done to add members to the Chapter and our best opportunity to do that is at our annual Show which is why that is the emphasis. Lets all be ready to chip in our time and talents as necessary to make the 2010 show a success in every way.

Potluck good luck...

Everyone at the October potluck had a bit of good luck in that they decided to attend. It was a good crowd and a well-fed one. Through a miscommunication there were an abundance of appetizers, which seemed to please everyone for an inordinate amount of time during which few, if any, didn't make numerous forays back for seconds, thirds or whatever. Undaunted by the considerable consumption of appetizers, after being given the green light by President Flanders, the attendees proceeded to make noteworthy inroads on the main course dishes (or "pots" in this case). Following a noticeable pause after the "main pot course", the group launched a valiant effort to lay waste to the several tempting dessert items, but while they were delectable, the spirits were weakened to a point that more than the usual amount of sweets remained. Everyone should be congratulated for bringing the wonderful "pots" that brought enjoyment to everyone attending.

Our reporter on the scene reports that Shirley and Gayler Boettcher always find something special in the annual potlucks held at their home. It is now two years since they announced their engagement at the 2007 potluck.

December Hibiscus Gardening

December is normally a dry month and it is one of our coldest months. Those two facts will lead the gardener to water plants occasionally and be mindful of the weather forecasts.

We will try to remember to briefly discuss winterizing plants in our next issue of PETAL POWER. However, in case you have to cover plants before we visit next month, do not leave the covers on any longer than necessary.

Plants don't need much water in the cool weather since transpiration and evaporation are reduced. From our standpoint, that means hibiscus plants are not growing much. However, that does not mean that they will not provide some good blooms. The blooms obtained from some varieties, will have good size and will be colorful. While the hot weather may influence the color of the blooms of some varieties, the cool weather

may provide colors true to the variety. (Some varieties will do just the reverse – cold weather = bad color.) As an added bonus, some varieties will produce blooms that will last two or three days. Blooms with relatively "thick" petals, like Bryon Metts, will almost always last three days in the cool months. On the other side of the coin, some varieties will produce lots of blooms, but noticeably smaller ones than a few months ago. While not always the case, one has to wonder if those plants were shorted on fertilizer.

Cool weather normally brings an absence of garden critters. Generally speaking, we are into the period when we should not be fertilizing or pruning, or only lightly fertilizing and pruning. It is possible that our coastal friends could do more of both. However, December weather is cool everywhere and plants aren't growing much whether they are fertilized and pruned or not and wherever they are planted.

All in all, since not a lot can be done in the December garden, it is a fine time to try to remember all the things we thought about in mid summer that we wanted to do differently in the garden next year. Good luck with that! OK, so next summer, maybe we will make notes as we think of things – then next December, all we will have to do is find the notes.

Potluck Chapter Meeting, Oct. 22, 2009

Twenty- four members, including Associate members, Wally and Zelma Neff, gathered at the festively Halloween-decorated Boettcher home for the annual pot luck dinner. The food was all at its usual best and the fellowship was much enjoyed by all.

After all tummies were full, President Flanders opened the meeting by thanking the Boettcher's for the use of their home and also to Dottie Erikson for being our organizing hostess tonight.

The minutes and the Treasurer's report were dispensed with. We continued on to a report on the Palma Sola Festival held October 17. It was suggested that we have more blooms as well as a few plants on display at future festivals

President Flanders reported that the next Festival will be the Festival of Trees at the Crosley Mansion December 2nd through 9th. There are two main categories of tasks. The first is we need four volunteers to transport blooms from Randy Cox's nursery in Englewood to the Crosley and put them on the tree. The second need is for many Chapter members to stay at the tree and talk to the visitors about hibiscus, our chapter, and our up-coming Show.

There are three 3-hour shifts each of the eight days. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Dottie Erikson reported that the Christmas luncheon will be at the Bradenton Country Club at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 5. The cost is \$15.00 per person. A sign up sheet with choice of entrée was passed around.

At our next meeting on November 8 at the Synovus Bank we will have a report and discussion on the Board's work to improve the effectiveness of our Annual Show and Plant Sale. This effort will be led by Dave Kaplan and Marion and Judy Duncan.

Zelma Neff reported that there is a Hibiscus Show in Punta Gorda November 1. She also stated that new judges are desperately needed. She will run a training program for those interested.

A gift from the American Hibiscus Society of a DVD for computers was distributed to each paid membership. This contains 3,309 Hibiscus blooms that Pat Merritt catalogued.

President Flanders asked how many members might be interested in taking a cruise after the Show. Several hands were raised.

The correct answers to the Pot Luck quiz on hibiscus were given and the meeting was adjourned to continue more fellowship.

Rae Flanders, Secretary

Chapter Meeting, Nov. 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Synovus Bank meeting room. President Flanders welcomed everyone, especially the Young's who are back for the winter and our guest, Maria Diaz, who was an amateur winner two years ago at our show.

The minutes of the October 22 meeting were approved and the motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Shirley. The beginning balance is \$1736.60. We had an income of \$0.00, expenses of \$0.00, leaving a balance of \$1736.60.

It was reported that Judy Duncan has been in Manatee Memorial Hospital having tests following a small stroke.

Dorothy Erikson announced the Christmas Luncheon will be Saturday, December 5 at the Bradenton

Country Club at 12:00 noon. Directions will be in the Petal Power. There is a choice of chicken, pork or salmon. Call Dorothy for reservations and arrangements for the \$15.00 per person charge.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for the Crosley Mansion Festival of Trees. There is still a need for people to stay at the tree and talk to visitors about hibiscus, our Chapter, and our up-coming Show. There are three 3-hour shifts each of the eight days, December 2 through 9. Call Marlyn Marshall, 723-1171, if you can help.

Flyers for a Holland America Ryndam 7-day cruise, leaving Tampa for the Western Caribbean the day after the Show, March 21 were passed around along with a member interest sign-up sheet. This would be a great way to celebrate and reward ourselves after another successful Annual-Hibiscus-Show.

Dave Kaplan led a discussion on the Show promotion plan he and the Board developed from ideas presented to the Board by Russ Kitching. This plan will improve the promotion of our Annual Show to the public. The show has the objective of increasing our membership, member participation, and chapter income. Dave presented the action items to the members for discussion and input. A Steering Committee with four sub-committees was identified. These sub-committees will also break into working groups as necessary to accomplish the action plan. Volunteers and appointees will now fill out these committees, and they will accomplish the action plan during the next three months.

Two raffle plants were donated, one by Unbelievable Hibiscus, and the other by Wally and Zelma Neef. Pat Kramer and Tootie Baldini were winners.

The meeting was adjourned, followed by refreshments provided by Tootie Baldini and Bob Haendel.

Rae Flanders, Secretary

Coming Events

Saturday, December 5, Noon, Annual Christmas Luncheon:
Bradenton Country Club

Monday, December 7, 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting:
Central Library