

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

SHOW TIME!

What: The 46th Annual Hibiscus Show and Plant Sale, Sponsored by the Golby-Reasoner Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society.

Where: The Family Life Center of First Baptist Church, which is across 13th Street West from the church located on Manatee Ave.

When: The Set-up Day is Friday, March 19th beginning at 10:00 A.M. We will again be covering tables, some with newsprint and some with cloth, setting up the stage for the big winners, and staging the kitchen, judging, and bloom preparation areas. We should be wrapped up and ready for lunch or a ballgame about noon. Of course, all this depends on you being there and being a part of the effort. Everyone will be needed!

Saturday, September 20th – Show Day. Personnel Co-chairs **Janet** and **Mark Love** indicate that 8:30 a.m. or so would be a good time for everyone to be there however, several members have things to do that would require their being there earlier. Almost all members have specific responsibilities that will require them to be there during specific periods of time and **certainly the help of everyone is always required to pack up our “stuff” after four o’clock.**

Things to remember on Set-up Day

- Bring scissors – with your name on them for obvious reasons.
- Bring some new paper bags. The big ones from your favorite grocery store.
- Bring some plastic bags.

Things to remember on the day of the Show

- Bring blooms! (We know that is a big order after the winter we have had, but bring ‘em if you have ‘em.)
- Bring your contribution to the breakfast/brunch table.
- Wear your Golby-Reasoner shirt. (Don’t stay at home if you don’t have one or don’t care to wear it.)
- Wear your Chapter name tag. Ask someone who has one where they are.

- Wear comfortable shoes and consider leaving another comfortable pair in your car to change into at some point during the day.
- Please plan on helping with the “packing up” at 4:00 p.m. With everyone’s help, we should be ready to go home around 5:00 p.m.

General Show topics

1. Chapter members may purchase plants for \$12.00 (regular \$15) after four in the afternoon on the day of the show. (Once again, the general rule that all plants must be paid for prior to being placed in the holding area will be applied.)
2. Fertilizer sales. The fertilizer obtained from Southern Ag, that pretty much matches the recommended formula for Hibiscus, will again be sold at the show. This is the chance for Chapter members to get their year’s supply of this product that appears to be well thought of by everyone using it. It will be sold to the public for \$5.00 for 5 pounds. After 4:00 p.m. on the day of the show, members can buy it for \$3.00. As the old saying goes – “get it while the gettin’s good”.
3. It is very possible that we may experience a relatively small number of blooms being entered for judging and for display at the show. We would certainly hope for more blooms than last year, but the cold weather has damaged the plants of several of the large growers just like it did to plants in our yards. Please warmly greet those entering blooms – they “make” our show!

The show just gets better!

There will be several changes in the way the show will be set up this year that will make our show even better.

1. The youth worship center, which is adjacent to the room we have used for bloom preparation and breakfast/lunch, will be used to enlarge the bloom preparation space.
2. Rae and President Flanders were pro-active in approaching the Bradenton City fathers and others in the government and obtained a permit that allows us to block off the parking on 13th Street in front of the Family Life Center. Therefore, when the plants **arrive on carts** they will occupy the parking spaces and only the

tables required for the cashier operation will be on the sidewalk. The big news is, of course, that **NO** plants will have to be handled coming off and on the trailer!

3. It was determined shortly after last year's show that there would not be a "Gift Table" at this year's show.
4. First Baptist's office is undergoing some construction and the staff is currently occupying

the room that we used for the judges. This year the judges will be in the main room – the one containing the bloom tables.

5. When the judging is complete, the area that had been used for the judges will be converted into a "classroom" for the demonstrations to be presented during the show.

The Keys to Success

The Keys to Success of any worthwhile endeavor are the people who join together to bring about success, whatever that may be. Here are the 46th Annual Golby-Reasoner Hibiscus and Plant Sales "Keys to Success", that is, here are the folks who will be joining together to make our show a success – and the tasks for which they have volunteered.

	<u>Show Day A.M.</u>	<u>Show Day P.M.</u>
Suzanne "Tootie" Baldini,	Tally Clerk	Publication & Education
Pierrette "Petey" Birchell	Main Street Ambassador	Greeter
Shirley Boettcher	Plant Sales, Award staging	Plant Sales
Gayler Boettcher	Facilities Chair	Facilities Chair, Demonstrations
Norma Bryar	Tally Clerk	Kitchen
Judy Duncan	Award staging	Greeter
Marion Duncan	Banners, Award staging	Greeter
Dottie Erikson	Registration	Membership
Bill Faulls	Plant Sales	Plant Sales
Rae Flanders	Tally Clerk, Chair	Demonstrations
	Award staging	
Dave Flanders	Judging, Chair	Demonstrations
	Award staging	
Bob Haendel	Bloom Carrier, Signs	Plant Sales, Signs
Gene Haugh	Photos	Photos
Belle Hilt	Kitchen, Chair	Kitchen, Chair
Charles Hilt	Bloom Carrier	Greeter
Beege Hunter	Registration	Greeter
David Kaplan	Judging	Membership
Pat Kramer	Tally Clerk	Ass't Announcer
Carl Kramer	Tally Clerk	Announcer
Janet Love	Kitchen	Kitchen
Mark Love	Signs, Personnel	Personnel
Jeri Lovett	Registration/Bloom Carrier	Greeter
Marlyn Marshall	Tally Clerk	Plant Sales
Dee Pastorious	Bloom tables, Xmas Tree	Greeter
Maynard Pastorious	Bloom carrier	Plant Sales
Yvonne Santiago	Bloom tables, Xmas Tree	Greeter
Betty Seipel	Tally Clerk	Membership
Jack Taaffe	Main Street Ambassador	Publications & Education
Dotty Taaffe	Kitchen	Membership
Donny Waldroup	Plant Sales, Chair	Plant Sales, Chair
Dale Young	Signs	Publications & Education
Marilyn Young	Bloom tables	Publications & Education

In addition to the above list of members, we are most fortunate to have the support and assistance of several volunteers. Those folks include; Betty and Gary Bagley, Sean Nathan, Danielle and David Seipel, and Dean White. We greatly appreciate their invaluable help.

It's an April Picnic

For the transplanted northerners in our readership, the thought of an April picnic is really great! It is great because we can actually have a picnic in April – and best of all – be comfortable while we enjoy it! Our Annual Chapter Picnic is April 18th this year because the shelter at the Palma Sola Botanical Park (PSBP) was not available on our usual second Sunday meeting date. **Dorothy Erikson** is again organizing the whole event – thank heavens! We should mention that Dottie has had a helping hand, particularly in keeping the Board up to speed on special events, from **Bob Haendel**.

This year's annual event starts at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is chipping in \$3.00 this year to defray the cost of the shelter and the fried chicken, since our treasury is a bit under the weather. Of course, the picnic is a potluck so don't forget your "pot". Since the shelter at PSBP has nice picnic tables with built in seats, we don't have to take our own chairs.

In recent years, a highlight of our picnic is the report of the Nominating Committee, again being chaired this year by **David Kaplan**. Again this year it looks like we will be down to the last minute before the slate of nominees is complete. Dave has nerves of steel.

Dues are due!

Chapter membership dues will be collected, beginning at the picnic, April 18th. Single memberships are \$27.50 and family memberships are \$30.00. Treasurer **Shirley Boettcher** will gladly accept your checks.

Reflections about the Chapter: Bob Hunter

We are providing installments of **Bob Hunter's** historical perspective about the origins of our Chapter which were presented at the January 10th Chapter meeting. Remember that Bob's writing was meant to be spoken, not read – so listen as you read. We pick up the story with Pliny Reasoner starting his nursery.

"He ordered seeds from all over the world and scoured the Florida peninsula for plant specimens to nourish, raise and sell; ever expanding, learning and teaching. In 1885 he invited his younger brother, Egbert Norman, to come enjoy his Paradise with him, plus the fact he needed two extra hands and a strong back to work his ever growing nursery business. When Egbert, or "Ebby" as he came to be known, arrived Pliny changed the name of his burgeoning nursery to The Reasoner Brothers' Tropical Nursery and the business boomed and grew some more.

"This same year Pliny was invited to go exploring and vacationing with friends, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Simpson of Palma Sola on the maiden voyage of their

grand new sailing ship named "The Permit." It had been build in a boat yard on the shores of Palma Sola Bay, likely the same boat yard we see today across the street from the Pillsbury House not far from the point where Desoto is said to have landed. Today it is named Riverside Boat Works — previously Boca del Rio (mouth of the river) Boat Yard. It turned out to be not so much of a vacation but rather a busman's holiday as they searched for newly discovered specimens and collected stock for the growing nursery. Charlie Simpson's zeal for collecting exotic and rare sea shells was matched by Pliny's enthusiasm for plants, and each helped the other in their efforts along the route. Pliny had heard stories of giant cement-like trunk palm trees and was determined to find one. The first leg of their journey took them to Charlotte's Harbor, south of Boca Grande, Great Gasparilla, Captiva, and Sanibel, known even then as a haven of beautiful sea shells. Then cruising among the Ten Thousand Islands, Pliny saw for the first time the Geiger Tree, Jamaican Dogwood, great bunches of brick red trumpet shaped flowers, sopodilla, cancella, eggplant, avocados, coconuts, lime, and on and on. However, the high light on the entire voyage was Pliny's first view of the Royal Palm! The skipper had seen some of these on a previous voyage and thought he could retrace his path to find them. Pliny wrote "All hands were on watch for the palms, like Columbus' followers straining their eye for a sight of land and as we reached a sudden bend in the river, they came into view, the Royal Palms of the West Indies, towering high above the forest of mangroves and cabbage palms, balancing the great tufts of dark pinnate leaves, far up in mid air."

More next month...

Hibiscus Gardening in April

The forthcoming show required much of the space of this issue of PETAL POWER and therefore we will not spend time "in the garden" this month. We know that some of our readers will have, or still have to make, the hard decisions about their cold weather damaged hibiscus. These decisions have to do with the question about whether the plants have enough life remaining to justify retaining them. It's is not easy and we wish these folks well.

Coming Events

Friday, March 19, 10:00 a.m. – Show Set-up Day
Saturday, March 20, Annual Show and Plant Sale
Family Life Center, First Baptist Church

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

April 18, Annual Chapter Picnic
Palma Sola Botanical Park