

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

May, 2010

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Installation Brunch

Having our Chapter "Installation Brunch" (we may be initiating a new title for it) at Peridia County Club is becoming an annual occasion. Those who have attended in past years will surely attest to the lovely décor of the club house and dining room, the absolutely delicious food, and the ridiculously large selection of breakfast and luncheon foods that tempted everyone to over-eat. That being the case, the prospect of having our June installations there annually sounds pretty good!

Whether we continue to meet there after this year or not, we will gather there on June 13th. That's Sunday, June 13th at 12:30 p.m., at Peridia County Club. **Dottie Erikson** is using this gathering at Peridia as her "curtain call" as Special Events Chairperson. Please make a point of thanking Dottie for the effort she has expended as she arranged and coordinated the outstanding events she has planned and that we all enjoyed during the past several years. She will indeed be missed.

The Chapter is picking up the cost of the brunch that exceeds \$15.00. Therefore, members will pay \$15.00 and non-member guests, \$19.00.

We are going to repeat the directions to Peridia that we used in last year's May issue of PETAL POWER, as follows: "The entrance to Peridia CC is at the first left after the stop light at 37th Street E. on Route 70 (53rd Ave. E.). Of course that assumes that one is coming from the Bradenton area. For the 10% that may be coming from the east, Peridia's entrance is the second right after the Post Office at 39th Street E. and SR 70. After entering Peridia, the club house is on the left, about 5 or 6 ill-defined blocks from the entrance."

Yeah, Dues are due...

Okay, there aren't many ways that can be said. A number of our members have not paid their dues yet – and the dues are due! The tab is the same as it has been for a number of years - \$30.00 for a family membership and \$27.50 for a single. (\$25.00 of each membership goes to the American Hibiscus Society.) Bring your checks to the Installation Brunch (cash is accepted, with proper ID of course) or send them to **Shirley Boettcher**, Treasurer, 9213 Forrester Dr. Bradenton, FL 34202.

Excerpts from Board meeting 5/3/10

Discussion was held on whether to cancel either the July or August Chapter meeting, with the preceding month having no Petal Power. It was decided to have the Chapter membership vote on which month to cancel the meeting.

An "Angel Wing" hibiscus tree was planted at the Crosley Mansion the Saturday before the picnic, and is being watered by the Crosley gardeners. There will be a ceremony later to dedicate it to the memory of Pat Grant.

Gayler asked for 20 minutes at the June 7 Board Meeting to brainstorm possible Chapter programs for the coming year and that all Board members come prepared with ideas.

Rae will call **Jeanne Nathan** to have telephone callers remind members that Shirley is collecting dues now.

"Neighborhood" Shows

There are two hibiscus shows in the latter part of May and the first part of June, sponsored by Chapters that could be termed our neighbors. The Sunset Chapter show in Pinellas Park is May 30th and the James Hendry Chapter show in Fort Myers is June 6th. Directions are in the second quarter "Seed Pod". Plan on attending one or more of these shows. It is always fun to see how others produce shows and of course the blooms are always breath taking.

Eric Golby, .December 11, 1908 - April 21, 2004

It was just a few weeks and six years ago that Eric Golby passed on to what for him must surely be the finest garden (not) imaginable. Those who knew Eric marveled at the vast knowledge this brilliant man possessed and the unassuming way he would share that knowledge if pressed. Eric was a founder of our Chapter and certainly deserved the "Mr. Hibiscus" title that he humbly wore. May his memory (along with the memory of his wife, Sally) live on for many years as their surname is a part of our Chapter's name.

No August Meeting

Although it is in the meeting minutes in this issue we will mention the fact that the members present at the May Chapter meeting voted to not have a Chapter meeting in August. A couple other things will also not happen. There will be no Board meeting in August – and there will be no PETAL POWER in July! (The exclamation point is for our benefit only.)

Reflections on our Chapter's origins

By 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 after Pliny Reasoner had discovered the Royal Palm and after his father and Ebby had cruised the coast and Pliny was taking another cruise.

“In Pliny's lucid journal of their second cruise he matter-of-factly records the sighting of ominous quarantine flags mounted on buoys at the entrances to waterfront communities warning ships of yellow fever epidemics on shore. The disease was rampant in the State and claiming many lives each day.

“Egmont Key was a quarantine station and warning flags were flown at the approaches to any sizable piece of land or island. Egmont was the entrance to Tampa Bay and the Manatee River where the city of Palmetto was an epicenter of an epidemic of yellow fever.

“As we live our everyday lives we don't stop to think of the many hardships our forbearers experienced in the process of making a new State or Nation a safer place to live. Early settlement years were full of every day threats such as HIN1, poliomyelitis, pneumonia, malaria, and dysenteries!

“Pliny was appointed Superintendent and Horticultural Commissioner for the Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition in Jacksonville. Immediately afterwards he was appointed one of three Commissioners to the Florida Exhibit at the Cotton States Centennial in Cincinnati where it was necessary he remain until the Exposition ended in September.

“In spite of his eagerness to return home, his family urged that he stay away until the epidemic subsided with the coming of cooler weather. However, since he had been absent for so long a time, he returned promptly in mid-September. Three days after he returned he became ill and developed a fever, summoned a physician and, on

September 17, 1888 Pliny Reasoner died of yellow fever at 24 years of age!

“To his younger brother, Egbert, we now shall direct our attention.

“Ebby was utterly deflated with the untimely death of his brother. He was 19 years old and had the full weight of the entire family and its financial future weighing on his shoulders. But the saying goes, you can't keep a good man (or woman) down.

“The Nursery prospered and grew with the help of his mother and father, sisters and new wife, Sarah. He, Ebby, became as gifted a writer as was Pliny as he wrote this: “Ever since the world began, beautiful gardens, flowers, fruits and trees have been the unfailing accomplishments of intelligence and wealth. Perhaps the gardens also (as has been said of public highways of the country) may be indicative of the degree of civilization that a nation has reached — the most enlightened nations of the earth cultivate the food processing plants in the greatest perfection, grow the choicest fruits in the greatest profusion, and the most beautiful flowers and trees to delight other and higher senses than that of taste.

“Ebby managed the nursery perfectly; returned the nursery to perfection after ruinous low temperatures brought havoc to tender plants, seedlings, and seed beds; expanded the mail order business and continued developing his own horticultural acumen. And he didn't die a young man as did his brother.

“Ebby and Sarah produced Norman Reasoner, father of this august chapter and the American Hibiscus Society, and father of Bud after whom Bud was named and (husband of the afore mentioned Rae, and grandfather of Andy and Ward).”

We shall pick up the story again next month ...

June Hibiscus Gardening

Summer officially begins June 21st, but Florida's summer is already well on its way when June arrives. However, we did have several weeks of spring this year, following a really cold winter. It was nice to have a spring, considering that it seems we tend to have years that go directly from winter to summer.

June is the first month of our rainy season, but that doesn't mean that it will really rain. Eric recalled that “in 1931 we only had one tenth inch of rain after having 25 inches in 1930! ... There is no consistency from year to year, there are wet Junes and dry Junes.” So don't

believe the calendar and don't wait for yellow leaves to appear on your hibiscus before watering. Yellow leaves mean you are a day or two late in providing water and the cost of that error will be in blooms in the following weeks.

Blooms should be abundant although the hot weather will affect some blooming – and affect some varieties more than others. Of course you try to pick your blooms, but if you miss some the day they open, pick them off as soon as you see them. The plant will, to a degree, continue to spend energy on spent blooms and we want that energy placed in producing new blooms.

Continue with a fertilization program and be diligent with spraying for critter control as necessary. Soap or soap and oil spray should give reasonable control. Make sure to follow all the “don'ts” when using either type spray. Particularly don't spray in the direct sun or during the heat of the day. Should those sprays not provide adequate control, *Acephate* continues to appear in *Ortho* products and is a pretty good control for the hibiscus hobbyist.

Watch for young grasshoppers. There have been numerous grasshoppers spotted during May this year. By June, they all will have hatched and will be active. When they are young, *Sevin*, sprayed weekly will provide a measure of control. Mature grasshoppers are another matter. Two bricks.....?

Chapter Meeting May 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Synovus Bank meeting room. President Flanders welcomed the 14 members in attendance.

The minutes of the April 4 meeting, as printed in Petal Power, were approved and passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Shirley Boettcher. The beginning balance as of April 30, 2010 is \$3,201.74. We had an income of \$154.00, expenses of \$125.57, leaving a balance of \$3,230.17. A motion was made and passed that the financial report be approved.

President Flanders asked to keep the following members in our thoughts and prayers: Dorothy Erikson, who had an automobile accident and both Yvonne Santiago and Jeri Lovett, who have ill family members.

The tickets for next month's Installation Luncheon on June 13 at Peridia Country Club will be \$15.00, with the excess being paid out of the treasury. Either Dottie Erikson or Shirley Boettcher will collect your payment.

The 2010/2011 dues are now due. They may be mailed to Shirley Boettcher.

Members decided by show of hands to cancel the August Chapter Meeting. There will also be no August Board Meeting. The corresponding Petal Power will not be published.

A motion for a unanimous vote for the new slate of officers passed. The new officers, to be installed on June 13 at Peridia Country Club, are:

President	Gayler Boettcher
1 st Vice Pres.	Bob Haendel
2 nd Vice Pres.	Yvonne Santiago
Secretary	Rae Flanders
Treasurer	Shirley Boettcher
Dir., 2011/12	Don Waldroup
Dir., 2012/13	Beege Hunter
Dir., 2012/13	Dotty Taaffe
Past Pres.	Dave Flanders

Jeri Lovett introduced our speaker, Scott Richards, Garden Department Manager of the Cortez Road Home Depot, who spoke on cold hardy plants in the landscape. He answered questions and left hand-outs for everyone.

Gayler Boettcher won the raffle plant, “Bodacious Burgundy”.

The meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments were served by Janet Love and Rae Flanders.

Rae Flanders, Secretary

We Have a New Member:

Please welcome:

Dean White
6332 Cornell Rd.
Bradenton, FL 34207
Tel. 224-7651
flashgordon24@verizon.net

Coming Events

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

Sunday, June 13, 12:30 p.m. Luncheon Meeting
Installation of Officers and Board Members
Peridia County Club