

# Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter  
American Hibiscus Society

November, 2003

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## Eric is 95!

Some may feel that birthdays are particularly special when they celebrate an age that is divisible by 5 or 10. May we submit that after someone attains 90 years of age, each birthday is spectacularly special. It is therefore with great pleasure that we, speaking for all Chapter members, wish Eric Golby a spectacular 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, December 11<sup>th</sup>!

Those under the age of 95, which is everyone save a very few, can only hope for similar longevity. It only seems appropriate that a man who has characteristics many might desire would also engender a measure of envy by simply (?) celebrating his birthday.

## 'Tis the Season

Indeed the season of yuletide cheer, decorated trees, and brightly wrapped packages is upon us. And all those things will be found at the Chapter Annual Christmas Party, beginning at noon on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Bradenton Yacht Club. If you don't have your ticket, want to attend and have not been contacted, call Karin Delbert (794-5271).

For our new members, we should and will mention that this is a dress-up event.

There will be a Christmas tree to decorate, as only the Golby-Reasoner Chapter does it – with hibiscus blooms of course! So bring whatever blooms you have. However, do not bring ants! The party takes place in a dining room that does not serve picnic lunches, so ants are neither expected nor desired by the management.

For a number of years, it has seemed to help Chapter members get in the Christmas spirit to bring presents for the children of migrant workers to the Christmas Party. It is either that or we just like to help less fortunate folks, because there is always a bunch of presents under the hibiscus tree. Bring a gift (or gifts) of new clothing, wrapped, with a note/tag on the outside stating the gender and age of the child for whom the gift is intended. Join in this expression of giving that is so much a part of the Season. Besides, they really look good under the tree.

**Directions**, for the adventure which is a trip to the Yacht Club, are really pretty easy to write out and hopefully, easy to follow. For those who haven't been there, let's start by saying, it's on Sned Island. Let us furthermore say, for a place to start, that you will take one of the bridges over the Manatee River going north out of beautiful downtown Bradenton. Eight or ten blocks after crossing the river, turn left (west) on 10<sup>th</sup> Street (remember, "Streets" run east and west in Palmetto). After several miles you will cross a small bridge which puts you on Sned Island. Immediately after crossing the bridge, you will see the Yacht Club on your left.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the 2004 officers and board members elected at the November Chapter Meeting! We particularly want to welcome three people who are new to the group of officers/board members. New board members are Dottie Erikson and Alvin Morgan, relatively new members of our Chapter. Our new First Vice-President is Beege Hunter – and yes, we can say with confidence that although Beege is a long-time Chapter member she has not been an officer or board member previously. While this may be her first term of office, it is

surely not because she hasn't been pursued in past years. We welcome and thank all our first time office holders for making the commitment of time and effort necessary to be an officer or board member.

We offer the same words of welcome and thanks to those who are serving another term in office or are completing a term of office. Those serving another one year term are Phyllis Mohn (Treasurer), Gayler Boettcher (Secretary) and Gene Haugh (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President after having been away from the Board for two years). (*Editor's Note: In the interest of full disclosure it must be stated that in addition to serving as Secretary, Boettcher also serves as Editor of **Petal Power**. If you think holding both positions, provides him some unfair advantage – you are definitely delusional. The same thinking pertains to Gene Haugh who is **Petal Power** Publisher.)*

Completing their terms of office as board members are Janet Love, Tom Tourt, Roy Bradley, and Frank Vejrostek. We send our thanks to each of these folks.

As we recognize the incoming officers and board members, we also need to say a word of appreciation to those going out of office, which includes Karin Delbert, Betty Seipel, and Trudy Topolosky. These folks will be missed on the Board; however we know they will still be “there” for the Chapter “doin’ what needs to be done.”

And then there is Pat Grant. Pat's circumstance would have fit into at least one of the categories we have discussed previously. However, we wanted to single Pat out for particular mention since she is moving from 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President to President. As you might expect, the job of president is not one that has a waiting list of possible candidates. While the job can provide a feeling of accomplishment, etc., it can also give the incumbent some less than pleasing feelings. Pat is well aware of the possible ups and downs of the job, since she has been there before (1998-99). With this in mind, we should all give our heartfelt thanks to Pat Grant for accepting the presidency. Let's make sure we give her all the help we can.

### Behind the scene Heroes!

Each Chapter member receives a call as a reminder about the month's meeting/event, if such a call is required. That call comes from a fellow Chapter member who is another of the “behind the scene Heroes” that make our Chapter work.

The people doing the calling are a part of, logically enough, “The Telephone Committee”. Most every month, the Chair of the Committee, Jeanne Nathan calls the six members of the committee to assure they have the information to be communicated. The calls to the rest of the Chapter members begin at that point.

The six callers are Karin Delbert, Beege Hunter, Bree Pressimone, Betty Seipel, Dotty Taaffe, and Trudy Topolosky. We offer a very special tip of the hat to these folks for reminding us about where we should be, when, and sometimes “why”.

We understand that there is another step in the calling process that assures no one has bunches of calls to make. That step would take place when a caller is unable to make the calls but has another person ready to make the calls for them. Smooth – that's smooth.

### Show location and date changing.

For those who may not read the minutes of the Chapter meeting in this issue of **Petal Power**, we thought we would repeat the news that our 2004 Show will be held on Saturday, September 18 (the third Saturday) at the First Baptist Church, 1306 Manatee West. While many things must fall into place in the next ten months or so, the prospect of the change provides for the possibility of considerable expense reduction while maintaining our ability to host an outstanding show. 2004 is sure to be another exciting year for the Golby-Reasoner Chapter!

## Donny Waldroup & air layering

Donny Waldroup did a fine job at the November Chapter meeting discussing and demonstrating air layering. For those who were not at the meeting and are unfamiliar with air layering, it is a means whereby a larger plant is propagated in a shorter length of time than is necessary with other methods.

Since it was apparent that air layering was “news” to a number of the folks in attendance, our reporter at the meeting stated that we would reprint a slip sheet on the subject that we had included in a *Petal Power* a number of years ago. However, after the Editor reread what the “Hibiscus Handbook” had to say on the subject, it was decided that rather than incur the expense of reprinting, we would (join Donny and) direct those having an interest in the subject to the handbook. (Donny referred to the handbook during his presentation.) The old and new editions of the handbook are virtually the same on the subject.

Air layering is a quick and fun way to propagate many different plants, not just hibiscus. We suggest that air layering will be most successful on hibiscus that are vigorous as a variety and as an individual plant.

## Hibiscus gardening in December

There is not a whole lot one can do in the hibiscus garden in December. Of course most garden plants will require little attention this month. It will tend to be dry, so watering will be called for from time to time and even the critters are not active. However, if we have a long period of warm weather, aphids may appear. Blooms will be at a minimum.

Keep the items required to protect your hibiscus from cold weather in readiness. Stay aware of the weather forecasts and “translate” what the forecast says into the impact it will have on the particular area you live in. As we have discussed previously, our weather varies considerable from the islands to east of I75. (Channel 9 on Bright House tends to give forecasts for Lakewood Ranch, which may be helpful to “Easteners”.)

We believe it was “Mr. Hibiscus” Eric Golby who said something like, “December is a good time to reflect on what you should have done differently in the garden in the past year – and to make plans for the coming year.” Perhaps if we did that every year, we might save ourselves a lot of work.

## Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS

### Chapter Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2003

The meeting was called to order by First Vice-President Pat Grant at 2:04 PM.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the September 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting be approved as published in *Petal Power*. The motion passed.

There were no committee reports.

Vice-President Grant discussed the highlights of the November 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors’ Meeting:

- a. The 2004 calendar of meetings and events was adopted.
- b. Discussed the possible placement of a Japanese lantern as a Reasoner memorial at Palma Sola Botanical Park.
- c. Discussed a meeting at Selby Gardens about the hibiscus garden there.
- d. Determined that the 2004 Chapter Show would be held at the First Baptist Church on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Grant reviewed the slate of officers and board members for 2004 as nominated at the October meeting, which was as follows: President – Pat Grant, First Vice-President – Beege Hunter, Second Vice-President – Gene

Haugh, Secretary – Gayler Boettcher, Treasurer – Phyllis Mohn, 2006 Directors – Dottie Erikson & Alvin Morgan.

A motion was made and seconded that the slate stand approved as is. The motion carried.

Treasurer Phyllis Mohn reported that the balance on hand September 30, 2003 was \$4,988.82. During the month there was income of \$58.00 and expense of \$268.64, resulting in an October 31<sup>st</sup> balance of \$4,778.18.

Program Chairperson, Len Erikson introduced Donny Waldroup to present the program - “Air Layering”.

Vice-President Grant reminded everyone attending that the December meeting would be the annual Christmas Party at the Bradenton Yacht Club. Gifts for the migrant worker children should be brought to the Party.

The raffle, for an *Anna Lynn* hibiscus, was won by the ticket seller, Carl Kramer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Gayler Boettcher  
Secretary

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

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Cold Porcelain Creations! Lifelike Hibiscus and other flowers, singles/bouquets. Yvonne Santiago: (941) 727-7293, vonry01@aol.com, or [www.coldporcelaincreations.com](http://www.coldporcelaincreations.com)