

# Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter  
American Hibiscus Society

July, 2004

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## Good News! We have a Show Set-Up Day!

There will be a set-up day for the annual Show and it will be on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>! That is really good news for everyone concerned with producing the Show—and that is and should be all Chapter members. Isn't it fun being a producer—being a part of show biz and all?

In case you were not aware, we were planning on setting up the tables and chairs after 8:30 p.m. on Friday and doing the decorating beginning at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, the day of the Show. However, the First Baptist Church organization that used the Family Life Center on Friday evenings has now moved their meetings to Sunday evening, thereby freeing up the Center, for us, all day Friday! Therefore, we will begin the set-up and decoration process at 9:00 a.m. Friday morning. Since we have to set the tables and chairs in place, which was not part of the drill on set-up days at the Auditorium, we can expect the major part of the process to last three to four hours. Gee, do you supposed some folks might decide a late soup and salad lunch at the Olive Garden, or somewhere else, would be a fitting end to a job well done?

Now is the time to reserve both September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the Set-Up Day and the day of the Show—2004 editions. Doing our thing in a new location should be fun, particularly when one considers the dollar savings we achieve by moving the Show to First Baptist. Making or saving money is always fun!



*Pat Houppert, Rae Flanders, and Bill Faulls linger with the recently-elected Dave Flanders*

### Congratulations Dave Flanders!!

It was announced at the AHS national convention that Dave Flanders, a past president of our Chapter, had been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Hibiscus Society. We are sure we speak for all Chapter members when we say congratulations and best wishes, Dave! The Chapter hasn't had a representative from our Chapter on the Board or serving as an elected officer of the AHS for a number of years. You may have had thoughts about what the AHS should or should not be doing that you would have liked to express, but it was inconvenient to put them in the hopper. Not now! Talk to Dave or give him a call.

Dave received another piece of news at the convention. The (out-going) President of the AHS, Roz Merritt, awarded Dave the 2004 Presidential Citation for Distinguished Service. According to an eye witness, this was apparently completely unexpected by Dave, which made the recognition even better. The citation was awarded for Dave's outstanding leadership of the President's Committee, which is made up of all AHS chapter presidents. To hear Dave tell it, he did what most anyone would, which is arguable, but he did it and others hadn't. Again, congratulations David Flanders!

## Congratulations Chapter Members!!

Our Chapter members voted in exceptional numbers in the recent AHS election. Eighty-six percent – that's **86%** - of our memberships voted! Good job folks! We think we heard that only 15% of our members voted last year.

Dave Flanders was selected by two-thirds of all voters – a total of 205 votes were cast for Dave. That was the highest number of votes received by any candidate for the Board of Directors. Of course a sizeable number of those votes came from the Golby-Reasoner Chapter – and so they should have since Dave is, what's the political term, - a "favorite son". And he is, too!

## Haku Lei Workshop...

### Sign up NOW!

There has been lots of interest in the Haku Lei workshop which will be conducted by Meg Bossert, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> at Pat and Bill Grant's home. Therefore if you haven't "signed up" – do it now by calling Meg at 778-7692.

While some of our male members may feel this is not for them, we will hasten to mention that your lady friend will want to go and we **do** want them happy – AND – there will be a **potluck lunch!** From past experience, we know that will insure the attendance of a bunch of our members regardless of gender.

Mini double hibiscus blooms will be needed. Fern and other supplies will be provided – a \$2.00 donation will be accepted.

It is always a treat to visit the Grants' home and on a Saturday morning it should be delightful, complete with a great view and a cooling breeze. A map showing the way to the Grant's was included in last month's *Petal Power* and we will either reprint that or give directions next month.

## August Chapter Meeting = Show Topics

For our new members, the above equation is a given on the Golby-Reason calendar. That is, the August Chapter meeting will be all about our September show. It is usually the best attended regular meeting of the year. Why? Everyone is interested to know what might be different this year, compared with previous years, and just perhaps, they are just a mite excited. So, new members, come and let a bit of that excitement rub off on you!

## Buy your Chapter shirt!

A further reason to attend the August 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting is that a supply of the official Chapter shirts will be available for purchase. Everyone is urged to wear their shirts at all Chapter events, but particularly at the Annual Show. Therefore, while you may be able to pick up a shirt somehow after the August meeting, the best time to purchase one will be at the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The supply is limited so get yours while they may still be available in your size.

### Reminder #3

This is your third reminder (seems like more doesn't it?) about the needs of the Gift Table venture at the Show for your "stuff". The technical term "stuff" in this reference means the items you will be donating for the gift table. Remember that hibiscus-related items are certainly the most sought after things at a hibiscus show while any garden-related items are also good prospects to sell well. After that, anything in very good condition will be gratefully accepted. Everything you take should be priced, realistically.



### Chapter members linger...

About 40 Chapter members lingered at the Linger Lodge, July 11<sup>th</sup>, at the annual restaurant meeting. It seemed most everyone enjoyed the good food and good fellowship. For some the close proximity of a full service bar could have influenced their feeling about both the food and the fellowship. Of course the décor (is that too fancy a word?) is always at least interesting as illustrated above. You can see a Linger Lodge slideshow at the new website ([www.hibiscus.com](http://www.hibiscus.com)).

The Linger Lodge owner and host, Frank Gamsky, was seen visiting, and (we assume) telling jokes and assorted tall tales, at several of the tables where our members were sitting. It just so happened that on the morning of the "meeting" Vin Mannix, Herald columnist, wrote that Mr. Gamsky was a comic who moonlights as proprietor of Linger Lodge. He then went on to attribute the following story to Gamsky.

"I rode a horse the other day and all of a sudden that son-of-gun started bucking and turning and threw me off," he said. "My foot got caught in the stirrup and I was bouncing around, my head hitting the ground as he kept bucking. I tell ya, I thought I was a goner.

"Fortunately the Wal-Mart store manager came out and pulled the plug. Lucky for me it was a quarterhorse."

### Convention notes

Several of our Chapter members attended the national AHS convention and those who we talked with had nothing but good things to say about the convention and the efforts the town of Punta Gorda made to make the convention a festive event. Chapter members attending were the Grants, Hunters, Flanders – and the Bryans. Ed and Beverly Bryan are long time members of the AHS and are Chapter members that we don't see enough. Of course, the fact that they live in Riverview may have something to do with that. Our reporter last saw them at Eric Golby's funeral which we expected, since they thought highly of both Eric and Sally.

In view of the many positive aspects of the 2004 edition of the annual convention, the 2005 convention will also be held in Punta Gorda. Since the convention site is less than an hour away for our members – after getting on I75 – it should be expected that next year we should have one of the largest contingents attending. Let's do it!

Oh yes, one other news item coming from a business session at the convention. The AHS dues will increase \$5.00, effective August 1, 2004. Our dues will be increased accordingly. If you have not paid your dues – be sure to do it and do it before August first. For a limited time only – individual memberships are \$22.50 and family memberships are \$25.00.

Dave Flanders reports that during the chapter president's meeting at the convention, "It appears our dues are, or are among the lowest, with most chapters charging \$30 to \$35 per membership. Not that this makes an increase anymore palatable".

The causes of the increase are innumerable. Probably the foremost cause is the loss of memberships – down 100. The cost of printing *The Seed Pod* has also taken a jump, which will apparently be somewhat decreased by changing printers. Of particular importance to our Chapter, an organization that holds a show to which the public is invited, the cost of the blanket liability insurance policy held by the AHS tripled. It is still a real bargain at \$1,500.00.

## Board of Directors Business

In their wisdom, the writers of our Chapter Bylaws placed the authority for the conduct of much of the business of the Chapter in the Board of Directors. The result has been relatively short Chapter business meetings which are appreciated by everyone. There is nothing more detrimental to the longevity of any social/common interest organization than long business meetings. Conversely the Board meetings can be rather lengthy. However, if Board meetings can last an hour and a half or so with not more than 12 in attendance – how long would it take to cover the same ground in a meeting with 30 plus there? If there is indeed a direct correlation between the number in a meeting and the length of the meeting (and there is, but not a direct one)– it would take about a four hour meeting. Probably not, but you get the idea.

At the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors there was a consensus that in order to better inform the membership of the direction the Chapter is taking, as directed by the Board of Directors, excerpts of Board meeting minutes should be placed in *Petal Power*. Routine items would not be included, but subjects of substance and action items would be. Therefore, our loyal readers will see a headline, exhibiting our usual flair for originality, in this and forthcoming issues that will read something like -

## July 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting Minutes Excerpts

President Grant announced that Dave Flanders was elected to the AHS Board of Directors. He was also presented the President's Citation at the National Convention, for his work as Chairman of the Chapter President's Committee.

In other action at the Convention, the AHS annual dues were increased to \$25.00 per membership. Since our Chapter Bylaws provides for the pass through of such increases, Chapter memberships will increase to \$27.50 (individual) and \$30.00 (family), effective August 1, 2004.

The Norman Reasoner Trophy has been retired and will be returned to our Chapter. The "trophy", in the form of a plaque, will continue to be awarded.

Several plants have perished in the PSBP hibiscus garden. Dave Flanders will discuss their demise with Curt Sinclair and work with Donny Waldroup to solve the problem.

Gene Haugh has placed the monthly articles about hibiscus gardening that have appeared in *Petal Power* into booklet form, entitled “Hibiscus Care Month by Month”. Through discussion, it was agreed that the booklets will be sold at the Show for \$2.00 and it is believed that a copy will be given to those joining the Chapter at the Show. A motion carried to produce 100 copies of “Hibiscus Care Month by Month”.

Janet Love presented and discussed a budget for the 2004 Show at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. A motion was passed to approve the 2004 Show budget as presented and amended.

## Reducing Transmittable Disease...

We are talking about plant care here—and the care of cutting equipment used during pruning. Many months ago, Samuel H. Andrews, a well respected contributor to THML , treated the subject as follows:

“... alcohol or bleach is more than sufficient for sterilizing between cuts. As to ‘healthy appearance’, I dip my shears, grafting knife, etc. regardless of ‘wood appearance’ and wash my hands after dealing with seriously diseased wood. (As you are probably aware, bleach is a more effective disinfectant across a wider range of pathogens such as viruses. However, it can corrode metals, bleach clothes, and hands, so I use it less frequently and always wash my metal shears thoroughly with plain water before putting them a way. Never leave your metal tools sitting in bleach overnight!)”

## August Hibiscus Gardening

Wow, it’s August and it’s hot! Of course it has been for some time. July seemed particularly uncomfortable. Here are two items from our wish list. (1.) We wish the TV weather people wouldn’t keep telling what the dew point is. (2.) We wish we hadn’t learned that anytime the dew point is over 70, which it is during most of July and August, we can expect to feel miserable when we are outside.

However, as gardeners, outside we must go because the same factors that make us feel so miserable, tend to invigorate critters that may be harmful to our hibiscus and other plants and also provide an excellent environment for plant disease. Just keeping enough water on our plants in this hot weather is a challenge. Someplace in the Tampa Bay area gets rain almost every day during July and August, but a specific back yard seldom gets rain every day. Therefore, again we say (maybe was it Peggy Dessaint that saidn it) that the best friend your plants can have is your shadow – every day. That is, if you are close enough to cast a shadow on your plants you (1) are there and (2) you are close enough to see what they need to be happy.

During August, be ready to give your plants an afternoon shower if they look droopy (they will love you for it) to cool them off and to upset the breeding cycle of several insects that are detrimental to the health of your plants. If that doesn’t provide continuing relief from noticeable insect problems, apply a good systemic insecticide on at least an every other week schedule.

*Orthene* was the product of choice for many years, but is no longer on garden center shelves. *Orthene* was an Ortho brand name for Acephate, which was available in *Isotox* long after *Orthene* disappeared, but *Isotox* is no longer being seen as it was a year or so ago. Walmart may still have some. However, Ortho now has a product descriptively named “Systemic Insect Killer” which contains Acephate and in the corner of the front label is something like “replaces *Isotox*”. Two other Ortho products containing Acephate were recently noticed on garden center shelves. So while *Orthene* is gone, the active ingredient that was in it is still available under several different labels. We have seen some mention of *Triazicide*, which is readily available, in The Hibiscus Mail List with an indication that some have had good results with it.

Luckily, hibiscus tend to have few diseases. Of course that is true of most plants, excluding roses. Harmful insects tend to be the problem – look at the relative shelf space given to insecticides and fungicides in retail stores. However, if your plants are going to have a disease problem, this is a prime time of year for them to “come down” with something. If you have roses, you almost assuredly have Ortho’s fungicide *Funginex* which

is good on hibiscus. *Daconil*, also from Ortho, is a more wide spectrum fungicide which can be used on most everything for almost everything. Interestingly *Daconil* is no longer labeled for lawns. From a consumer standpoint – it appears Ortho took lawns off the label, decreased the size of the bottle and raised the price. If someone wanted to use *Daconil* on a lawn today, and had an old label showing dilution rates, it would be a relatively expensive venture.

The fertilizer the Chapter obtains to sell at the Show is a slow release formula. However, the combination of hot weather and the water needed to keep plants alive takes a toll on fertilizer. You may need to fertilize more frequently than recommended on the label insert during the summer months. While our hibiscus may not produce many blooms in the hot weather we must do what we can to keep them healthy as we look forward to cooler weather and all the gold ribbon blooms we will have come September 18<sup>th</sup>!

## Hibiscus Discrimination Problem Resolved

*Plantation Dew*, a newly-announced organic natural product, has overcome a long-standing case of discrimination exemplified by hibiscus blooms (and many other flowers). "Using this stuff produces blooms containing sta-ladies as often as sta-mens", explained a company spokeslady and a spokesman. They said (while continuing to speak in unison) that it will become available nation-wide at selected natural product super-centers, once a supply can be found in the company's warehouse. Sure...

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

## Need Directions?

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Hibiscus  
Show**

*Come and join the fun  
when it's the Golby-  
Reasoner Chapter's  
Show Time!*

**Saturday, September 18, 2004**  
Now at the Family Life Center, First Baptist Church  
**Corner of 13th St. W. and 4th Ave W., Bradenton, FL**  
Entries: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Sale: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Public Exhibition: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Phone (941) 722-1748

The map shows a horizontal line representing a road. On the left, a vertical line labeled '13th St. W.' intersects it. On the right, a vertical line labeled '4th Ave W.' intersects it. A double-headed arrow between these two vertical lines is labeled '6.5 Miles'. Above the horizontal line, 'I-75 North' is written. Below the horizontal line, 'SR 64' and 'Exit 220' are written. At the bottom, 'Manatee Ave' is written, with 'Bus 41' and '41' below it.

## Coming Events

August 6 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting, South Branch Library  
August 8 2:00 p.m. Chapter Meeting, Annual Show Topics  
August 28 10:30 a.m. Haku Lei Workshop at the Grants' home  
September 17 9:00 a.m. Set-Up for Annual Show  
September 18 Annual Show and Plant Sale

