

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

March, 2005

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How 'bout a picnic in the park?

That's just what the Chapter is having – in April instead of the usual May, due the Show being in May this year. Once again the Chapter will buy fried chicken, and a potluck (goodie, goodie) will provide the side dishes. If you have not been contacted about coming and plan to do so, call Pat Grant (351-1596) and tell her what you will be bringing. The picnic will again be on Longboat Key at Joan Durante Park. As one comes from either direction on Gulf of Mexico Drive, there is a large sign that says “Joan Durante Park 500 feet” – then watch for the flagpole on the east of the road, which marks the park entrance – then follow the road to the pavilion.

Dues due in April?!

Since the Show is in May, the usual month to begin collecting Chapter membership dues, the dues drive will start in April this year. Therefore, come to the picnic with your checkbook. You may recall that the AHS increased their dues \$5.00, to \$25.00 late last year. According to our bylaws, our Chapter dues automatically increase by a similar amount – to \$27.50 for single memberships and \$30.00 for family memberships.

PSBP Spring Plant Sale

We echo President Flanders' remarks in the March Chapter meeting, which are chronicled in the minutes appearing in this issue of *Petal Power*, in which he thanked everyone who had a part in making the Chapter booth at the PSBP Spring Plant Sale a big success. We understand that special thanks should go to Pat Grant. We won't attempt to tell the rather long story that's involved, but suffice it to say that Pat obtained some of “our” special hibiscus fertilizer and even “bagged up” a bunch. Guess what turned out to be a major part of the sales at our booth. Thanks Pat!

Hibiscus – Malaysia's national pride

Due to Gene Haugh's diligence we were made aware of a February 2nd article in *The Star online* with the above title. The thrust of the lengthy article revolved around comments by Malaysia's Director-General of the National Landscaping Department that are summarized by the following: “It is our national flower, a symbol of our strength and independence yet it is not obvious in our physical environment. We definitely feel the need to ‘glorify’ it once more, especially among schoolchildren.”

To promote hibiscus, the central government will supply schools with plants and will ask local governments, non-governmental agencies, and private companies to help promote the flower. The *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* (that's what we grow) – is the most commonly found species of hibiscus in Malaysia and was declared their national flower in 1960. It was chosen because of its characteristics that were considered to symbolize bravery and strength.

March 4th Board Meeting Minutes Excerpts

Under Old Business, President Flanders discussed the contribution that the Browns made in making a 197 mile round trip to La Belle to bring plants from Curt Sinclair for the West Florida Home and Garden Show.

The practice of giving Chapter Meeting speakers a gift will include speakers who are chapter members. A motion to this effect was made and passed.

Under New Business, Janet Love announced that she has reserved tentative May dates at the Family Life Center, First Baptist Church for the 2006 Annual Show.

Imidacloprid discussion

A recent Internet Hibiscus Mail List discussion shed some light on concerns some have had about Imidacloprid. (Bayer's Tree and Shrub Insect Killer, which has been mentioned several times in **Petal Power**, is probably the most readily available source of Imidacloprid for the hibiscus hobbyist.) We will attempt to summarize the discussion which was several pages long:

- (1) Imidacloprid provides some control of scale on leaves, but the addition of Ultrafine oil is required to control scale on stems.
- (2) Use spray mixtures quickly. The pH of most drinking water is above 7 (the writer's water was 8.5 to 9.0). Imidacloprid, like most other insecticides, is sensitive to a pH higher than 5.5-6.5. In a higher pH it will start breaking down rapidly and in an hour or two may be almost inert.
- (3) Imidacloprid seems to have the potential to develop resistance in insect populations more quickly than some other materials. Don't establish rigid spray routines with any insecticide without continually checking for insect/mite damage.
- (4) It would appear that any systemic insecticide would share than same characteristics in that they will be more effective on growing areas of the plant than on the mature portions. Mature areas do not require the same amount of nutrients and are not pulling them up and will therefore not have as much protection from the systemic chemicals.
- (5) According to Washington State University research, Imidacloprid stimulates egg production in two spotted spider mites and also results in female mites living longer.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS

Chapter Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2005

In his opening remarks President David Flanders extended many thanks to Donny Waldroup and Leo Delbert for setting up the PSBP Plant Sale booth and to all who helped staff the booth. Additional thanks were offered Len Erikson for all the arrangements for the dedication of the Reasoner Memorial Hibiscus Garden and for the preparation work there.

President Flanders told of his appointment of Jack Taaffe as Palma Sola Botanical Park Liaison Chair. Jack will monitor the appearance and condition of the Reasoner Memorial Hibiscus Garden on an on-going basis, establish liaison with Park maintenance personnel, assist in the maintenance of the Garden's appearance, and recruit Chapter members and Park personnel as necessary to form work teams to perform necessary projects.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the February 13th meeting be approved as written in *Petal Power*. The motion carried.

The financial report indicated that there was a balance on hand February 1, 2005 of \$3,245.54. During February there was income of \$88.00 and expense of \$290.32, resulting in a balance on hand February 28th of \$3,043.22. President Flanders directed that the report be filed.

Sunshine Committee Chair Dotty Taaffe told of the memorial service for Nancy Boettcher and indicated that those who wished to, may make memorial donations to the Chapter.

Secretary's Note: While memorial gifts to the Chapter may be apropos, to limit possible confusion it should be stated that the family has designated in the published obituary that memorials may be sent to the Trinity Endowment Fund Ministries at Congregational United Church of Christ, 3700 26th Street W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

Pat Grant will purchase the chicken for the April Chapter picnic at Durante Park and she will call members to line up the side dishes.

The Show co-chairs, Mark and Janet Love, have confirmed that the Family Life Center will be available for the Show set-up on Friday prior to the Show.

Announcements: The Manatee River Garden Club is having its Spring Fest and Garden Tour on April 16th. Because of hurricane damage to the hotel in Punta Gorda the AHS National Convention has been moved to Orlando. Look in the next issue of *The Seed Pod* for details and plan on attending.

A raffle was held for a hibiscus without a name tag. (Leo Delbert was the winner.)

Jack Taaffe made a presentation about his recent experience in Master Gardener training.

Meeting notes by Dave Flanders – formatted by Gayler Boettcher, Secretary

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Coming Events

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| April 1 | 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting
At the Haugh home. |
| April 10 | 12:00 noon. Annual Picnic
Joan Durante Park, Longboat Key
Pay dues! |