

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

May, 2005

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LET'S HAVE A SHOW!

Disregard the fact that the last time we wrote a pre-show issue of *Petal Power*, we didn't have a show. That won't happen this time (it says here), since we now have a spring show instead of a fall show. It isn't even the season for the weather condition (which shall remain nameless) that caused the cancellation last year.

In this pre-show issue of *Petal Power*, we will repeat much of what we published prior to the last time we almost had a show, because the same topics apply now as they did then – with some necessary changes. Let's start with the “where”, since it is a new location for us.

Where: The Family Life Center of First Baptist Church is across 13th Street and a bit north of the First Baptist Church which is on the (north-west) corner of Manatee Ave and 13th Street West. The church owns several parking lots in the area.

When: Friday, May 27th, 9:00 AM. – Set-up Day. The church staff will set up the tables in the large room that the show actually takes place in. (See the following paragraph about the preparation and judges' rooms) Therefore, the decorating, bagging fertilizer, etc. that we have always done on set-up days will be much like we have accomplished in previous years. In the past, this took just over two hours. If it takes a bit longer this year, it will only be because we are in a new location with situations yet unknown. Of course, all this depends on you being there and being a part of the effort. Everyone will be needed!

Saturday, May 28th, 7:30 AM – Show Day. As indicated in the discussion of the set-up day, the church staff will set up the main show room prior to our arrival on Friday. However, the portion of the building containing the bloom preparation room and judges' room will be in use on Friday evening. Therefore, we have to set up the tables in those rooms on Saturday, the day of the show! We therefore need everyone who can possibly be there at 7:30, to be there. It is not unheard of for exhibitors to arrive about 7:30 AM, - and the plant sale plants usually arrive about that time. Of course, most members have specific responsibilities that will require them to be there during specific periods of time. Don't forget, if you are one of those. If you don't have a specific assignment, please be there since there is always something to be done. Of course, everyone's help is required to pack up our “stuff” after the show closes at four o'clock, but that doesn't take long.

The logo features the word "It's" in a cursive script at the top. Below it, the word "SHOW" is written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. The letter "O" in "SHOW" contains a black and white gradient circle. At the bottom, the word "TIME" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a white outline.

In case you have a question, comment, etc., you might like to know, “who's in charge?” Janet and Mark Love, the Show Co-chairs, will be attending their son's ordination into the ministry on Sunday, May 29th – Kansas! (This is their second son to enter the ministry! How great is that?) Since they certainly had no control in scheduling the ordination, they will not be with us for either the set-up day or the show. After doing all the hard work, the Loves are letting Gayler Boettcher be the Show Chairman, beginning the May 24th, including Set-up

Day and the day of the show. Therefore, comments, suggestions and questions about the show should be directed to Janet or Mark Love through May 27th and to Gayler Boettcher beginning on May 28th.

Let us mention, so you won't be surprised, that the *Bradenton Herald* has asked to give out copies of their paper at the Show – at no charge. Since they are a sponsor of the show and give us some special treatment, the Board of Directors granted them permission to do so.

Schedule of events on Show Day

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., enter blooms

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., plant sale

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – public exhibition

Things to remember on Set-up Day

- Bring scissors – with your name on them.
- Bring your Gift Table items – priced.
- Bring some new paper bags. The big ones from your favorite grocery store.
- Buy an official Chapter shirt – if you don't have one - \$14.00 each.

Things to remember on the day of the Show

- Bring blooms! It is a hibiscus show after all. (Any blooms, not just hybrids can be entered – or used as part of the decoration if they are not show quality) Remember, each person can enter just one bloom of each variety – and the bloom should have been brought to the show by the person entering the bloom.
- Bring your contribution to the brunch table.
- Bring your items for the Gift Table, priced – if you didn't bring them on Set-up Day.
- 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. They should be at the Gift Table.
- Wear comfortable shoes and consider leaving another comfortable pair in your car to change into at some point during the day.
- Bring what ever you need for your bloom arrangement – if you are signed up to participate in that aspect of the show.

General Show topics

1. Chapter member plant purchases. Chapter members have always been afforded the opportunity to purchase hibiscus prior to the opening of the plant sale area to the public. Although sales to the public will begin at 10:00 a.m. this year, it is still expected that there will be some time – between when the sales area is made “ship shape” and ten o'clock – for members to make their purchases. Please, please do not enter the sales area until all the plants are in place and the bloom pictures are posted. Plants purchased may be placed in the holding area until you leave the show. All plants must be paid for prior to being placed in the holding area.
2. Fertilizer sales. The specially formulated hibiscus fertilizer will again be purchased by the Chapter and sold at the show. This is the only chance for Chapter members to get their year's supply of this product that appears to be well thought of by everyone using it. As the old saying goes – “get it while the gettin's good”.
3. Gift Table. We realize that everyone must surely have taken note of our previous several reminders about preparing and gathering together your contributions for the Gift Table. But if you haven't, do it now! Make sure they are priced – and make that price appropriate for the item and for the setting in which it will be sold. Prices that are too high can and will be reduced at the appropriate time.

4. Lend a hand. We hope that the folks who have hundreds of hibiscus plants will enter scores of blooms at our show this year. While we all have fun entering our several blooms, it is the big growers that make the display tables so beautiful. Preparing gobs of blooms for judging is very time consuming and it is a process that most of the large growers prefer to do themselves. However, in the late morning, some of them may appreciate a helping hand, so ask if you can do something for them. Who knows, you may learn some things about hibiscus in the process.

Hibiscus Gardening in June

All the weather forecasters on the tube tell us that June is the beginning of our rainy season. (It is also the start of the season for that "shall remain nameless".) However, there have been many years when we have had several weeks during the month when we have had no rain. Therefore, gardeners need to monitor plant moisture closely – no matter what the forecasters or the calendar say.

Before we forget – be on the lookout for the dreaded Pink Hibiscus Mealybug. You will recall that they were seen in Pinellas County last year so the likelihood that they are in Manatee/Sarasota Counties by now is probably pretty good. If you have something on any plant in your yard (not just hibiscus) that could be a PHM, cut off the branch, put it in a plastic bag and take it to the Extension Service in Palmetto.

June is an active growth month for hibiscus and for many of the critters that feed on them. Young grasshoppers will have hatched and will be very hungry. The young may be controlled with *Sevin* or some such. It may not kill them, but perhaps your plants will be so distasteful, they will go to see how your neighbors' plants taste. Nothing much will control the adult grasshopper – however two fingers and a shoe seems to work fairly well, if your coordination is up to it.

Jo Conrad, a well known name in hibiscus circles, writes a short column for the newsletter of the Conrad-Sunrise Chapter in West Palm Beach. Different writers have different ways of describing the “most popular” critters found on hibiscus. This is what Jo recently wrote:

“Aphids are easy to spot on hibiscus buds. They are small black, soft bodied insects about the size of a pinhead. They will also attack the underside of new growth of plants and rootstock. *Orthene* will slowly kill them, usually in 3 to 5 days after spraying. Thrips are always spotted inside open blooms, mostly scurrying to the eye to hide. They are black, small, narrow, winged insects that actually eat the color off of blooms. *Orthene* is also recommended. A second spraying one week later is recommended.”

We haven't seen *Orthene*, as such, on garden center shelves so look for an Ortho product with Acephate in it, which is what Orthene is/was. Those using *Marathon*, or something with Imidacloprid in it, shouldn't have aphids or thrips visiting their plants.

There was another rash of messages on The Hibiscus Mail List (THML) recently about ants farming aphids on hibiscus. As we have discussed previously, it is thought that ants take aphids up on plants so that they will produce the colorless, but shiny, “honeydew” (which, given time, will turn black) that the ants find particularly tasty. So, according to that reasoning, if you see an out-of-the-ordinary number of ants on your plants, - you have aphids. Take care of the ants and you can use the above mentioned products to rid the plants of the aphids – or most of them will wash away with a stream of water from hose spray wand.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS

Chapter Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2005

The meeting was called to order by First Vice-President Janet Love at 2:00 PM.

Treasurer Shirley Adams asked Gayler Boettcher to read the financial report which indicated that there was a balance on hand April 1st of \$2,223.55. During April there was income of \$440.00, while there was expense of \$267.34, resulting in a balance on hand on April 30, 2005 of \$2,396.21. A motion was made and seconded that the financial report be accepted as read. The motion passed.

The entire meeting consisted of topics related to the forthcoming Set Up Day and Annual Show, May 27, 28 and was conducted by Show Co-Chairs, Janet and Mark Love.

Refreshments were provided by Shirley Adams and Marilyn Young. A special cake was served commemorating Marilyn and Dale Young's first wedding anniversary.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Gayler Boettcher

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Coming Events

- May 27** **9:00 A.M.**
SET UP SHOW!
- MAY 28** **7:30 A.M.**
SHOW TIME!
Both at Family Life Center
First Baptist Church
Manatee and 13th St. W.
- June 3 9:30 A.M. Board Meeting
Manatee County Library, South
- June 12 2:00 A.M. Chapter Meeting
"Let's Talk Hibiscus" Member Panel