

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

June, 2005

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Our show stage display designed by Bob Hunter (photo by Dave Flanders)

What a Great Show!

Those were the words that President Flanders used to open the June Chapter meeting. And indeed it was a "Great Show", - and a successful one. You have probably heard that, either in the June Chapter meeting or by "word of mouth". But let's take a leisurely look at some of the figures that tell the "inside" story of the show and, of course, we will have to include some commentary.

There were 822 blooms entered, plus 26 seedling blooms. That made for an amazingly display of color. "Breathtaking" would be an operative word describing the eight 4' x8' tables and one 2 1/2' x40' table full of blooms. (It was quite a difference from our last show in 2004, which was held after major wide-spread rains and had only 270 blooms entered.) Of the blooms entered, 361 (44%) were judged to be gold ribbon quality. To say the Gold Table was a panorama not often seen would not stretch the truth. The stage display of the "big" winners was appropriately dramatic, as designed by Bob Hunter. We have had the opportunity to attend two other shows this year and our setting for bloom displays was, by any measure, outstanding and exceeded by far anything at those shows.

As we look at the financial side of the show we see another area to be proud of, particularly as one relates the total, compared to our past several shows. Our vendors provided 611 very nice plants and our guests purchased 370. (2004 - 311 plants purchased) After

paying our vendors for the plants, \$3,152.00 remained in the plant sales "cash box", which included money from the sale fertilizer and the publications that were purchased there. At the Publications table, sales of \$77.00 were made. In all, 21 handbooks were sold along with 42 Hibiscus Care handbooks.

The Gift Table had sales of \$260.20 and contributions of \$78.75 were collected in the "fish bowls". Two Chapter memberships were sold for a total of \$57.50 (very little of which will stay with the Chapter).

The total income was \$3,625.45! Before there are any plans for a big bash made, we hasten to mention that numerous bills are yet to be paid. However, at this time it is clear that the show "made money", which is something we could not have assumed a few weeks after the last several shows. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make it a "Great Show" - and a successful one financially.

Words from Janet and Mark

(Petal Power asked Janet and Mark Love for their reflections on the recent show. As the Co-Chairpersons, they did all the planning leading up to the show.)

Two ladies were talking in the First Baptist Church hall last Wednesday; one said, "Did you go to the Hibiscus Show Saturday?" The other replied, "No, I had company from out of town and missed it." The first lady said, "You really missed something special, the whole room was filled with the most beautiful blooms and in the foyer there was a Christmas tree covered with "plate size" blossoms, it was just gorgeous!"

Mark and Janet Love missed it too, but we were with you in spirit, all day long. Co-Chairman, Gayler Boettcher came forward and took over the reins just at the right moment. Publicity Chairmen David and Rae Flanders did an exceptional job promoting. Committee Chairmen did their special jobs, but most of all everyone worked together. After the muscles were rested and the feet soaked, we heard "It was worth all that work to create another Spectacular Show!"

THANK YOU ALL!

Words from Gayler

(Editor's Note: Against our better judgment, Petal Power asked Gayler Boettcher for his reflections about the show since he assumed the Chairmanship when

Mark and Janet Love departed due to family obligations. Here are his comments, severely and heavily edited.)

President Dave Flanders began the June Chapter meeting with the words, “What a great show!” While many additional superlatives could be added, the term “great show” really says it all. I have been a part of 11 or 12 shows, in one role or other and this show ranks number one from my point of view particularly because of all the unknowns that were worked out successfully. And everything that made the show a success was due to the score or so Chapter members who “put their all” into making it a success. Thanks to everyone for all your endeavors.

(Editor’s Note: In the interest of public disclosure, the preceding marginally acceptable paragraph attributed to Boettcher appears in its present form as the result of the editing of the page and a half submitted, which was in large part, totally irrelevant to the subject.)

July is Restaurant Meeting Month

The regular Chapter meeting will not be – in July. The reason for that is that in July, the Chapter has a sit-down lunch together in lieu of a regular monthly Chapter meeting. Several years ago, the Chapter had nothing in July and several members felt we needed something, even though many members are out of town during July. Thus, the advent of the July Restaurant “meeting”.

This year’s July Restaurant meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., July 10th, at the Iron Skillet, 7020 Cortez Road West. Everyone will have the opportunity to order from the menu – and pay their own bill! Wow, how about that for a treat? If you didn’t sign up at the June Chapter meeting, let the person know who will be calling you that you want to attend. The restaurant would like to know how many to expect, however if you decide to come at the last minute - do it!

June 3 Board Meeting Minutes Excerpts

The programs for the coming Chapter meetings were reviewed, as follows:

August 14: “A Community Farm in West Bradenton”, Laura Morgan

September 11: Peggy Dessaint, “New Critters, New Products”

Oct. 9: Shirley Adams – Gourd Society, seeds

November 13: Holly Righter – “Tropical Plant Use in Prehistoric Times”

A motion was made and seconded that the persons who set-up the show be paid \$500.00. The motion passed.

Shirley Adams will ask Yvonne Santiago to contribute a porcelain figure for use at the National Convention.

A motion was made and seconded that Treasurer records, older than two years, be destroyed. The motion carried.

Being a pro-active hibiscus gardener

The person who was passed off as the “program speaker” at the June Chapter meeting, - Gaylor something or maybe it was something Gaylord – hit on a subject that we had wanted to treat for several months. So we will paraphrase the thrust of his remarks, adding much of value of course.

The Hibiscus rosa-sinensis is a vigorous grower and bloomer. Of course there is a wide range of those attributes between the various varieties, but in general – that’s what we should expect from our hibiscus plants. Sure, there will be times in the year, particularly relating to changes in temperature, when plants will slow their vigorous attributes. But as a general rule, we should expect our hibiscus to have vigorous growth and regularly produce blooms. If they don’t, we should not be content – we should do something! We should be pro-active. Do something more, or do something different, because what we are doing apparently isn’t working. It appears many folks don’t do something, or wait too long to do something. We continue to hear “My plants just don’t look good” or, “I’m not getting any blooms.”

If we feel like saying something like that, we should think about what we could do to solve the problem – and do it! Among the things we could look at is where they are located– with particular reference to how much sun they get. If they are in the ground, there isn’t much flexibility. If they are in pots, while there will surely be some limitations, a change in location to some extent is surely possible.

Most of us were told the first time we bought a hibiscus, that they are “sun loving” plants. True. But how much sun? A California green house operator who is into hibiscus in a big way, experimented with shade cloth to find the right amount of sun for his hibiscus. He settled on 60% shade cloth, i.e., the cloth permitted only 40% of the sun to reach the plants. Of course the lesson to be learned is that direct Florida sun is most likely not what your hibiscus will like. Of course we see established garden variety hibiscus in full sun doing well all over town.

If the change in location is not possible or doesn’t have the desired results, look at what or how much you are feeding the hibiscus. If the plant(s) are just sort of “stuck in gear” and not doing anything, try a solution of 3 tablespoons of Minor Elements spray and 1 tablespoon of a water soluble fertilizer (even a 20-20-20 if that’s all you have) in a gallon of water. On well watered plants,

put a half cup of the solution in three gallon pots and proportionately more or less in smaller pots, larger pots and on ground plants. Water in the next day. Do that weekly for several weeks and see what happens. If the desired is not achieved – do something else! Let's be pro-active!

Welcome new members!

The following new members joined our chapter at the recent show:

Mike and Joan Mahon
13405 Montclair Rd.
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
373-6686, joanmahon@tampabay.rr.com

Lesley Stein
1129 Edgewater Circle
Bradenton, FL 34209
792-9200, us.myle@tampabay.rr.com

Please add the above information to your Members Directory.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS Chapter Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2005

President Flanders recognized that several new members and visitors were expected, but were not present.

The meeting was called to order by President David Flanders at 2:04 PM.

President Flanders first comment was "What a great show!" He then proceeded to relate the many fine aspects of what made it a great show. Among the items mentioned were that two memberships were sold, 822 blooms were entered, 370 plants, 21 handbooks, and 42 "Hibiscus Care" pamphlets were sold. Also, according to a comment made by Donny Waldroup, "a ton of fertilizer" was sold. The leaders of First Baptist Church were impressed and have invited us back next year!

Mark and Janet Love and Gayler Boettcher were recognized for their contribution to the show. Suggestions and observations about how the show could be improved should be given to Gayler (inside the building) and to Janet or Mark (outside the building, signage, etc.).

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as printed in the May issue of *Petal Power*. The motion passed.

Treasurer Shirley Adams reviewed the financial report for May. As of May 1st there was a balance on hand of \$2,396.31. There was income of \$291.00 and expense of \$929.32, resulting in a balance on hand of \$1,757.89. Not as a part of the May report, Adams

reported that vendors were paid \$3,539.00 for plants after the show. After the payment for plants, \$4,256.45 remained, including \$800 in "start up cash" and with several bills outstanding.

A motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be filed. The motion carried.

Reports were received from the Sunshine Committee (Dotty Taaffe), Hospitality (Marilyn Young) and Special Events (Trudy Topoloski) Chairpersons. Sign up sheets were circulated for meeting refreshment providers for the remainder of the year and for those that plan on attending the Restaurant Meeting in July.

Trudy Topolosky asked if someone would assume the responsibilities of Circulation Manager for the next issue of *Petal Power*. Len Erikson volunteered.

Highlights of the May 6th Board Meeting:

- Details of how the show could be improved are being worked on by several members of the Board.
- Since the only date in May that is not claimed by another Chapter in Florida, is May 27th, that date has been firmed up with First Baptist Church. May 26th will be the Set-up Day.
- Since the Gift Table requires the attention of several members and looks like a garage sale, the Gift Table is being eliminated from the show.
- Due to the lack of entrants (only five this year), the bloom arrangements are being eliminated, at least from the next show.

The AHS National Convention is being held June 16th through June 19th. Everyone was urged to attend – at least a part of it.

The plant that was raffled was a Cloud Nine.

Gayler Boettcher made a presentation, allegedly about "The Wonderful World of Hibiscus!"

Petey Birchall provided all the refreshments!

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Gayler Boettcher
Secretary

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