

# Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter  
American Hibiscus Society

April, 2006

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## May Seventh Chapter Meeting

First, the May Chapter meeting will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> – not May 14<sup>th</sup> as originally scheduled. As indicated in the March issue of PETAL POWER, the fact that the second Sunday is always Mother's Day was overlooked when the Chapter calendar was approved by the Board of Directors last year. (Brilliant!)

Therefore, the May 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting will feature aspects of the final planning necessary leading up to the Annual Show, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, the election of officers and Board members will be conducted. This is usually one of best attended meetings of the year, one you will not want to miss – if your not there you may get a job you hadn't counted on! (Jus' kidding, - we think.)

## Dues are due!

We attempted to use other words, but as we suspected last month we couldn't withstand the compulsion to say, "Dues are due". A sure sign of weakness, but we must have so many other strengths – somewhere.

Anyway, it is time for all members to pay their dues for the coming year. (Dues are due to the AHS June 1.) The May Chapter meeting would be a good time. You will recall that since the AHS raised their dues last year, ours went up also, to \$30.00 for family memberships and \$27.50 for single memberships. If you will not be attending the May meeting, send your check made out to "Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS" to Shirley Adams, 2704 Bay Drive, Bradenton, FL 34207. (While June 1 is the AHS deadline, dues will certainly be accepted after that date!)

## Great picnic!

Indeed, the Annual Picnic held April 9<sup>th</sup> at Joan Durante Park on Longboat Key was a great success! Many thanks to Betty Seipel and Beege Hunter for thinking of all the little (and big) things that make for an event that just seems to happen – and happen right! Of course all the great cooks in the Chapter once again outdid themselves with all kinds of tasty side dishes and deserts. While each successive dish seemed more tasty than the last, it appeared the pea salad brought by Norma Bryar perhaps received the most comments – and rightfully so. Norma and all the others contributing to

the layout need just one thing – practice. And we all look forward to enjoying the fruits of that practice at future potlucks.

## Slate announced

Under the new Bylaws, the slate of officers and Board members for the coming year is announced at the March meeting – which is the picnic. The minutes of the meeting held at the picnic, printed in this issue of *Petal Power*, tells something of the manner in which the final slate was formed. The excerpts of the March 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, which are also in this issue, also tell something about the slate's formation.

The slate, which will be voted on at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting, is as follows:

President, Gayler Boettcher  
First Vice-President, Janet Love  
Second Vice-President, Marilyn Young  
Secretary, Gene Haugh  
Treasurer, Shirley Adams  
Director, (2008), Dotty Taaffe  
Director (2009), Betty Seipel  
Director (2009), Leo Delbert

Directors that continue their three year term of office are Dorothy Erikson (2007), Beege Hunter (2007), and Trudy Topolosky (2008).

The installation of officers and Board members will take place at the restaurant meeting, **Saturday**, June 10.

*(Editor's Note: While the Board of Directors meeting minutes indicate that Boettcher would continue to serve as Secretary, through President Flanders and Gene Haugh's thoughtfulness he decided not to, however he will continue to serve as Editor of **Petal Power**)*

## The Show Is May 27<sup>th</sup>!

If you haven't calendared the date May 27<sup>th</sup> by now – do it! And while you are at it, mark May 26<sup>th</sup> also since that's the "set-up" day. Everyone's needed if we want to continue to have one of the best shows in the AHS.

## Counting our blessings...

In previous years, we here at *Petal Power* would have written three or four short articles in the months leading up to the Show about – the gift table! We are rejoicing and we hope you are too - that there is no such thing at this year's show! Hallelujah!!

## Chapter booths succeed...

The Chapter booths at the Home and Garden Show and the Manatee River Garden Club during March were, comparatively, successful. Compared with previous Chapter booths at previous events that is. The plants purchased for the two shows were sold (save one, which will be used at a Chapter meeting raffle) along with several plants contributed by the Flanders and Donny Waldroup, several handbooks were sold and numerous names of prospective members were obtained. We would like to recognize the many members who staffed the booths, but know we would overlook someone and therefore we will just say a very big "THANKS" to everyone that participated.

## March 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting excerpts

Shirley Adams reviewed the financial report for March 2006. As of March 1<sup>st</sup> there was a balance on hand of \$3,376.74. There was income of \$358.00 and expense of \$411.65, resulting in a balance on hand, March 31<sup>st</sup> of \$3,323.09.

It was recognized that Belle Hilt was now the Welcoming Committee Chair.

The Loves have received word that Tropicana will no longer contribute orange juice for use at the Show.

Discussion was held concerning the purchase of wine for the Chapter hospitality room at the AHS convention. It was decided that Trudy would purchase about two cases at the "best deal" possible at the PX and the board would take appropriate action after the purchase.

After considerable discussion about the availability of a candidate for Chapter president, Gayler Boettcher volunteered to be a candidate with the understanding he would serve only one year, and then (1.) only if Dave Flanders handled the Chapter responsibilities in-so-far as the AHS is concerned and (2.) that the Love's would again be Show Chairpersons and (3.) that the Board would be active in lining up programs for Chapter meetings. (Had he had time to think about it, he would have also made another condition for serving – which would have been that the Flanders would again serve as

Publicity Chairpersons.) Boettcher will continue to serve as secretary and editor of *Petal Power*.

## Hibiscus gardening in May

First and foremost, since our Show is in May, everyone should be consistently aware of any pests that might be having lunch on your plants and buds. Using something with Acephate in it, at least every other week or Bayer's Tree and Shrub (2 tablespoons per gallon) seems to give good control. You will probably want to use a miticide along with the Bayer's. And fertilize! Along with the usual Chapter's special blend, a weekly watering and foliar feeding of some water-soluble fertilizer may give you plants the added boost to put your blooms on the "gold table" or the stage. A minor element spraying or watering may also be beneficial.

Worms could also be a problem in May. Watch for signs of their activity which could include missing portions of leaves. Thuricide is a control that targets worms only. Scales could also be appearing – Cygon is a control. Or, of course, if you can keep it off leaves, spray with WD-40 or Pam. After a few hours, wash off with a hard spray of water.

Good luck with your Show entries!

## Scented hibiscus?

How many times have you seen someone, unfamiliar with our tropical hibiscus, raise a bloom to their nose feeling that something that beautiful must surely have a scent equally as beautiful. Of course, those of us "in the know", know that hibiscus are not scented. But at the same time, we may have heard that some hibiscus are indeed scented. A recent contribution to The Hibiscus Mail List on the Internet from Jill, the "hibiscus lady", from Hawaii indicates there is a good chance that many of today's varieties may have the gene for scent, but it is recessive. Here is some of what she had to say on the subject:

"I was privileged to do research last year for Waimea Arboretum and Botanical Garden on the history of hibiscus hybridizing in Hawaii.

"The largest effort toward creating hybrid hibiscus took place in the Hawaiian islands beginning in 1872 – by 1911, Hawaii folks had created and recorded about 1,000 hybrids, most between 1902 and 1911.

"These early hybridizers used 21 introduced hibiscus varieties and crossed these with each other and with various native Hawaiian hibiscus. .... It turns out that the hibiscus used most frequently to produce hybrids, either as pod or pollen parent, was one or another of the

endemic Hawaiian whites. All of the Hawaiian whites are scented.

" .... What is interesting is that from nearly the beginning of our hybridizing efforts, 100 years ago, Hawaii people sent out plants, cuttings, and seeds of their hybrids and crosses around the world. Thus the genes of hibiscus created in Hawaii over the last 100 years are in the gene pool of a ton of hibiscus hybridized elsewhere in the world. ... many, many of today's modern hybrids also carry the genetic material of the native Hawaiian whites. ...Therefore, many have the potential to pass along the gene for scent.

"I have 30 or so hybrids I've created that are scented. But then, I often use the native whites as a parent!"

Jill goes on to tell that it is difficult to cross a fancy modern hibiscus with a native white and obtain blooms that have both scent and a significant amount of the characteristics of the modern hibiscus. In later generations, blooms have more of the fancy look and less and less scent.

"To date I've hybridized maybe 7,000 and kept maybe 300 or so of these. Of these, about 30 are scented on random days. And of ALL of these, I have exactly ONE that is modern looking and is also scented daily and consistently. Believe me, I am crossing that ONE with everything is sight!

"Soooo, to sum it up, there are hibiscus out there that sometimes have a nice scent. Both parents would have to carry the genetic marker for scent from a native Hawaiian white ancestor. There are very few that are consistently scented."

### Some significant science Q and A's

Q: How fast does time pass?

A: One hour per hour.

Q: What can't be stopped?

A: Anything that's standing still.

Q: Which is more important, the Sun or the Moon?

A: The Moon, because it shines at night when it's dark.

Q: Then, what do we get from the Sun?

A: Warmth and tourists.

## Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS Chapter Meeting Minutes April 9, 2006

President Flanders called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. during the Annual Picnic of the Chapter, held at the Joan Durante Park, Longboat Key.

President Flanders reported the slate of officers and board members for the coming year.

President, Gayler Boettcher  
First Vice President, Janet Love  
Second Vice-President, Marilyn Young  
Director (2009), Betty Seipel  
Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_  
Director (2009), Leo Delbert

President called for nominations for secretary from the floor. Gene Haugh was nominated and accepted the nomination. Gene then resigned his position on the Board of Directors.

President Flanders then called for nominations for the Board of Directors, Class of 2008. Dottie Taaffe was nominated and accepted.

It was announced that Chapter dues are due and can be given to Shirley Adams.

Leo Delbert volunteered his cell phone number to be used in advertisements for the Annual Show.

The May meeting will feature the election of officers and board members and the final planning for the Show.

The Chapter will be hosting a hospitality room on at least one evening during the Annual AHS convention, June 15-18.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Gayler Boettcher, Secretary

### CLASSIFIEDS

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Cold Porcelain Creations! Lifelike Hibiscus and other flowers, singles/bouquets. Yvonne Santiago: (941) 538-9521, [Yvonne@coldporcelaincreations.com](mailto:Yvonne@coldporcelaincreations.com), or [www.coldporcelaincreations.com](http://www.coldporcelaincreations.com)

## Coming Events

May 5, 9:30 a.m.: Board Meeting, South Branch,  
Manatee Co. Library

May 7, 2:00 p.m.: Chapter Meeting, Show Planning –  
The Loves, Election

May 26, 27: Annual Hibiscus Show and Setup Day

June 10 (Saturday): Annual Restaurant Meeting, Nicki's  
1830 59<sup>th</sup> St. W., Installation of Officers and Board  
Members