

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

June, 2006

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Micro-watering: small but BIG...

July's Chapter meeting program will contain information that could be important for all gardeners, but particularly for those gardeners who are faced with leaving their plants while they take vacations, etc. Our speaker will be an extension agent, Jack Tichenor, who will discuss setting up a micro-irrigation or low volume irrigation system for your plants and yard. Use of the techniques Jack will discuss will enable the home owner/gardener to make the most of the water used while also providing a management means for unattended watering.

That's Sunday, July 9th at the usual place, Trinity United Methodist Church. The program is one that you may not have use for today, but "tomorrow" you may well need the information that Mr. Tichenor will be talking about. Even if you think that will never happen – be there anyway!

What a Great Show!

Score another for the "Home Team"! It was indeed another great show, one that everyone involved with can look upon with pleasure and with the knowledge of a job well done.

Our reporter on the scene made so many notes in his mental notebook about some of the noteworthy things – so many that he couldn't find some of them. Boding no well for this article.

Of course the success of the show was sown months before with the meticulous planning accomplished by the Show Co-chairs, **Janet** and **Mark Love**. The scores of telephone calls and meetings these folks conducted pretty well assured the success of the show long before the doors opened. Mark was unable to attend the show, but the fruits of his labor were certainly there. Janet took the reins and worked with everyone involved to make things happen and happen right.

A good crowd of members appeared around 10:00 on Set-up day Friday, May 26th and everything was pretty well wrapped up shortly after noon. Plants for the sale were still being arranged, but everything else was complete. We certainly won't try to recall everyone who was there, but we have to mention a few.

For many years the precise arrangement of the stage, in order that the winning blooms are shown to their best advantage, has been in the capable hands of **Bob Hunter**. His recognizable handiwork was once again evident, although from a comfort standpoint he surely would have rather been elsewhere.

Once again **Leo Delbert**, aided by **Tom Tourt** and **Dale Young**, were able to move all our "stuff" from storage to the Family Life Center (and back again!). They, and everyone else concerned, are really happy to see that the three gallon pots of concrete are no longer a part of the "stuff". We think that the thanks for that should go to **Dave Flanders** and **Mark Love** for the conversion to the easels and really nice signs.

One of the "behind the scenes" kind of things that has to happen before every show involves the delivery of the fertilizer from the vendor to the Family Life Center. That's 40, fifty pound bags! Many thanks to **Bill Grant** and **Bill Faulls** for accomplishing that most formidable chore. (And isn't it good to see Bill Faulls toting those bags of fertilizer again!)

It was so good to see **Dee** and **Maynard Pastorius** working hard on both the set-up day and the day of the show! Dee and Maynard are no longer members, but love being a part of the Show – and we love to have them! Two other non-member folks whom we enjoy having who work on show day, and have for a number of years, are **Dave Seipel** and his daughter **Danielle**. They are super workers and besides that, what would a Show be

without Dave's special meat balls (yummy yummy)?

The word communicated to Chapter members was to be "on board" around 8:00 AM on Show day. At eight o'clock there were indeed numerous folks there and hard at work.

What would our Show be without **Beege Hunter** and **Trudy Topolosky** and their wonderful smiles greeting everyone at the Registration Table? The answer to that question is something we hope we don't have to contemplate for years to come.

One feature of our Show that garners many favorable comments from those entering blooms as well as the judges is the refreshment table – or tables. Once again, **Karin Delbert**, and a number of helpers, made it not only a refreshing and rejuvenating part of the Show, but pleasing to the eye. It is particularly interesting to see the table change from breakfast type faire to light lunch type items. That doesn't just happen – someone makes it happen.

The refreshment table was featured in several of the pictures on our website (the pictures were taken by Gene Haugh). It seems our Chapter was very well represented in the pictures, particularly by Chapter members that were caught in the background – with their mouths full! Oops!

The "Gift Table" is no longer a part of the Show (Hurray!). Utilizing part of that space was a wonderful addition to the Show. Weren't **Dottie Erickson's** bloom arrangements out of this world beautiful? They were just outstanding and as we said, "what a wonderful addition to the Show". One that we hope will continue for years to come.

The plant sales area is always a busy place, but it never becomes "out of control" frantic because **Donny Waldroup** is there to lend his calming outlook to the whole proceedings.

Of course the real "show" of the Show is the hibiscus blooms that are entered by gardeners from various locations in the state. The final count of blooms indicated 621 entries, with 306 (49%) of them being worthy of gold ribbons. There were 8 amateur exhibitors. The beauty of that many blooms is simply breathtaking!

Since our reporter lost some of his notes, let's see how he does in remembering all the folks who helped on the set-up and/or on the Show, excluding those mentioned above. That list would include **Shirley Adams, "Petey" Birchall, Sandy Brown, Len Erikson, Rae Flanders, Gene and Sue Haugh, Carl and Pat Kramer, Jeanne Nathan, Ruben and Yvonne Santiago, Lloyd Sartin, Betty Seipel, Jack and Dotty Taaffe, Mike Topolosky, Jean Tourt, Marilyn Young**. If we missed someone, we are very sorry - and we did appreciate your help.

As one reflects on what a relatively few people accomplished in a few hours to make our Show exceptional, it is certainly something about which everyone can be proud.

The fiscal picture

The financial side of the Show is always of interest, particularly since prior to last year's Show we seemed to launch a victory party if we just broke even. Last year's Show was profitable and the Chapter's bank account after the Show showed a good balance – and that was after the show scheduled for September 2004 was cancelled and was subsequently rescheduled for May 2005.

Of particular interest is the fact that as we approached this year's show there was over \$3,000.00 in our treasury. One year, not too long ago, we just about didn't have enough in the bank to provide money for the change boxes needed at the Show.

But that is in the past and this year's Show will add to the Chapter's financial security. And as we consider that security, we must always remember we need enough money in the bank to launch two shows – with the case in point being the cancelled/rescheduled September 2004 show.

It appears there will be around \$3700.00 in our bank account, after the dues are sent to the AHS. Not as much as we would have liked, but still a plus. We had a lot of expense this year and lost some income - which was expected. Last year, the Gift Table brought in \$310, which was "lost" when we decided to eliminate it – which is still thought to have been a good idea. Several of this year's expense items

could be considered investments in the future, such as the signs and tripods (total cost, about \$300) which will be used for many years. These eliminated the three gallon pots of concrete, PVC pipe, and heavy signs used in the past. Also, in order to obtain an excellent price, enough “tri-color” ribbons were purchased (\$352.40) to last three years, thereby eliminating this cost for the next two years. The big profit center of the Show – the plant sale – involved 380 plants being sold, 13 more than last year!

While the financial report for June will be healthy, the true bottom line is that the Golby-Reasoner Chapter once again produced a wonderful hibiscus show, certainly one of the best in the AHS. In doing so, an exceptional group of people worked wonderfully together and had an enjoyable time doing it. One of our members, who has experience in the production of another display type show in the community, was amazed about the good humor and cooperation displayed by everyone working on the Show – a spirit apparently not found in all groups. We are good people!

A note from the Mixon's

The Chapter received a nice note from the Mixon's (one of the growers who furnished plants for our plant sale) which was read to those attending the Restaurant Meeting, but we thought our readers, some of whom probably weren't at the Nicki's, would like to hear what they said. They wrote:

To: “The Golby-Reasoner Chapter
Don and I would like to thank the entire Chapter for all the hours of work that went into the Show. The Prizes were too much. The nicest ever!! Kathy and Don Mixon

Parting Words

We asked Dave Flanders to share his thoughts with us as he left the presidency of our Chapter. Here are those thoughts:

So What Does a President Do?

I once said I think the job of the president of an organization is the easiest of all the officers. Well, this may surprise you, but after three and one-half years of being one, I'm still convinced of that.

What does a president do, anyway?

Actually, he or she is kind of like an orchestra leader. He picks out music appropriate to the group, and gives them a down beat and a finish. In between he just stands in the middle of the stage and flails his arms about, occasionally pointing his baton at someone to play a special part.

Then at the end he gets to bow and listen for applause.

Meanwhile it's the true talent, the talented musicians, who do all the work and make everything happen for the audience. It is the strengths and willingness of the players that make the performance good or make it bad.

So any credit really goes to those talented people who actually make the music happen. It is all the players who cooperatively work together (dare I say, “in concert”?) – who contribute their energy, experience, and judgment – who make the effort successful. Not the wild man up front.

So it is with our chapter and its life. It is all of you hard workers who bring your talents and skills, which make the beautiful music (i.e., outstanding shows and great chapter meetings and events) happen. Without you there is no music – no artistry. The best president cannot make things happen without willing members. It is the contributing and able members who make things happen.

My one regret is that I was not able to grow the chapter. Regardless of how I flailed about. For that I apologize. I guess I just didn't find the right piece of sheet music.

Incidentally, did you notice? Throughout the year everyone had a good time. They enjoyed themselves and each other, and patted each others' backs for the fine jobs well done. And rightfully so.

You have played your parts well. Thank you. I trust you will continue to do so under Gayler's leadership. He's a good leader.

(Editor's Note: A copy of the following article was covertly removed from the offices of Petal Power and was shortly thereafter read by the newly elected

Golby-Reasoner Chapter president at the Restaurant Meeting. We leave it to our readers to ascertain in their own minds who is responsible for what surely has to be considered a theft.)

Performance Review

While we at the Golby-Reasoner Chapter have no Performance Review program in place, it would seem appropriate to review just a few of the aspects of Dave Flanders's performance as he leaves office.

We should all first realize that Dave has served as president of our Chapter for three and a half years. He was president in 2002, 2003, and 2005, but due to a change in the bylaws his term of office was extended until June of 2006. This is the second longest of any of our Chapter presidents, exceeded only by Col. R.E. Niffenegger who served four consecutive years, 1968 through 1971. (Pat Grant has served three years as president.)

While Dave's conduct of the internal workings of the Chapter has been exceptional (conducting meetings, etc.), it is his endeavors in taking the message of the Golby-Reasoner Chapter - and hibiscus - into the community that are particularly notable. And these efforts have taken place in periods when he was president - and when he wasn't. It may surprise many of our Chapter members to hear that since January of 2000, Dave has represented the Chapter 25 times as program speaker at Garden Clubs and various other organizations, as well as appearing in TV and radio interviews.

If being president weren't enough, Dave and Rae have been the Publicity Committee for our Annual Show for several years - with able desktop assistance from Gene Haugh. In that capacity they have distributed 39 media packages to media outlets. These outlets included 18 newspapers, 9 TV stations and 26 radio stations. They also arranged for the distribution of announcements to 15 garden clubs and sent out 48 special invitations to key personnel at these and other organizations. To say they don't get enough publicity about their role in publicizing the Show is a gross understatement!

In addition, (yes there is still more!) Dave was elected to the AHS Board of Directors last year

after a successful and active term as Chair of the chapter presidents' meetings at AHS functions. We should all commend Dave for his effort in the AHS arena and wish him well. Of course we assume the Golby-Reasoner Chapter will see lots of "pork" coming our way in the future from the overflowing coffers of the AHS. Go Dave!

After enumerating what are only some of Dave's accomplishments, as a member and president of our Chapter, if we had a Performance Review program he would surely be rated well above what ever the highest rating was. And so for us to say "Thank you" seems inadequate, but it is all we can say. We can only hope that Dave understands it is said with great sincerity. Thank you Dave Flanders! A slogan "Dave Flanders for president in 2007" sounds really good!

Board of Director meeting excerpts

A motion was made and seconded that a policy be adopted that members and helpers be able to purchase plants and fertilizer at a reduced cost before, during, and after the Show. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded that 9 plants be purchased from Mixons for Chapter meeting raffles, according to a schedule that is appropriate. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to provide Mark Burnett an appropriate membership which includes listing his name in the directory and on the mailing list for *Petal Power*. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded that the Secretary be directed to retain the current year meeting minutes and the two most recent years and that others be given to the Historian or otherwise discarded. The motion carried.

Hibiscus Gardening in July

July brings a continuation of the heat and humidity that began in June and which will continue into September - if not October. It makes sense to get your gardening chores done early in the morning. We should be having pretty regular rains now, but even with supplemental watering, occasionally you might see drooping leaves on your hibiscus late in the day. This is because the sun is drawing

moisture out of the plant faster than the roots can supply it. It is at this point that your plants will love an afternoon shower from a hose-end sprayer. The cost of not cooling the plants down may well be some bud drop. Also as we have said numerous times, such a shower, aimed up under the plant leaves on a rather continuous basis, may control many of the critters that lunch on our plants.

The continuous flow of water during this time of year, whether by nature or the gardener, will tend to wash the fertilizer out of the soil. Therefore, whether the time release "Chapter" fertilizer is being used or some other type, more frequent applications will be needed.

Various insects are active at this time of year so a regular program of spraying will probably be necessary. A bi-weekly schedule of something with the active ingredient Acephate in it may provide good control. Also, some gardeners have good success using *Bayer's Tree and Shrub Insect Killer* as a spray (2 tablespoons per gallon of water) along with a miticide.

The considerable rain experienced in July may be beneficial to plants in pots since anything more than the plants need will drain out, assuming the appropriate potting soil has been used. However of course, this can not happen when plants are in the ground and therefore they should be monitored to assure they are not standing in water. This could be fatal to them. We have reviewed in the past the several ways water could be diverted from the plants in order to minimize the damage.

The real bummer about hibiscus gardening in July is that bloom production will probably be less than we would like. Just remember, th

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS Chapter Meeting Minutes June 10, 2006

President Flanders called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. at Nicki's Restaurant. A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the May Chapter meeting be approved as printed in *Petal Power*. The motion passed.

President Flanders recognized Janet Love, Show Co-chair who made a short report regarding the Show during which she thanked everyone for their endeavors in making it a great success.

President Flanders read a short note received from Kathy and Don Mixon thanking everyone for the good show and for the prizes, which were called "The nicest ever!"

No Treasurer's report was given, however it was indicated that the Show appears to have made around \$2,000.00.

President Flanders reminded everyone that the Chapter dues are overdue – if they hadn't been paid.

Several needs for the national convention were mentioned. The convention begins Thursday and runs through Sunday morning.

Several outgoing officers and board members were recognized for their service. They are Pat Grant, retiring as Past President; Gayler Boettcher, retiring as Secretary; Holly Righter and Gene Haugh, retiring as board members. A word of thanks was offered to those officers and board members who are continuing. This includes Janet Love, Marilyn Young, Shirley Adams, Dorothy Erikson, Beege Hunter, and Trudy Topolosky.

President Flanders voiced a sincere and touching word of thanks to Rae Flanders for her support and assistance during his term of office. The fact that she had been the "wind under his wings" was part of his tribute.

Val Longson, Executive Secretary of the AHS and Walter Bisselle, Treasurer of the AHS, were introduced to conduct the installation of the officers and board members. Those installed were 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

President Boettcher made a few remarks and read an article that was to appear in the June issue of *Petal Power*, which enumerated the many contributions Dave Flanders made to the Chapter during his presidency.

Gayler Boettcher, Secretary

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Coming Events

July 7, 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting, Manatee County
Library South

July 9, 2:00 p.m. Chapter Meeting: Extension
Agent, Jack Tichenor, "Micro or Low Volume
Irrigation