

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

July, 2006

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Dave Flanders Featured in August

During the past several years, Dave Flanders has been, with few exceptions, the Chapter's one man "Speakers Bureau". Dave has provided programs about hibiscus for numerous organizations in the area, apparently to varying numbers of attendees and in all kinds of settings. However, Chapter members have had only rare opportunities to hear and see Dave in action. That oversight will be rectified on August 13th, when Dave will present a program entitled "Hibiscus 101" at our Chapter meeting.

This is a meeting that all should find entertaining and – I hesitate to mention – educational. Since this may also be our last meeting at Trinity Methodist Church (see following article), you should not miss this meeting.

New Pricing at Trinity

Two or three years ago, Trinity Methodist Church began charging hourly rates for the use of their facilities. The rate for the room that we have been using for ten or eleven years was \$20.00 an hour. Since we had been making a contribution to Trinity Methodist of over \$200.00 a year, we felt we could "live" with the new pricing without much of an increase in our annual costs. We paid the rent after each three or four usages.

About four weeks ago, we were asked to complete a "use of facilities" form that increased the hourly rate to \$30.00 an hour, to be pre-paid. The room we rent and its corresponding hourly rate were colored with a "Hi-Liter" on the form. The next line indicated, "Use of kitchen in conjunction with the meeting - \$20.00 per hour additional."

In view of the new rental charges, it appeared that we needed to find another place to have our meetings. To that end, President Boettcher asked for suggestions for a new location for our meetings at the July Chapter meeting.

While our investigative reporter feels that an appropriate meeting site has been located, knowing he has been wrong in the past, we still urge our readers who have a suggestion for a new meeting place to call Gayler Boettcher, 751-2924.

Where and When?

Realizing that many of our faithful readers maintain scrapbooks or files, ranging from simple to complex, of various *Petal Power* articles this article should be placed with other "Chapter History" articles. (If this were an email, a smiley face would be placed here.)

It was clear in the July Chapter meeting that President Boettcher felt that Chapter meetings had been held at Trinity Methodist Church – perhaps from the beginning of the Chapter. Following the lead of our compatriots in the main stream media, such a statement by an elected individual demanded renunciation. (That is, prove he is wrong.) We therefore put our crack research staff to work and found the following, some of which even relates to the question, "When did we start having meetings at Trinity Methodist Church?"

The first meeting of our Chapter was held on December 8, 1963. The location was not indicated in the minutes of the meeting. The February 2, 1964 meeting was held at the "Manatee Garden Center", later referred to as the "Manatee River Garden Center", which leads one to think it was the forerunner of today's Manatee River Garden Club. Following meetings were held in various places, including the home of **Jim Wallace**, who was president and is still a member of the Chapter. It was June of 1964 before a meeting was held at the home of a member in Sarasota, establishing a pattern that was followed for many years.

Beginning in January 1965 meetings were held in the First Federal Savings and Loan of Sarasota, South Gate Branch, alternating with meetings in Bradenton, mainly at the Manatee River Garden Center. However, of interest is the fact that in 1965 a meeting was held at a Savings and Loan in Venice.

In October 1967 a motion was accepted to alternate meetings between Sarasota and Manatee Counties – which had been happening, at least pretty regularly, for some time.

In 1970, meetings continued at the Sarasota location and the Manatee County meetings were held in the Inter-City National Bank, Cortez Plaza South.

The September 27, 1970 show had 856 blooms. A hurricane in south Florida required the cancellation of

reservations for dinner on the day of the show. President Niffenegger was reimbursed for the 9 dinners he paid for – in the amount of \$24.75!

It is interesting to note that Chapter meetings were started with prayer or the Pledge of Allegiance – or both, during the late 70's and early 80's. There was no mention of either by 1982.

By February 1972 the meetings were still being held at the Savings and Loan in Sarasota while the Manatee meetings were held at the Palmetto Federal Savings and Loan. (We have seen pictures of some shows that were held there too.)

In June 1972 the balance on hand was \$47.98, according to **Adelle Puetz**, Treasurer. Many current members will remember Adelle. This is not a clear picture of the Chapter's finances. During the 70's it appeared they usually had around \$500.00 in the till.

The first meeting held at Trinity Methodist Church, according to the minutes (and realizing that sometimes the location of the meeting was not recorded) was on **October 7, 1973**. The location of meetings was still being alternated with the location in Sarasota. The last mention of a meeting being held in Sarasota was in July 1978.

While perusing old minutes, our researchers ran across a report about the 1988 Show. They showed a profit of \$659.47, which brought their balance on hand to \$3,330.75. The Show was held at the Bradenton Auditorium at a cost of \$596.47. Even with that sizable expense, they were doing well!

President's Report

One of the last obligations our most recent past President Dave Flanders performed was to make the "President's Report to the A.H.S." at the AHS convention. We wanted to share what he said with our readers and found that we could do that best by quoting the first sentence of each paragraph in the report. Such an approach would look like the following:

"I'm happy to report that our 42nd Annual Show was a major success".

"Our friends from the American Hibiscus Society came through last month with great support, entering 641 blooms and supplying all our plant needs".

"Membership continues to be our number one challenge".

"Chapter life and health is good, but our membership continues to age and physically decline".

"Our Chapter changed its fiscal year to coincide with that of the National's now running from June through May".

"For its monthly programs the upcoming year, the Chapter reduced its formal meetings from nine to six, added two field trips and a min-show, and retained our social meetings at three".

"The Chapter newsletter, 'Petal Power', continues to provide an excellent resource and news source for our members, due to the outstanding efforts of its editor and desktop publisher".

It was with great self control that we here at *Petal Power* were able to refrain from using bold type for the last of the quotes from Dave' report. Be that as it may and realizing our high ranking among the newsletters in the AHS, we humbly thank him for the mention.

We have new and returning members ...

Please welcome (and add to your directory):

Howard and Sandy Cheverier
5100 60th St E-14
Bradenton, FL 34203
753-8571

Please also include in your directory these returning members:

Al and Marie Pyne
4625 Shark Drive
Bradenton, FL 34208
748-6452

Tom and Jeanne Tourt
633 Dundee Lane
Holmes Beach, FL 34217-1217
778-4567

Hibiscus Gardening in August

Now here is a piece of news, it's hot in August. And it rains – lots sometimes. But if it doesn't rain – and because it's hot (we did mention that didn't we?) your plants will need to be watered much more frequently than you might like, because it's hot out there. You get the idea – the idea being that it is hot!

It is just because of the two factors, heat and moisture, that all the critters imaginable will be looking toward plants of all kinds for a food supply, with hibiscus being particularly tasty, it seems. Therefore, a bi-weekly schedule of insecticide spraying, strictly adhered to, will be very important in assuring you have blooms to enter in the mini-show, scheduled for the September Chapter meeting.

Mites and thrips are very prevalent at this time, causing misshapen flowers that are not prize winners, - or buds and no flowers at all. Spray with a material containing Acephate. Those using two tablespoons per gallon of water of Bayer's Tree and Shrub combined with a miticide report having achieved good control.

All the water that is flowing through the planting medium your plants are in, whether from nature or your hose, will wash away fertilizer – no matter what type you are using. Keep your plants well fed!

Don't you just "hate" seeing sprinklers operating during period of rainy weather? Even if your sprinkler system doesn't have an automatic shut-off that relates to the amount of moisture in the soil – it does have a shut-off switch.

Sign in Please.

Gee, that would make a good line in a TV show. However, we just wanted to "warn" members that they should be prepared to sign in as they collect their name tags before each meeting. This used to be a routine procedure, but somewhere along the line it was discontinued. You should be aware that the intent of the process is not to record who is at the meetings, but who is not. This information will be used in the future to contact those who are not attending – to see if perhaps there is something we could do differently to attract them or perhaps to just let them know we miss them.

Excerpts from the July 7 Board Meeting

- Annual Show: Janet Love reported that the Family Life Center, First Baptist Church, has been reserved for May 25-26, 2007.
- Program: Rae Flanders has assembled programs for a year in advance as now published in the new directory. A motion to include the October Chapter Meeting with the potluck dinner meeting was made, seconded and approved.
- Publications: Gene Haugh commented that only a few of the Hibiscus Monthly Care booklets remain and proposed printing 50 copies using a colorful cover as suggested by Dave Flanders. President Boettcher will review the booklet contents.
- Properties: Leo Delbert reported that properties used during the show were returned to storage. Pressed wood trays need replacing and this should be considered at a future meeting.

Dave Flanders reported on excellent feedback received regarding the Chapter's Hospitality Room at the recent AHS convention. Gene Haugh gave a semiannual report on the chapter website which had over 20,000 visitors during the first 6 months vs. 25,000 for all of 2005.

President Boettcher reported that nothing is happening regarding the Historium. Dave Flanders reported that 6 raffle plants are on hand. Yvonne Santiago will deliver gifts for speakers (\$10 each).

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS

Chapter Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2006

President Gayler Boettcher called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. He welcomed new members Howard and Sandy Cheverier and thanked Gene Haugh for providing new directories.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the June 10 meeting as published in *Petal Power*.

President Boettcher then summarized the June Financial Report. The initial balance was \$2223.08. Total income was \$4277.50, expenses were \$2042.99, and the final balance on hand was \$4457.59. Approximately \$600 in national dues must be paid. The show netted \$600-700. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the report.

He announced that starting at the next meeting a signup sheet will be provided to track attendance and allow follow-up. He thanked Rae Flanders for putting together programs for the next 12 months, as published in the new directory. The October Chapter Meeting will be combined with the potluck dinner on Oct. 26.

He also discussed recent increases in the cost of our use of the Trinity Methodist facility which necessitate our looking elsewhere. Several suggestions for an appropriate, less expensive location were made and more are sought.

The program consisted of a presentation by Jack Tichenor, Florida Extension, on "Micro or Low-Volume Irrigation."

Refreshments were provided by Beege Hunter and Betty Seipel. Gene Haugh won the raffle for a Hawaiian Sunset hibiscus. Sure ...

Gene Haugh, Secretary

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Coming Events

August 13, 2:00 p.m., Chapter Meeting: "Hibiscus 101"
as told by Dave Flanders

September 10, **Mini-Show**. Bring your blooms!