

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

August, 2006

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NEW PLACE! NEW TIME!

Important changes!

Please note that the both the location and the meeting time is changing, effective with the September 10th Chapter meeting:

New Location: Synovus Bank, 2520 Manatee Avenue (corner of Manatee and 26th Street West)

New Time: One hour earlier – 1:00 p.m.

The dates of meetings remain the same – the second Sunday of the month. Of course, events such as the Christmas luncheon may be held on days other than the second Sunday.

The cause of the change to Synovus Bank as a location for our meetings involves the increase in room rental costs imposed by Trinity Methodist Church, our meeting home for almost 33 years. We will incur no charge at Synovus Bank.

And why change the meeting time to 1:00 p.m.? Our meetings have started at 2:00 p.m. from the beginning of our Chapter as far as we can tell. Much has changed in the intervening years and there are a number of reasons why the one o'clock time may fit more people than the two o'clock time. Moreover, our Chapter meeting attendance has not been all that good in the past several years with a two o'clock starting time, so perhaps an earlier time may suit more members. And besides, – nothing ventured, nothing gained.

See you September 10th at **1:00** p.m. at **Synovus Bank!**

Mini Show...

We will kick off our new meeting location and new meeting time with a display of hibiscus blooms –

entered in a Mini Show, under the auspices of Bob and Beege Hunter.

Of course the blooms will come only from our members and that means that you should bring whatever blooms you have – grafted or garden variety – one or twenty. We don't know if Bob and Beege will limit entries to one bloom per variety, so bring all your blooms, even if they are all the same variety. If only the best are entered, the rest will still add to the color of the occasion.

We all hope the weather is a bit cooler by September 10th (not only because of the Mini Show). If so, we can all look forward to having more blooms to enter than if the heat remains as constant as it has been earlier in the summer. Hot or not, bring all the blooms you have – it will be fun to see how they are judged – and to just see them!

Confederate Roses

The Confederate Rose (*Hibiscus Mutabilis*) is a plant that several of our members have been interested in. This is a plant that in our area easily gets to 8 or 10 feet tall – and this happens after it “dies” back to the ground every winter. It blooms in the summer through the fall with displays of very double flowers, which are four to six inches in diameter. The blooms are white or pink in the morning and turn to a deep red by evening.

The origin of the name “Confederate Rose” was the subject of one of our “interviews” with Eric Golby. According to Eric, the name was rooted in the concept that the Southerners were turncoats – they changed color (in that case, blue to grey) – as they became “Confederates”. That, plus the fact the blooms are somewhat like a rose, and we have “Confederate Rose”. We have heard other explanations of the origin of the name that are more politically correct, but we like the one we obtained from Eric “Mr. Hibiscus” Golby.

Propagation by cuttings will root easiest in early spring, but cuttings can be taken almost anytime. Several months ago, we read an email on "The Hibiscus Mail List" from a person somewhere up north who had rooted Confederate Rose cuttings in water. He/she placed 12 to 15 inch long cuttings in individual quart jars in a warm sunny area. (In his/her case they were placed in an east window.) In about eight weeks the cuttings had good root and top growth at which time they were transferred to a pot filled with potting soil. According to him/her, the larger diameter cuttings make the best plants and bloom the first year. This approach could be adjusted to our climate, but we thought the rooting in water was of interest.

If any of our readers have an interest in obtaining cuttings they should contact our Editor.

Excerpts from August 2nd Board Meeting

The financial report by Shirley Adams for the period ending July 31, 2006, showed a Balance on Hand of \$4, 457.59, Income of \$133.50, Expenses of \$877.08 which included \$800.00 national AHS dues, and an Ending Balance of \$3714.01

President Boettcher then reviewed detailed expenses/income related to the 2006 Annual Show. He commented that actual expense item amounts corresponded well with budgeted values and were \$171.15 less than the budgeted amount of \$3142.04. In addition the chapter should receive a \$50.00 refund on the published incorrect Seed Pod advertisement. Net Profit was \$161.11 vs. \$1192.69 for the 2005 show. President Boettcher requested board members to review results and retain them for future reference 3-4 months before the show. He also discussed the financial impact of a cancelled show which involves non-recoverable but repeated expenses such as advertising and concluded that a cushion of \$3325.00 is required, which is narrowly met by our current balance.

Janet Love reported the cost of using the Family Life Center, First Baptist Church for next year's Annual Show is apt to be higher than the \$500 donated for the 2006 show.

It was moved, seconded and passed to change the Chapter meeting location from Trinity Methodist to

Synovus Bank, 2520 Manatee Ave. starting with the September, 2006 Chapter meeting. This location, the best alternative of several possibilities, incurs no cost to the chapter and was prompted by increased expenses at Trinity Methodist.

It was moved, seconded and passed to change the Chapter meeting time from 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

These will be presented to the membership at the next chapter meeting for discussion/non-objection.

Repair/replacement of trays used at the show will be discussed at a future board meeting.

The scheduled visit to Mixons on March 10 entails significant travel time/expense and alternatives will be considered.

\$60 is required to pay for "presenter gifts". It was moved, seconded and passed to pay Cold Porcelain Creations the necessary \$60.

September Hibiscus Gardening

September is one of our wettest months and is known for stormy weather, including the type of storm that shall remain nameless on these pages. There is not much one can do to protect plants (or anything else) from the nameless storms. However, the less severe storms are more numerous (thank heavens) and we can take some steps to help our plants survive those. First, be sure all plants are well staked to keep them from being rocked around by wind. Also, in-ground plants should be monitored to assure the available steps are taken to reduce the effect of water standing around them, if it just to cut open a little ditch to drain the water from around favorite plants. Of course it would be wise to rake the mulch away from them to allow them to dry out as fast as possible. If you find you have planted a hibiscus in an area that water stands in during most or all of the rainy season, dig it up and move it quickly. Plants in standing water will start to drown in only a few days.

While we are discussing the rainy weather of September, lets talk about rain gauges. Rain gauges take the guess work out of the amount of rain Mother Nature really puts down on your garden and lawn. If the rain gauge catches an inch of rain over night, there is no question the next day about

whether your plants need to be watered or not. The same goes for your lawn. In fact, the lawn probably won't need to be watered for a week. Hibiscus will require water in a few days, just how many depends on a lot of factors.

Because we knew our members wouldn't need the reminder, we haven't mentioned the need to finish outside work early in the morning before the heat of the day arrives in its fullness. But now we have anyway. If the temperature drops in the afternoon, it doesn't mean we can get in a little more outside work. It probably means thunderstorms are on the way and outside is the last place to be.

While adding water to all our plants, the rains of September are also washing the fertilizer out of the soil around our plants. Perhaps using half the usual amount of the Chapter fertilizer every month would be a good approach to keep pushing our hibiscus. Whatever our approach, we will need to use discretion in fertilizer use since as winter approaches, we will want very little fertilizer on our plants.

The rain and heat of September provide just the right conditions for the insect population to explode! Constant attention to what seems to be at work on our plants is essential. More times than we would like to remember we have extolled the advantages of giving hibiscus a late afternoon shower with a watering wand, directing the water up under the leaves. The plants will enjoy the cooling effect, but the critters assembled under the leaves will not – effectively upsetting their everyday routine if the spraying is continued on about a daily basis.

If the critters on your plants seem to thrive, even with afternoon water sprayings, a chemical control may be necessary. Since Ortho took *Orthene* off the market several years ago they have continued to put *Orthene*'s active ingredient, Acephate, in other products. The most notable was *Isotox*, which had more Acephate in it than *Orthene*. Then *Isotox* disappeared a couple of years ago and was, after some delay it seemed, replaced by *Systemic Insect Killer*, which is certainly a more descriptive name than “*Isotox*” - and (surprise) has the same ingredients. In fact the *Systemic Insect Killer* states on the label that it was “Formerly *Isotox*”. So whatever the label, a product containing Acephate

would be a good choice as you search for a control of invading insects on your hibiscus.

Oh, by the way, if you have some plants that display light green leaves consider an application of Ironite. You may be surprised at the results!

The latest issue of *The Petaloid*, the Lone Star Chapter newsletter, had a listing of hibiscus varieties that do well in high temperatures. We find we are out of space in this issue of *Petal Power*, but we will pass this listing along in one of our future issues.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS Chapter Meeting Minutes January 8, 2006

A new member sign-in procedure was used to record attendance. 1st VP Janet Love opened this meeting at 2:00 pm and welcomed new member Christine Turlow and guest Doris Kessell.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the July 9 meeting as published in *Petal Power*.

The July Financial Report was reviewed and accepted. There were no committee reports.

The September program will be a Mini-Show conducted by the Hunters.

The new chapter meeting facility at Synovus Bank and new 1:00 pm meeting time approved and recommended by the Board were accepted by all members.

The profits from the Oct. 29th Punta Gorda show will be donated to the hibiscus gardens at History Park in Punta Gorda.

The program of consisting of “Hibiscus 101” was presented by Past-President Dave Flanders.

It was noted that Phyllis Mohn is in Blake Hospital.

Refreshments were served by the Flanders and Loves. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

1st VP Janet Love
Acting President and Secretary

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

Coming Events

September 1, 9:30 a.m.: Board Meeting, Manatee
County Library South

September 10, 1:00 p.m.: Chapter Meeting,
Synovus Bank at 26th and Manatee, Mini-Show,
Bring Blooms!

October 26: Potluck Meeting!