

# Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter  
American Hibiscus Society

September, 2006

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## October meeting a potluck....

Yes, the October meeting will be a potluck – or perhaps the potluck will be a meeting. Either way, it is clear that the October meeting will feature what has become an annual event on the Chapter calendar – a potluck at the Boettcher home. The potluck is always – well, the word “yummy” comes to mind. Since the Chapter has an outstanding group of imaginative cooks, the term yummy pretty much sums up the potluck. It is a pity there is no one word comes to mind to describe the meeting part of the event. Be that as it may, here are the pertinent facts about the meeting/potluck:

**WHAT:** A potluck followed by Chapter meeting.

**WHERE:** The Boettcher home, 9321 Forrester Drive

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM.

## Directions to the Boettcher home.

Go east on Route 70 (53 Ave. E.) and at the second stop light past the I75 underpass, turn right into Braden Woods. At the first stop sign turn right onto Forrester Drive and drive along a pretty long quarter circle to 9213. Don't let the house numbers confuse you – keep driving and you will eventually get to the 9000's.

Coffee, soft drinks, and wine will be provided. Should you wish something else, feel free to bring it. In order to provide the needed seating, it is important to know how many will be attending. Therefore, if you did not sign up at the September Chapter meeting and have not received a telephone call during which you are asked if you are attending – and you wish to attend, call Shirley Adams (739-9225) and tell her you will be there.

News flash! We just received an email from Dave Flanders, who was in everyone's favorite place – Rolla, MO – on the way to Michigan. He indicated he had had several long meetings with our Program Chair (Rae Flanders) during the past two weeks.

The result was that, “She has planned a good program for the Pot Luck dinner which everyone should enjoy.” Wow, an entertaining program and yummy food – life is good.

## Neat digs!

Our new meeting room at Synovus Bank is really nice! Of course the large table running down the middle of the room makes the setup different than we are used to. However, since 16 or 18 can sit around the table it makes for a real business-like setting. How it will accommodate our future programs only time will tell, but it should work out well. Additional seating is along the wall on one side and still more is available in the form of (upholstered) stackable chairs stored in a closet. We can only hope we will be allowed to continue our meetings at Synovus Bank for a long time.

Our new meeting location is so nice – and since the price is so right, too (free!), President Boettcher asked everyone at our meetings to help keep it spotless and assist in leaving the room and adjacent kitchen as we found it.

It was appropriate that our first meeting in our new location was a mini-show. The blooms added their many colors to the already colorful room. Many thanks to Beege Hunter for helping to set up the show process and to Bob (Hunter) for his outstanding discussion of shows and judging. When it came time to judge the blooms, Bob was ably assisted by Donny Waldroup and Sandy Brown. And the Best in Show award – went to Tom and Sandy Brown.

## The President “Speaks”

*(Editor's Note: It is with some hesitation that we allow access to our pages to an elected officer of the Chapter. However, due to the importance of the subject President Boettcher wants to discuss, we agreed to allow it. We hasten to assure our readers and serve notice to President Boettcher that we do*



Mini Show Judges Sandy Brown, Donny Waldroup and Bob Hunter hard at work. For more Mini Show pictures, log onto [www.4hibiscus.com](http://www.4hibiscus.com).

*not feel this sets a precedent for any future use of **Petal Power** by the President, particularly as he mounts a campaign for a second term.)*

*(Editor's Second Note: If there is any reason to think otherwise, the preceding is outrageous foolishness.)*

Someone should have said it if no one has: "An organization only really functions when faced with challenges." Our Chapter has recently successfully met the challenge of finding a new meeting location. It is now apparently faced with the challenge of finding a new home for our Annual Show since the First Baptist Church has instituted a new set of facilities-use charges that means we cannot afford to have our Show there.

It is therefore imperative that all members give thought to all the places you have been to locally, to see if your mind's eye recalls a facility that might serve as a location for our Show. If you think of such a place, please call me (751-2924) immediately! We need to move forward with this search and arrive at a decision soon.

## Excerpts from September 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting

Annual Show: Janet Love reported that no one has been found to repair trays and plastic trays are being considered. President Boettcher will assess repairs needed and whether he could do them. Negotiations

are continuing regarding the cost of using the Family Life Center, First Baptist Church, for next year's show. President Boettcher suggested Board Members actively consider a new location.

The Crosley Mansion Christmas bash lasts from November 29 through December 7 and the Chapter plans to participate by providing a Christmas tree decorated with hibiscus blossoms and will sell hibiscus plants during the weekend period. It was suggested that a small hibiscus-decorated Christmas tree be placed where plants are to be sold. Mixons will be contacted regarding selling on consignment.

The scheduled visit to Mixons on March 10 entails significant travel time/expense and will be dropped. An alternative program is sought.

Dottie Erikson reported that Betty Seipel and Pat Grant will work with her for the Christmas party. She also reported that Peridia will be the location of the June Restaurant Meeting.

## Hibiscus Gardening in October

As we approach October we can expect the ground to dry out a bit from all the rain most everyone experienced in September. While we may have had years with similar periods of significant rain, this year would certainly serve to show everyone which areas of your yard or garden could have water standing in it for days and days. If one or more of those areas happen to be where you had hibiscus planted – they have probably passed on to that big, wide garden in the sky. Perhaps more importantly, you now know where not to plant hibiscus – or anything else that doesn't have a family background in the swamps. Of course, one could consider raising the level of the area – or putting in a raised bed. However, always remember that the water that gathered in that area you filled in, still has to go somewhere, and you might not like it there either.

We know of this transplanted northern amateur gardener who fell in love with hibiscus after attending one of our Shows, shortly after arriving here. He proceeded to study the needs of hibiscus to "get it right" and after lots of research proceeded to construct a raised bed about 50 feet long and eight feet wide. He filled it with appropriate top soil and added lots of hybrid hibiscus. All this occurred during a couple years of relatively dry

weather. Then the weather got back to normal and the gardener found that those big one inch rains he had experienced up north were mere sprinkles compared to the 3 and 4 inch ones that arrive here - in a couple hours! At this point our gardener learned that his beautiful hibiscus bed was in what could become a small creek during a Florida rain as the water from about 200 feet of lawn attempted to drain through the bed. Moreover, after “normal” rains the water table in the whole area around the bed was somewhat higher than the surface of the ground. Of course the lesson to be learned from this tale of woe is – get to know your property and don’t rush into planting anything until the year-round water table level is determined (as well as learning how the sun moves and how that relates to structures and plantings). We’d guess the second lesson would be – if you screw up – move on and do, whatever it was, better.

Now, back to “today’s” gardening. In a way, you start to prepare for winter in October. As we have said many times, the degree to which winter preparations are conducted relate to where you live, i.e., how close you live to the gulf. For those who may have cold weather, October would be the last month in which you would do any major pruning, and although all the rain will have washed away virtually every trace of fertilizer, you would fertilize very lightly. Early next month then, is the last time fertilizer should be applied – and we are talking about in-ground plants now. Potted plants that can be moved and protected from the cold could continue to be lightly fertilized throughout the winter, realizing they will require very little because they will grow very little. The same fertilizing advice would be true for our friends living where there is no winter – at least no damaging cold weather. (Yes, we know that every once and a while the islands will have a freeze, but really, - when was the last time?)

It is October and so the ghosts and goblins are welcomed as they make their way through our neighborhoods. However, our plants will be subjected to the unwelcome spooks of the insect world. Continued attention and spraying will be required until the cooler weather gives us a little relief from this routine.

## Chapter Meeting Minutes September 10, 2006

President Boettcher called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in our new meeting place at Sunova Bank. He thanked Bob Hunter for arranging its use.

New Member Christine Turlow was welcomed and presented with a chapter “survival kit”.

It was moved, seconded and passed to accept (1) the minutes of the August 13 chapter meeting as published in *Petal Power*, and (2) the August financial report by Treasurer Shirley Adams which showed a beginning balance of \$3714.01, expenses of \$87.08, and an ending balance of \$3626.93.

Ideas are sought for a March, 2007 chapter meeting program to replace the originally planned trip to Mixons’.

President Boettcher reviewed a letter of appreciation that he had sent to Trinity Methodist for providing the chapter with meeting space for 33 years.

Bob and Beege Hunter presented the program, “Showing Blooms” which entailed a Mini Show. Bob reviewed show entry procedures and the factors considered in judging blooms. Then Bob, Sandy Brown and Donny Waldroup judged the blooms that members had entered.

The hibiscus raffle was won by Rafflemeister Carl Kramer, who wore a stunning Tampa Bay Bucs outfit.

Refreshments were served by Karin Delbert and Jean Tourt.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Gene Haugh, Secretary

### **CLASSYFIDES**

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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](http://www.coldporcelaincreations.com)

## **Coming Events**

October 6, 9:30 a.m. (really 10:00 a.m.): Board Meeting, Manatee County Library South

October 26, 6:00 p.m.: Potluck/Meeting at the Boettcher home

November 11, Saturday Morning: Field Trip to Burnett's Nursery, Oneco, FL