

Petal Power

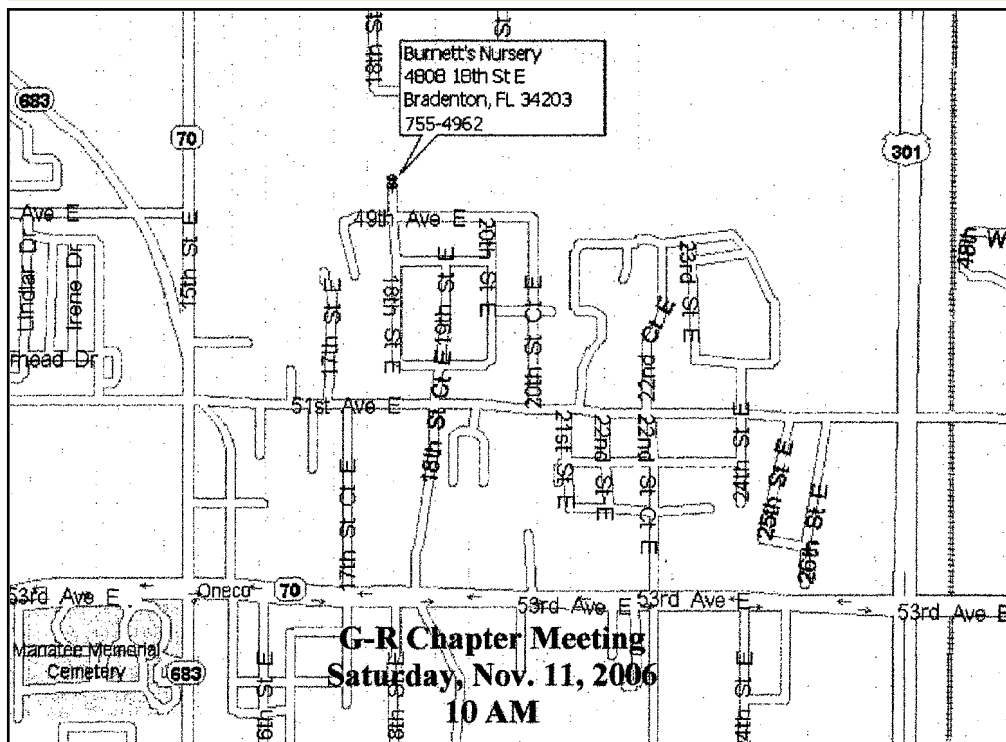
Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

October, 2006

Editor: Gayler Boettcher: g.boet@gte.net

Publisher: Gene Haugh: gene.haugh@gmail.com

Website: www.4hibiscus.com



The Burnett nursery has always impressed those who visit there as being particularly neat and well kept, with plants that look healthy and well cared for. Perhaps of particular interest to our members, they usually have several garden variety hibiscus that you rarely, if ever, see at local garden centers. (You will be able to purchase plants.)

Mr. Burnett has sold plants to many of our members over the years. (It is our understanding that since it is a wholesale nursery, he appreciates being called in advance in order that you will be expected and so

that you won't make the trip in vain – since he doesn't stock everything and he might not have what you want.)

FLASH!

Bring your check book to Burnett's Nursery – so that you can buy your Christmas Party tickets! Yes, it is that time already! The Christmas Party is Saturday, December 9th at the Bradenton Yacht Club.

PHM Alert!

Pink Hibiscus Mealybugs (PHM) are indeed in our area. We started writing about the PHM in 2002 when they first were noticed in south Florida and they have not so slowly made their way into our area.

The gardener may first notice PHM's by the curled and contorted leaves of the plant they are infesting. They can be found on stems, leaves, buds, fruit and roots of many plants. (They like lots of different

Our November Meeting Includes a "Field Trip"!

Our November meeting will be held at Burnett's Wholesale Nursery shown in the above map! The owner, Mark Burnett, has supported our Chapter for many years by contributing the hibiscus plants that are used as door prizes at our Shows.

Here is the information you need:

When: 10:00 AM, Saturday, November 11th

Where: Burnett's Wholesale Nursery
4808 18th St. East
Oneco

What to bring: Folding chairs.

NOTE! The field trip meeting is at **10:00 on Saturday morning!**

We will have a tour of the nursery and we will have a short business meeting and someone from the nursery will chat with us briefly about the nursery business. (Thus the need for folding chairs.)

plants - not just hibiscus.) The adult female PHM is quite small and is pink in body color and is covered with a waxy secretion. The females are usually obscured by this white mealy wax. When adults are crushed their body fluids are pink. Adult males are smaller than the females, are reddish brown and have one pair of wings. Males have two long waxy “tails”.

The only real way to combat the PHM is to release one of two varieties of very small wasps. These wasps feed on the PHM, causing their demise. The wasps are released only by state officials.

What should you do if you think you have PHM on plants in your yard/garden? The first step is to cut off the area on the plant where the offending insect is and place the whole branch or whatever in a plastic bag and seal it. Then take the bag to the Extension Service office at the Fair Grounds on 17th Street in Palmetto. They will determine if what you have given them is indeed a PHM and if it is, a release of the wasps will be made in your area. After wasps are released, care must be taken to not use insecticides – which may kill the wasps. And no, the wasps are not a concern to humans. They are not aggressive and are very, very small.

“Catching Up”

In order to keep costs to a minimum we have imposed a three page plus address page (one 11” x 17” sheet of paper) on issues of *Petal Power*. Therefore, month after month there are subjects we would like to address, but don’t. So this month we are going to catch up on some of these subjects, at least in an abbreviated form, which will let us get some of these items out of our “Things to Do” file. So here we go...

Micro irrigation

In July, Jack Tichenor met with our Chapter and told about the equipment and benefits of micro irrigation. Mr. Tichenor illustrated various pieces of equipment and passed out some literature treating micro irrigation. For those who didn’t get the material from him, some is available at the Extension Service in Palmetto. Since it is easily tailored to any need, micro irrigation may well be the difference between an outstanding landscape (including potted plants) and a “so-so” one.

Two bits of information Mr. Tichenor mentioned, but which may not have “registered” at the time, are worth repeating and are the reasons we have wanted to treat the subject of micro irrigation for the past several months. And, they are:

- A. Due to its low water usage, micro irrigation systems are not subject to watering restrictions. That is, if watering is restricted to one or two days a week, micro systems could be operated three, four, or more times a week if necessary.
- B. While the “big box” stores may carry some micro system components they do not carry the full range of parts necessary for a multi-function system. Mr. Tichenor, in answer to a question about where parts could be obtained, mentioned Ace Pump as being a place with sales people who, while contractor-oriented, will take the time to help the “DIY” customer. We here at *Petal Power* agree. The full name is “Ace Pump of Sarasota, Inc.”, which is located at 6804 Cortez Road W.

Gardening Hygiene

There is another subject we have wanted to mention for several months – and that is the one headlining this article. Gardening hygiene was the subject of an article in the third quarter *The Seed Pod*, page 22. We just wanted to call attention to the article since it treats a subject that doesn’t get as much attention as it should in writings about gardening. While the article is slanted toward green houses it still makes some good points that should be kept in mind by all gardeners.

Hot weather bloomers

We all have bemoaned the decrease in blooms we have on our hybrid hibiscus during the hot weather months. Since they have hot weather in Texas, they have a similar problem. In August the editors of *The Petaloid*, the Lone Star Chapter newsletter, listed a number of varieties they have found to bloom well during July through September. (They have hotter summers than we do – they just don’t last as long.) Here are most of the hybrid varieties they mentioned, realizing that most garden varieties will bloom through-out the summer:

Singles – Forgotten Love, Georgia’s Pearl, Miss Fantasy, Spring Break, Black Dragon, Marilyn Quayle, Whipped Cream, Angel’s Wings,

Lemon Tree, Evangeline, High Voltage, Harvest Sunset, Northern Light, Scarletta, Marabella, Crossfire, Burnished Gold.

Doubles – Atlantis, Dusty Rose, Silver Charm, Moonfire, New Idea, Amber Suzanne, Heaven Scent, Rosalind, Sorceress, Red Snapper, Goin' Steady, Orange Punch, Guy Mitchell, Holly's Pride, Copper Moon, Show Girl.

Drying Blooms

Tom Miller, the founder of The Hibiscus Mail List and a member of the Sunset Chapter, made a pictorial record of Dallas and Nobuko Baker's presentation at their Chapter meeting back in March, during which Dallas illustrated her method of drying hibiscus blooms. We'll not try to reprint the pictures, but will repeat Katie McClain's notes on how it was done.

"First, the green stem is removed. She gently opens the bloom flat. The flattened bloom is put between two layers of a plain white napkin – not a paper towel. The napkin/bloom is placed in a phone book for three weeks. For bigger or several blooms she puts them between two boards."

We know many folks have tried their luck at drying blooms – Eric and Sally Golby for instance – with less than desirable results. (They always lost their color.) However, we are always ready for a "new" approach. Since the use of napkins is the only new thing with the described method, perhaps it is the answer! We hope someone in our Chapter will give it a try!

The Forsyth Pot

Last December someone suggested that we look at an article in *Mother Earth News.com* which originally appeared in 2001. This article used a premise of your having some cuttings to root, but you were going to be on vacation for a while and needed a way to keep them moist. It would seem to us to be an approach that might be useable anytime – if you only have a few cuttings to root.

The author assumed the name "Forsyth Pot" gives credit to person who first developed it and the version of the Forsyth Pot described is apparently not like the original (?). To make a version of a

Forsyth Pot two terra cotta pots are needed, one about 6" and the other 10" or 12". The drain hole in the small pot is blocked – a hot glue gun is suggested. The small pot is placed inside the larger pot and the space in between is filled with sand. The small pot is filled with water and the cuttings are placed in the sand – as you would place cuttings in any medium. The water will percolate through the walls of the small pot into the sand, providing continuous moisture to the cuttings. (Of course proportionally larger pots could be used, as could perhaps other types of potting mediums. As always, place cuttings being rooted in a shady spot.)

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS

Chapter Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2006

President Gayler Boettcher called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2006 meeting as published in *Petal Power*.

Shirley Adams gave the September financial report which showed an initial balance of \$3626.93, income of \$301.86, expenses of \$132.47 and an ending balance of \$3796.32. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the report.

Rae Flanders discussed the next chapter meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 11th at Burnett's nursery and passed out copies of a map. Attendees were requested to bring lawn chairs.

President Boettcher reported on activities to find a new site for our annual show, and currently the most promising is the Palmetto Fairgrounds. A board member visit and site evaluation is planned on October 27.

The chapter will participate in the Crosley Mansion Festival of Trees from November 29 through December 7, and will have a hibiscus Christmas tree and plant sale. Dotty Taaffe will arrange scheduling of staffing by chapter members and Shirley Adams will be available to transfer funds to be used during the sale and receive them at the end of the day.

Dave Flanders presented a program which involved a test of hibiscus knowledge with prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Gene Haugh, Secretary.

CLASSYFIDES

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

Coming Events

November 11, 10:00 a.m., Chapter Meeting at
Burnett's Wholesale Nursery, 4808 18th East, Oneco

December 1, 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting, Manatee
County Library South

December 9, 12:00 Noon, Christmas Party,
Bradenton Yacht Club