

Petal Power

Golby-Reasoner Chapter
American Hibiscus Society

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Calendar rushes ahead!

According to a *Petal Power* opinion poll taken over the weekend of November 11th, 73% of those responding felt that the calendar has been compromised in some manner and that there is no way that Christmas could be only six weeks away. 20% knew that Christmas would arrive in six weeks and 7% didn't know what a calendar is. (There was a margin of error of +/- 50%.)

What ever the opinion polls tell us, Christmas is all but upon us as is evidenced by the fact that in a few days our Chapter will be holding its Annual Christmas Luncheon. The event is once again being held at the Bradenton Yacht Club and will kick off at 11:30 a.m. on **Saturday**, December 9th. But perhaps the real story is.....

FLASH! (Well the "flash" thing may be a bit dramatic, particularly since we expect everyone already knows, by one means or another, what we are going to write about.) Be that as it may, there are some things that are so nice – or at least unusual – that we'd like to make a record of it in print. Of course the item we are referring to is the fact that the Board of Directors decided that the Chapter treasury would contribute a bit over \$6.00 to the cost of each member's lunch at the Christmas Luncheon – meaning that each member's ticket will cost \$10.00 while tickets for guests will be \$16.00. The rationale for this action was to "return" some of that which the members placed in the treasury by their efforts and to say "Thank you" for those efforts.

Bring blooms to go on the prettiest (albeit small) Christmas tree in town. Any and all blooms are needed and will be used! **But, no** ants! The Yacht Club management takes a dim view of ants or any other such critters in the dining room – and rightfully so. So take a few minutes to rid your blooms of all such varmints.

Bring a present to put under the prettiest Christmas tree in town. We here at *Petal Power* are easily pleased, so anything will be appreciated. Cancel that. The presents are for the children of migrant workers. This effort has become a meaningful tradition for Chapter members each of whom has, relatively speaking, much to share. The presents are to be wrapped, new articles of clothing with a note on the outside stating what is inside, whether it is for a boy or girl, and the size of the article or the age of the intended recipient. Join in this expression of what the Season is all about. Anyway, a Christmas tree looks pretty bare without presents under it.

Directions for the adventure, which is the trip to the Yacht Club (it's really an easy trip):

For those who haven't been there and those experiencing "Senior Moments", let's start out by saying, it's on Sneed Island. Then let's say you take one of the bridges over the Manatee River going north out of beautiful downtown Bradenton. Eight or ten blocks after crossing the river, turn left (west) on 10th Street (remember, "Streets" run east and west in Palmetto). After several miles you will cross the relatively small bridge to Sneed Island. Immediately after crossing that bridge, you will see the Yacht Club on your left.

If you don't have your tickets to the Christmas Luncheon (it may be too late) or to ask questions (about the Christmas Luncheon), call Dottie Erikson (753-7785).

Remembering Eric

One of Eric Golby's favorite Chapter events was the Christmas Luncheon (then referred to as the "Christmas Party") so it is appropriate that we remember Eric at this time year since he was a founder of the Chapter that years later took his name as a part of its name. Eric would have been 98 on December 11 – the Monday after our Saturday's Party.



Mark and Mike Burnett welcome us to their wholesale nursery.

Impressive!

“Impressive” was the word heard after Chapter members visited Burnett’s Wholesale Nursery, November 11th. Although our reporter was unable to attend, those participating in “after the event” interviews commented about the cleanliness, neatness and beautiful plants seen at the nursery. Which reminds us that Gene Haugh posted on the Chapter Website a number of great pictures he took at Burnett’s, particularly notable were those of hibiscus in full bloom. Burnett’s continue to have several garden variety hibiscus seldom seen in local garden centers.

Our many thanks go to the Burnetts for hosting our Chapter and for being such gracious hosts.

Hibiscus gardening in December

There is not a whole lot one can do in the hibiscus garden in December. Of course most garden plants will require scant attention this month. It will tend to be dry, so watering will be called for from time to time - and even the critters tend to be less than active. However, if we have a long period of warm weather, aphids may appear. Blooms will be at a minimum, however the blooms that do appear may last a second and perhaps a third day.

Keep the items required to protect your hibiscus from cold weather in readiness. Stay aware of the weather forecasts and “translate” what the forecast says into the impact it will have on the particular area you live in. As we have discussed at various times in this space, our weather varies considerably from the islands to east of I-75 and most of the forecasts pertain to somewhere close to the Gulf. (Channel 9 on Bright House tends to give forecasts for Lakewood Ranch, which may be helpful to “Easterners”.)

A couple years ago Peggy Dessaint, while discussing December gardening in one of her *Bradenton Herald* columns wrote, “Cooler days and nights mean transpiration and evaporation are reduced during the next three months. Irrigate lawns and landscapes only when the soil starts to dry out. Depending on soil type, this may be only once every 10 to 14 days, or maybe not at all.” We assume that Peggy was referring to the possibility that rain, as rare as that might be during December, would lead to not irrigating at all.

We believe it was “Mr. Hibiscus”, Eric Golby, who said something like, “December is a good time to reflect on what you should have done differently in the garden in the past year – and to make plans for the coming year”. Perhaps if we did that every year we might save ourselves a lot of work.



Hibiscus abound at Burnett’s.



When you first enter Burnett's.

will arrange staffing schedule by chapter members. We'd like one person to be at the hibiscus tree in the mansion and at least one at the booth in the back yard tent. We will also need some helpers to set up the booth on Tuesday afternoon, November 28th. Fifty or so plants are coming, on consignment, from the same folks who supply plants for our show. Shirley Adams will be available to transfer funds

to be used during the sale and receive them at the end of the day.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter, AHS Chapter Meeting Minutes November 11, 2006

1st Vice President Janet Love called the meeting (held at Burnett's Wholesale Nursery) to order at 10:00 a.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the October 26, 2006 meeting as published in *Petal Power*.

The Treasurer's report for October showed an initial balance of \$3,796.32, income of \$50.00, expenses of \$27.07, and ending balance of \$3,819.25. The report was accepted.

Vice President Love reported:

- We are planning to hold the May show at the Fair Grounds, on Sunday, May 27, with a set-up day on Friday, May 25. Much has been done to improve the two buildings we will be using. We expect their maintenance people will set up all the tables for us. And the price is still - "nothing"!
- The chapter will participate in the Crosley Mansion Festival of Trees from November 29 through December 7, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will have a hibiscus Christmas tree and plant sale. Everyone's help is needed for one or more 4 ½ hour shifts. Dotty Taaffe

- The Chapter's annual Christmas Party will be held this year at the Bradenton Yacht Club on December 9, and Dotty Erikson will have tickets. The Chapter will be partly underwriting the cost of Member tickets which will be \$10.00 (\$16.00 for Guests). We will again have the opportunity to bring gifts to the Party – gifts for children of migrant workers. These should be new clothing and should have a note on the outside of the package stating if it is for a boy or a girl and the age of the child that the gift would be appropriate for.

Vice President Love then introduced Mark Burnett who described the history and scope of the nursery. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m., and members then toured the nursery.

Gene Haugh, Secretary, with help from President Gayler Boettcher.

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

December 9, 11:30 a.m.: Christmas Luncheon,
Bradenton Yacht Club (**Saturday**)

January 5, 10:00 a.m.: Board Meeting,
Manatee County Library – South

January 14, 2:00 p.m.: Chapter Meeting
Hardy Hibiscus – Gene Haugh