

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

**Marriott Hotel
Boca Raton FL**

**Annual Convention
June 20 – 23, 2013**

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 P.M., JUNE 20, 2013

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 2nd VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, and Executive Secretary Ann Peltier. Absent: 1st VP Rita Hall.

The president announced the resignation of Marti Graves as Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee, and appointed Pat Merritt to this position.

President Veach informed the Committee of the dissolution of the Golby-Reasoner Chapter in the Bradenton FL area, and asked Executive Secretary Ann Peltier to read a letter from the Chapter written by President Rae Flanders.

The president next announced the appointment of Curt Sinclair to the Seedling Evaluation Committee, bringing the number of members on this Committee to 10. This was accomplished via an Internet vote of the President's Committee in January 2013.

Also approved via an Internet vote of the President's Committee this spring was the retirement of the travelling trophies. All of the trophies are filled with no more room to add name plates, so each recipient of an award is now given an individual plaque to keep. These trophies will be stored in our facility in Wesley Chapel FL along with other AHS treasures.

Another five years of issues of The Seed Pod will be added to the DVD set "51 Years of American Hibiscus Society History, 1956 – 2006." Secretary Pat Merritt will be completing this work over this year, and asked the Committee for pricing guidelines. The original set of five DVD's is \$100 for domestic purchase, and \$115 for foreign purchase. After discussion, the Committee decided on a price of \$30 for the additional DVD. Those who have the original set will pay only \$30 for the new disc (\$45 for foreign), and those wishing to purchase the entire set will pay \$130 (\$145 for foreign). This addition will include years 2007 through 2011.

The President's Committee appointed a National Nominating Committee to identify a slate of candidates to serve the Society for 2014 – 2015. Those appointed are:

Texas: Lone Star, Jeanette Elliff

Texas: Space City, Ottmar Schimek

Louisiana: Red Stick, Julliette Frasier-Salter

Louisiana: MB Acadiana, Jennie Marcantel

Louisiana: New Orleans, Father Bob Gerlich

Islands: BVI, Monica Allen

St. Croix & St. Thomas, Marsha Shuman

Florida: Central Florida, Sheryl Mathews

Florida: Conrad Sunrise, Maureen Buono

Florida: Gulf Coast, Val Longson

Florida: Harry Goulding, Mary Bridges

Florida: James Hendry, Nancy Kopp

Florida: Sunset, Connie Roush

Members-At-Large: Betsy LaFever

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:30 P.M., JUNE 20, 2013

Chairman Carolyn Cormier-Stoute called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 2nd VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Ann Peltier; Directors: Mary Bridges, CJ Melebeck, Julliette Frasier-Salter, Lillian Lopez-Farara, Fred Roush. Absent: 1st VP Rita Hall, Directors Mario Francis, and Wally Neef, Immediate Past President Don Mixon.

The Chairman asked the Board to ratify the two votes taken by the President's Committee via the Internet:

Curt Sinclair's appointment to the Seedling Evaluation Committee
Retirement of the travelling trophies

On motions made and seconded, these votes were approved unanimously.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE, 8:30 A.M., JUNE 21, 2013

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Walter Bisselle

Copies of the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 were available for those present. A copy of this report will be made a part of these Minutes. At this time of the year our membership numbers are fluid and not at all accurate. Some Chapters usually do not report and pay their dues until July. The numbers are most correct at the Fall Membership Meeting.

Bylaws Committee: Joanna Schimek

No Bylaws changes were proposed during this period; however, there are questions about whether we are operating under the most current set. The bylaws changes are in the Minutes of each meeting and are posted on the AHS web site. At the 2012 Convention held in New Orleans, Joyce Comingore provided an updated copy of the bylaws to those who wanted them. Perhaps not everyone received a copy. Second VP Joanna Schimek and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt will go through the Minutes and Bylaws and come up with a current set to be posted on the web site.

Publications: Roland Gaudet

Our storage unit in Lantana FL has approximately 4,500 copies of The Tropical Hibiscus Handbook, which continues to sell quite well on the Internet. Roland has the dies for reprinting the exhibitor cards when necessary. The Open Collector cards will be reprinted correcting the problem with the fold. A discussion of the full color, four-fold membership brochure revealed that it was not very helpful in gaining members. We are completely out of these and they will not be reprinted. Instead, a one-page, two-sided, black and white informational insert for mailing handbooks to non-members will be developed at a much reduced cost.

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall

Although the new printer has increased the price by \$300 per issue, we are still able to produce each issue at a reduced cost over the old printer. Also, we are getting four additional pages, and full color throughout each issue. Katie McClain has completely retired from handling First Class and airmail, and this now will be handled by the mail house for an additional cost. However, we are no longer paying Katie \$300 per quarter for unreceipted expenses. A suggestion was made that a black background on the cover picture be considered as some of the colors used washed out the bloom photograph.

Publicity: Deb Spencer

Discussed various ways to obtain publicity for shows. Tom Miller shared some thoughts via email:

Get show information to local newspapers 6 to 8 weeks in advance, and follow up with them 3 to 4 weeks before a show to make certain they have all the information and pictures they need.

Snail mailing a color flyer that has pictures of spectacular blooms to the media puts something in their hands.

Local gardening magazines and online gardening newsletters list events such as hibiscus shows. Make sure they know about yours.

After the show, write a thank-you letter to the newspaper that helped with publicity and include the link to the web page containing show pictures.

At the show, names and email addresses should be collected so that notices of future shows can be sent.

Get names and addresses of local garden clubs and other plant society groups and get a colorful flyer in their hands.

Set up a membership table at your show and offer incentives for joining your Chapter.

Each Chapter should have at least a basic web site listing event and meeting dates and contact information.

Members-At-Large: Walter Bisselle

MAL membership continues to be quite steady.

Nomenclature: Pat Merritt

CJ Melebeck is almost finished with a new version of the database that can be accessed from a SmartPhone and Ipad. He is also working on a pdf file for easy online registration of seedlings. When this form is ready to use, an email will be sent on AHSBiz. In the meantime, paper registrations should be mailed to me or scan them and email to me.

Seed Bank: Pat Merritt for Bob Carran

The Seed Bank filled requests from 48 people and sent out 1,037 seeds to people in places like Israel, Australia, all across Europe, South Africa, and to a smattering of people in the U. S. Cindy brought 200 seeds donated by Marti and Greg Graves to Fred Roush to deliver to Bob Carran.

Chapter Presidents' Committee: Jeanette Elliff

All Chapters were represented with the exception of St. Thomas. The subject of Chapters having their books audited when a new group of officers is installed was discussed. The consensus was that this was a good idea, but may cause some hurt feelings, although an audit is for everyone's protection, including the outgoing treasurer. AHS Treasurer Walter

Bisselle reminded Chapter Presidents that, as a 501(c)3 organization, that any surplus funds left at the end of the fiscal year must be allocated. They can be allocated to “operations for the next year,” but show in the Minutes that they have been allocated.

Show and Judging Rules: Rita Hall

A motion was made and seconded that the American Hibiscus Society do away with the Miniature List and adopt the Australian Rule of “as it blooms on show day.” If a bloom goes through the 5” ring, it’s a miniature. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. Judges were reminded to make sure every bloom on a Miniature Card is tested with the 5” ring.

The Judges’ Manual will be updated and emailed to all judges and judges-in-training for them to print

First VP Rita Hall reminded all show chairmen to make sure the judges’ sign-in sheet is sent to her.

There was a discussion concerning Chapters giving judges and head table winners prizes or monetary gifts. The Texas, Louisiana and Island Chapters do not do this. If Chapters are short of funds, it was suggested that this would be the first thing to eliminate.

The issue of an exhibitor showing a bloom from a plant that has not been in his/her possession for 30 days was addressed. Everyone knows the rule and it is expected that exhibitors are on the Honor System.

A judges’ training class was held at this meeting with five new judges-in-training passing the test.

A Judges Seminar was held immediately following the meeting.

Seedling Evaluation: Cindy Erndt

Chairman Erndt showed slides of the five finalists in the Class of 2009 that will produce the Seedling of the Year for 2013: Dragon Flirt, Grand Marquis, Queen of Dreams, Snow on the Mountain, and Storm Front.

Copies of all of the evaluation numbers and comments from the evaluators were furnished to Committee members.

The Class of 2010 was discussed, and the Committee eliminated Moonlight Rose.

After discussion of the Class of 2011, the Committee eliminated Victoria’s Touch, Little Treasure, Plum Starburst, Moon Magic, Lusty Puppy, and Caramel Kiss.

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 5 P.M., JUNE 21, 2013

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1st VP Rita Hall, 2nd VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, and Executive Secretary Ann Peltier.

The Show and Judging Rules Committee recommended that the American Hibiscus Society scrap the current Miniature List and adopt the Australian Hibiscus Society's method of exhibiting blooms that are 5" or less. If a bloom passes through the 5" ring it is a miniature and is exhibited on a Miniature Card, regardless of its registration. President Veach called for a vote from this Committee. The recommendation passed unanimously and this rule change will be sent to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

Treasurer Walter Bisselle asked the Committee to reconsider retiring and storing the Seedling of the Year trophy. The Sam Buser Traveling Trophy is such a beautiful and historic part of the Society's history that it should be on display at our conventions. He and Val Longson volunteered to keep it and transport it to our meetings. A motion made and seconded to rescind the President's Committee's earlier vote to retire and store the Sam Buser Trophy passed unanimously. Only the Beverly and Norman Brubaker Trophy for Judges' Favorite Bloom will be retired and stored. The recipients of this award are now given individual plaques.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5:30 P.M., JUNE 21, 2013

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On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board voted to accept the President's Committee's recommendation regarding the exhibiting of miniature blooms at sanctioned shows.

On motion made, seconded and carried with one opposed, the Board voted to accept the President's Committee's recommendation regarding rescinding the earlier vote to retire the Sam Buser Trophy.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 22, 2013

President Veach welcomed everyone to the First General Session and asked Carolyn Cormier-Stoute to give the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead the Pledge to the Flag.

Each Committee Chairman gave a report on his/her committee's activities. Please see Committees as a Whole for these reports.

Show Dates: Joanna Schimek

As soon as your show dates are set, send them to Joanna. Ms Schimek's contact information is on the VIP List.

Future Conventions and Membership Meetings

Executive Secretary Ann Peltier has been contacted by the Harry Goulding Chapter in Punta Gorda FL that they would like to host a meeting. They were told that fall 2013 or Convention 2015 were available, and they chose this fall. In checking hotels in Punta Gorda, Ms Peltier found that of the two hotels that could accommodate the number of convention attendees, one was under remodeling construction and the other one was not very responsive to her calls for information. After discussion, the membership decided that Convention 2015 would be the better choice, as there is also a Hibiscus Festival there at that time of the year.

2013 Fall Membership Meeting

Executive Secretary Ann Peltier announced that the Fall Membership Meeting will be held November 8 – 10, 2013, in Tampa FL. The hotel will be announced in The Seed Pod.

2014 Annual Convention

In keeping with the rotation of our June meetings, the Annual Convention will be held in Lafayette Louisiana, June 19 – 22, 2014. Executive Secretary Peltier has investigated several hotels and has one or two more to check out. The final choice will be announced at the Fall Membership Meeting.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 23, 2013

President Damon Veach welcomed everyone to the final session of the 2013 Convention and thanked the Conrad Sunrise Chapter for their outstanding hospitality over the entire weekend.

He asked Pat Merritt to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

He next called for Chapter Reports.

British Virgin Islands: Esther Georges

Effective January 1, 2013, new Non-Profit Legislation required that all NPOs must be registered and comply with the new regulations. Our Chapter has followed these guidelines and applied for registration, and also submitted our financial report for the year ending May 31, 2012. We are awaiting final processing of our application. Our membership at the end of 2012 stood at 24, but dues for the current year are still being collected and are subject to change with the return of the Snow Birds in the fall. We meet monthly from September to June in the Joseph Reynold Botanic Gardens in Road Town. Our attendance is usually about 60% of membership.

Central Florida: Gary Mathews

Fred Fallman has officially retired as president, and I am his newly elected successor. During the 2013 Epcot Flower and Garden Festival six Chapter members, Krista, Sherryl and Gary Mathews, Gerald and Margaret Nixon and George Hutkowsky took turns manning our information table. We collected names, addresses and email addresses and sent those located near another Chapter to its president for follow-up. Our meeting programs included a tutorial on the Roz Merritt Memorial Nomenclature Database, Seedling Evaluation, greenhouses and winter protection, drip irrigation, fertilizers, showing your blooms, rooting cuttings in rubber dirt and fiber blocks, and controlling hibiscus pests. Our show was a great success. Thanks to all who came.

Conrad Sunrise: Maureen Buono

Our meetings are well-attended and our programs are varied. They include seed prep and planting, John Webster's fabulous hibiscus sex show, pruning and root pruning, hybridizing, preparing rootstock and grafting onto it. The two auctions each year provide funds for operations. A field trip to Gene Joyner's Unbelievable Botanic Garden in West Palm Beach, which is a rain forest in Palm Beach County, was a special treat.

Gulf Coast: Walter Bisselle

We are having the same problems as other Florida Chapters, not enough workers to comfortably stage our show. Finances are not the problem as our treasury will support an annual show in our present location for a number of years. However, our present location is not good for public attendance and a plant sale. We are committed to our 2014 show at this location, but in 2015 we will book the Venice Community Center for our 50th Annual show, with or without sponsors. It was recently renovated by the county and is now quite expensive.

Harry Goulding: Dave Wallin

2013 has been a successful year, with 27 members. We had a joint Christmas party with the Gulf Coast Chapter. In October we had a picnic and sold plants at the Home and Garden Show in Punta Gorda. We had 385 bloom entries at our Annual Mothers' Day show and sale, with four Amateur Exhibitors.

James E. Hendry: Wanda Schmoyer

We had another successful year, finishing with 62 memberships with 95 members. We had our 62nd Annual show where we sold 500 plants and gained seven new memberships. Publicity is still working for us as the show stories appeared in over 15 papers with the event mentioned on four TV stations and one radio station. Approximately 800 people attended the show, and sponsor money was very helpful. We moved our meeting location from a church that charged \$75 per meeting, to the nearby Eco-Living Center that is free. We send our great newsletter out to all Chapter presidents and hope you are sharing it with your members.

Lone Star: Jeanette Elliff

At the beginning of the current fiscal year we had 55 memberships, which includes nine Associate memberships. Two of our new members have been Amateur Sweepstakes winners since they have joined. Lone Star has been meeting at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park since we were chartered in 1976, but our meetings will be moved to a new location while this facility is being torn down and a new building constructed. We have seen some positive growth in our plants sales with the addition of Dupont Nursery as a plant provider. We also began accepting credit cards at our shows and this has increased our sales.

Michael Bernard Acadiana: Ann Peltier

Our Chapter had a great year as we continued our monthly meetings where we have season-appropriate technical sessions, mini bloom shows, hibiscus photo contests, and, of course, food and fun. Our new-member barbecue follows each Convention at the home and garden of Buddy and Kathleen Short. We participated in the Lafayette Master Gardener Plant Fest, and developed the first MBAC calendar compiled from the winning photos of our monthly photo contest. We had a very successful show with 535 bloom entries and seven Amateur Exhibitors.

New Orleans: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute (representing Fr. Bob Gerlich)

The NOLA Chapter remains healthy. Our activities this past year included an ice cream social and mini show at Longue Vue House; two grafting events, one of which was established as a permanent event at Houmas House Plantation in Darrow LA on the first Sunday in October, with participation by all three Louisiana Chapters; our annual trip to Dupont Nursery that also includes all three Chapters; and our Memorial Day Weekend hibiscus show and plant sale.

Red Stick: Julliette Frasier-Salter (representing Damon Veach)

Our Chapter continues to grow, and we have had two very profitable shows this season. A huge booth at the LSU Spring Garden Show was followed by our annual hibiscus show and plant sale, also on the LSU campus. We joined the other Louisiana Chapters in February for a trip to Dupont Nursery where we were able to purchase new releases hybridized by Mr. Dupont and Fr. Bob Gerlich. Myles Thibodeaux, an LSU graduate student in horticulture, was the recipient of our first scholarship. It is our goal to forge ahead in a positive way to show how working together can bring not only harmony within the Chapter, but in the community, too.

Space City: Cindy Adkins Erndt

Our membership is growing and the new members are enthusiastic and ready to help stage our three shows each year. Usually 35 to 40 people attend each meeting. We sold a total of over 1500 hibiscus plants and made a modest profit on each show. The Chapter furnishes the drinks and meat for our show luncheons, and the members bring pot luck dishes and desserts. We accepted credit cards for the first time this year and it boosted our sales.

St. Croix: Marsha Shuman

Our activities were centered on outreach events this season. Much time went into putting together the Hibiscus Show and Plant Sale in January, including potting and fostering the plants for the sale. We participated in the St. Croix Agricultural Fair in February where we sold plants over three days. Our March show and sale was held in conjunction with the Botanical Gardens event with the Orchid and Bonsai Societies. We are investigating moving our January show to May when there are more hibiscus in bloom, and cutting the presentation costs for our shows. We are down to 16 memberships and plan to develop programs to attract younger people.

St. Thomas: Lillian Farara (representing Sandra Riker Tate)

St. Thomas had a very successful show this year. St. Croix and BVI judges came to assist. High school students come to the show every year to serve as runners, thereby exposing the youngsters to cultivating and showing hibiscus. One student played his saxophone during the show. A group from St. Thomas helped judge the BVI show in April. The annual Father's Day Plant Sale was another successful fundraising event.

Sunset: Fred Roush

Our membership grew a bit with the addition of the Unbelievable Chapter's members. We also inherited the State Fair Show. Our rock Katie McClain announced that she is retiring from hibiscus work. A member since 1976, she will still let us tap her immense reservoir of knowledge. Our show was a rip-roaring success and we thank the hibiscus friends from other chapters who came to help. May this next year bring us continuing success.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the 2013 Convention was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt
Recording Secretary

