

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Marriott Lakeway
New Orleans LA

Annual Convention
June 21 – 24, 2012

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING 4 P.M., JUNE 21, 2012

President Don Mixon called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Mary Bridges, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, and Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt. Absent: None.

The Harry Goulding Grafting Award and its continuing relevance were discussed at length. The award was created by Harry Goulding and first presented in 1986 to recognize each year the AHS member who perpetuated varieties through grafting. Each recipient of the award chooses to whom the award will be given the next year. In the past couple of years, the award was presented to a non-AHS member who does nothing to benefit the Society or its members. Today, less than 50% of hibiscus plants are grafted, with the majority being grown on their own roots. Since the award will be presented at this year's Awards Banquet, the Committee tabled this discussion until the November Membership Meeting.

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 21, 2012

Chairman Mary Bridges called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Mary Bridges, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, and Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt. Directors Kathy Grandoff, C J Melebeck, Damon Veach (Wanda Schmoyer and Mario Francis arrived later). Absent: Directors Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Ann Peltier.

Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt prepared new Bylaws and Policy and Procedures Manuals for all officers that will be distributed on Friday.

Board members were reminded that if you are unable to attend a scheduled meeting, either in June or November, you must contact either the president or the chairman of directors for an excused absence.

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

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COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE, 9 A.M., JUNE 22, 2012

President Don Mixon welcomed everyone to the meetings and called on each committee chairman for a report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Walter Bisselle

Treasurer Bisselle furnished copies of the Annual Report, Fiscal Year June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012. The Society routinely runs a deficit on paper, but we are solvent. All of the Chapters have not yet turned in their dues.

BYLAWS: DEB SPENCER

Second VP Spencer reported that no changes had been submitted.

PUBLICATIONS: PAUL FELSBERG

We have 5,280 Tropical Hibiscus Handbooks in storage. Online sales are steady. The Open Collector exhibitor cards need to be revised to remove the decorations on the line where the name of the bloom should go. The Seedling exhibitor cards no longer have spaces to show the parentage on them, and this would be helpful to the judges. At the next printing of these cards, these changes should be made. Exhibitor cards are expensive and make up a large part of the \$40 cost of show packets. Show chairmen are requested to inventory their supply of the various classifications and only order the amount needed for their shows. We have approximately 150 of the DVD catalogues on hand. We still have about \$280 of the grant from Chandler Cox that will be used to pay for distribution. The DVD is still an attraction to gain new MAL's from the web site.

THE SEED POD: RITA HALL

We need advertisers and articles. The printer is doing a great job and the color is excellent. We are considered a small client, so if a larger client's job is received while we are still trying to get our material organized, we are pushed to the rear, which can make some issues late.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP: DEB SPENCER

The membership breakdown by location is 25% Members-at Large, 38% Texas/Louisiana, 27.5% Florida and 9.5% Virgin Islands. We need to find ways to bring in younger members.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: WALTER BISSELLE

MAL's are not on the same schedule as the Chapters. Each MAL has a unique renewal date and receives a dues renewal notice prior to that date. The DVD catalogue continues to be an attraction to gain MAL's.

NATIONAL AWARDS AND SHOW DATES: DEB SPENCER

Please get your show dates to the 2nd VP so that we can get the web site updated as soon as possible.

SLIDE BANK: PAT MERRITT

The Slide Bank has become obsolete as everything is now digital. Chairman Eddie Griffith has sent all of the slides to the archives. The President's Committee needs to address retiring the Slide Bank Committee.

SEED BANK: BOB CARRAN (CINDY ERNDT REPRESENTING)

The Seed Bank has been brought back to life and is sending out seeds once again. Thanks to the generosity of some fine AHS members who sent me seeds, I have been able to send out 550 seeds to people in Europe, Australia, Central America, Asia, South America, and, of course, the USA. Please continue to send me seeds so that the AHS can spread hibiscus around the world. Marti and Greg Graves brought two bags full of seeds for the Roushes to deliver to Bob Carran.

NOMENCLATURE: MARTI GRAVES

C J Melebeck gave a presentation on the updates to the Roz Merritt Memorial Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Nomenclature Database web site.

<http://www.hibiscusdb.org> Be patient, it takes a few moments to load.

A registration form has been added, but it must be printed and manually completed. The completed printed form should be snail mailed to Marti Graves, 10920 Hanselman Rd., Manvel TX 77578. An online registration form will be available shortly. Pictures submitted should be about 640 x 480. C J will send a

note on ahsbiz when future updates have been made.

Marti Graves reported that an Internet cyber group calling themselves the International Hibiscus Society (IHS) is circulating a petition online to the International Society for Horticulture Science (ISHS) to take over as the official International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for Hibiscus rosa-sinensis. This post is currently held by the Australian Hibiscus Society with Brian Cheers as the Authority. The IHS is only an Internet chat group and not a hibiscus society. Its beef with Australia is that registrations are not being handled in a timely manner. After discussion, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the American Hibiscus Society president will write a letter to the ISHS affirming the Society's support of the ICRA for Hibiscus rosa-sinensis remaining in the hands of the Australian Hibiscus Society. A copy of this letter will be made a part of these Minutes.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' COMMITTEE: ANN PELTIER

All but one Chapter was represented. Each Chapter representative was asked to contribute what his/her Chapter is doing to attract new members and attendance at shows. These ranged from giving away free plants with membership, offering \$3 off plants for joining the Chapter, advertising in local neighborhood papers, manning tables at local botanical garden exhibitions, speakers from other flower societies, field trips (safaris), mini shows, ice cream socials, arrange with a local grocery store to borrow shopping carts for the day. There was a discussion about allowing credit card purchases at shows. Those who did this saw their sales rise significantly. The percentage charged by the credit card company was approximately 2.75% per purchase. Each Chapter was encouraged to send their newsletter to all other Chapter presidents.

SHOW AND JUDGING RULES: FRED ROUSH

Present: Fred Roush, Paul Felsberg, Zelma Neef, Marti Graves, Pat Merritt, Krista Mathews. Absent: Ed Flory, Bonnie Orpi.

A request was made to ask Tom Miller to post the Miniature List on the AHS web site. The definition of a Commercial Exhibitor was once again discussed. On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the definition was enhanced to read: Any member that consistently advertises by any means (verbal, visual, print

media) that result in conveyance and/or the transfer of ownership of hibiscus plants or plant material for the exchange of monetary value. Wally Barr presented an alternative method of Sweepstakes tallying that may speed up the process. This will be studied and revisited at the November Membership Meeting.

A Judges Seminar was held concurrently with this Committee meeting. Some of the concerns were: Judges wandering off before the final judging is completed; how to treat "unlisted" blooms; exhibiting *H. schizopetalus* (is it acceptable to display it as it hangs on the plant?); the need for better lighting at the judging tables; decline in judging; judging seedlings. Marti gave a PowerPoint presentation on judging.

SEEDLING EVALUATION: CINDY ERNDT

Present: Cindy Erndt, Greg Graves, Sam Andrews, David Tate, Kathy Grandoff, Bradley Christian, and Gary Mathews. Absent: None.

Copies of the evaluations were furnished to members.

Class of 2009: after discussion, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the following blooms were eliminated due to lesser performance:

Texas Wild, Sporty Dragon, Ole', Triple XXX, and Elegant Tiara.

Class of 2010: after discussion, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the following blooms were eliminated due to lesser performance:

Rendezvous, Angel's Lady, Dainty Girl, and Slam Dunk.

Class of 2011: it is too early to eliminate any of these; however, Pink Champagne and Red Carib and an unnamed seedling winner from the Islands were dropped for lack of wood. An Island member informed the Committee that some of the hybridizers in the Islands really did not want their seedlings evaluated for SOTY, that they just wanted to compete among other Island hybridizers.

The chairman reminded all hybridizers that seedlings are not to be exhibited until they have been cloned and grown in every season. When a seedling is entered in a show, the hybridizer must have enough plants of it, or enough wood to clone plants to furnish each SEC member with a plant in the event it wins Best of Show Seedling.

The chairman read an email she received from Curt Sinclair about Seedling

Evaluation Committee members losing evaluation plants and failing to notify the chairman or the hybridizer that replacement plants were needed. This often results in only three or four members having plants mature enough to properly evaluate. He suggested that the Committee needs to address this issue.

Committee Chairman Cindy Erndt asked all SEC members to notify her when a plant is lost and she will see that a replacement is obtained.

Also in this email was a suggestion from Buddy Short about allowing more than one seedling at a show to advance to the evaluation stage. His example was that one seedling won against 80+ entries, and another seedling won against only six entries. His suggestion was that perhaps the show that had 80+ seedling entries should have advanced four seedlings (one for each 20 entries).

Briefly discussed was the need for a designated grafter so that the evaluation plants would be more uniform.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4:30 P.M., JUNE 22, 2012

President Don Mixon called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Mary Bridges, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, and Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt. Absent: None.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the committee voted to send to the Board for its consideration the AHS president's writing a letter to the International Society for Horticulture Science in support of the International Cultivar Registration Authority for Hibiscus rosa-sinensis remaining in the control of the Australian Hibiscus Society.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the committee voted to send to the Board for its consideration the changing of the definition of a Commercial Exhibitor at AHS shows.

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

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:40 P.M., JUNE 22, 2012

Chairman Mary Bridges called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Mary Bridges, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, and Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt; Directors Kathy Grandoff, C J Melebeck, Damon Veach, Wanda Schmoyer, Mario Francis; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Ann Peltier. Absent: Directors Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Directors approved the President's Committees' recommendation to have the new AHS president write a strongly worded letter to the ISHS in support of the ICRA for Hibiscus rosa-sinensis remaining with the Australian Hibiscus Society.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Directors approved the new definition of a Commercial Exhibitor at AHS shows.

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

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FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 23, 2012

President Don Mixon welcomed everyone to the First General Session. Carolyn Stoute gave the Invocation and Fred Roush led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Convention 2013: Cindy Erndt

The executive secretary presented three proposals from hotels in Florida for the 2013 Convention. The dates are June 20 through 23, 2013.

Hilton Garden Inn in Fort Myers, rate is \$89/night, free breakfast.

Embassy Suites in Boca Raton, rate is \$95/night, free breakfast and happy hour.

Marriott in Boca Raton, rate is \$99/night, free hospitality suite, we can bring in our own food and drinks.

Boca Raton provides great Chapter support from the Conrad Sunrise Chapter members.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to hold the vote at this meeting. After discussion, the vote was taken and the 2013 Convention will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Boca Raton Florida. The contract with the hotel will state, with specificity, the details of what the AHS requires before it is signed. Paul Felsberg will be the contact person for these details.

Fall Membership Meeting

November 9 through 11, 2012, at the Hilton Garden Inn East, Tampa FL. Room rate is \$109/night with breakfast included.

Election Results

The president thanked the National Nominating Committee and its Chairman Joyce Melebeck for their work, and then announced the results:

President	Damon Veach
1 st VP	Rita Hall
2 nd VP	Joanna Schimek
Secretary	Pat Merritt
Directors	Carolyn Stoute
	Fred Roush
	Wally Neef
	Lillian Farara

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

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 24, 2012

President Mixon asked Pat Merritt to give the Invocation, and Fred Roush to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then asked for Chapter reports.

British Virgin Islands: Clarice Lettsome

After a lengthy period of inaction, the BVI Chapter regrouped under the guidance of Lillian Lopez-Farara who was elected president in 2011. I was president until May 31, 2012, when Esther Georges was elected. We held monthly meetings, hosted a fundraising tea party and hat parade, and sponsored two successful shows. Our membership is now at 30, and our goal is to continue to work to increase knowledge of hibiscus for the members and expand membership.

Central Florida: Gary Mathews for Fred Fallman

The Chapter had a table at the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival, which was manned three times by the Nixon's and four times by the Mathews' family. Signed up one new member and handed out literature to people from many states and countries. I have been appointed Educational Program Coordinator. We average about 17 people at each meeting, and President Fallman's wife Jane always provides us with delicious pecan brownies. Our show was held March 31st at Mead Botanical Gardens, and our 2013 show will be March 30th.

Conrad Sunrise: Paul Felsberg for Maureen Buono

Our monthly meetings are well attended with hands-on programs including starting rootstock that would later be used for grafting. We presented sessions on hybridizing, seed preparation and planting, grafting and pruning. At one meeting we had an excellent PowerPoint presentation on garden variety hibiscus. Two auctions during the year provided funds for our two shows, which are held in conjunction with the Mounts Botanical Gardens sales. Sadly, we lost Pete Conrad

in April, and he will be sorely missed. A pot luck supper and Christmas party rounded out our year.

Golby Reasoner: No representative

Gulf Coast Chapter: Walter Bisselle

Ten years ago we numbered 100 members, and are now counting 12 to 15 active souls, of which 6 to 8 can be counted on to mount its annual show. We could use a more visible venue, but even public facilities such as the community center have become too expensive. Sponsors such as local banks no longer are willing to part with money for such an event. However, our 2012 show was quite successful, and we are planning a show again next year. Chapter activities included using the Pages/Webster/Felsberg DVD on garden varieties, our county entomologist's presentation on good, bad and ugly bugs, and a grafting party at the home of Randy and Annelle Cox. Informal merger talks with Golby-Reasoner and/or Harry Goulding Chapters are ongoing, but nothing concrete has yet happened. Most likely, we will exist independently for at least another year.

Harry Goulding: Jim Bridges for Greg Stevens

Our well-attended Christmas party and our booth at the Home and Garden Show were very successful. Our Annual Mother's Day show was moved to the Punta Gorda Events and Conference Center, and was a well-attended, successful show. We added four new members and the Chapter is moving in the right direction. We have a new president and vice president, and we hope this new blood will keep it moving. Sadly, we lost one of our senior judges and long-time member John Martin. He and his wife Marjorie were very active in the Chapter.

James Hendry: Wanda Schmoyer

Our Chapter enjoyed another successful year, with a great show in June where we signed up 10 new members. We meet the first Sunday at a local church, but will move to the second Sunday beginning in September to avoid holidays at the first of each month. At our meetings we have a speaker, refreshments, mini show, 50/50 raffle and a plant raffle. Each winner of the mini show is asked to talk about his/her winning bloom. Our field trips included Sanibel Moorings Nursery and Curt Sinclair's nursery in LaBelle. We participated

in the Fort Myers Home and Garden Show (signed up two new members), and the March in the Park event in Cape Coral. Our Christmas party and potluck picnic were well attended.

Lone Star: Jeanette Elliff

We have had a successful year with a gain of 18 new members from our two shows and plant sales. Our memberships at present number 88. With aggressive advertising in neighborhood newspapers and a new show site in Sugar Land, both of Lone Star's shows had an increase in traffic and a small gain in operating funds. The Ann Mitchell Memorial Bloom Award was presented at each show by both Texas Chapters, with Dave Mitchell choosing the winning blooms. Lone Star appreciates the assistance of Space City members at our shows. Marti Graves is our new newsletter editor, and a special thanks to Pat Merritt who served in that capacity for many years.

Michael Bernard Acadiana: Ann Peltier

We followed up the great Texas Convention last summer with our new-member barbecue at the home of Buddy and Kathleen Short. Many members attended the New Orleans Chapter's luncheon and grafting party at Houmas House Plantation. We have continued our Fallen Hero Project where seedlings are named in honor of Acadiana area soldiers who died while serving our country. We introduced a point system where the members earn points for participation in Chapter events, and a prize will be awarded at the last meeting of the year. Each meeting now includes a "Member Spiel" where a member is selected at random to give a short talk or presentation of their choosing about their hibiscus experiences. Each month members enter bloom photos in our Photo Contest, and the winners will represent a month in the 2013 Chapter calendar. In late February, Dupont Nursery opened its doors to all three Louisiana Chapters for a luncheon and nursery tour. Our membership drive netted 16 new members.

New Orleans: Wally Barr for Fr. Bob Gerlich

Our Chapter celebrated the milestone of sponsoring our 15th Annual Hibiscus Show and Sale in May. With the help of the other two Louisiana Chapters, this show was among our largest with 539 bloom entries and 14

Amateur Exhibitors. It pointed out the need for training new judges and reassessing our space requirements. The grafting party held at Houmas House Plantation has now become an annual event on the first Sunday in October. We gathered at Longue Vue House and Gardens for an ice cream social and mini show in August and for our popular Christmas Social at the DeLimon Condominium in Metairie in December. We participated in the tri-chapter gathering at Dupont Nursery in late February, and a grafting party at Longue Vue House in March. Our biggest challenge is to bring sufficient numbers of new and sought-after hibiscus plants for our sale.

Red Stick: Damon Veach

Our show and sale in May was successful, although the mild winter cut into our sales with not as many people needing to replace lost plants. We picked up more new members and held onto most of our older members. We meet every month except for June and November, which are reserved for National meetings. As president, I encourage our membership to participate in these AHS meetings in the form of taking a mini-vacation. Our scholarship program is about to begin, but we haven't rushed into this because we want to make sure it is done correctly. Our main emphasis is keeping our membership informed and involved in all things hibiscus.

Space City: Cindy Erndt

The Space City Chapter at present is now the second largest in the AHS with 77 memberships. We average about 40 members at each meeting. We give a bunch of raffle prizes to attendees, always at the end of the meetings. We sponsored three very successful shows this year, and look forward to another great year.

St Croix: Marsha Shuman

We are likely the smallest Chapter in the AHS with 19 very active members. Our biggest challenge is being an Island Chapter where getting to neighboring Chapter events is very difficult and expensive. We meet September through June and sponsor two shows each year. Getting plants to sell at our shows is a major

challenge. We must bring them in from Florida nurseries in September and the members grow them to sell at our January show.

St. Thomas: Mario Francis

The St. Thomas Chapter continues to develop itself with new and innovative ideas to attract and sustain its membership. Our meetings are divided into two parts, business and educational. Guest speakers/presenters give lectures, workshops and/or demonstrations on grafting, fertilizing, mixing soils, watering, hybridizing, pruning, insect and disease ID and controls and transplanting. A new member has joined at each meeting this year, but our older members are dwindling due to health issues and some are slow to renew. We lost Angelina Penn in May at age 89, and will miss her active participation. We have a scheduled September meeting of all three Island Chapters to discuss what works and doesn't work in membership recruitment and retention. Hosting the AHS Annual Convention at some future date will also be on the agenda.

Sunset: Fred Roush

Memorial Day is the time to remember all the men and women of our armed forces who sacrificed all to protect our great country and the freedom we so cherish. We chose this weekend to introduce the public to the beauty of hibiscus with our red, white and blue theme show that was well received. Our new meeting venue is the Pinellas Park Library, which will let us schedule our meetings for the entire year. We hope the consistency of holding our meetings on the fourth Saturday of each month will attract visitors and help the newspaper list meetings. The Sunset Chapter is stable and will be a proud member of the AHS well into the future.

Tampa Unbelievable: Kathy Grandoff

We had a show at the Florida State Fair and we all had a good time. We appreciate the Sunset Chapter's help with this show. We will try to do better next year.

President Don Mixon thanked the New Orleans Chapter for hosting this memorable convention and for their hospitality. He also thanked everyone for their support over the past two years.

Installation of New Officers and Directors

Past President Zelma Neef conducted the installation ceremony.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

New President's Remarks

Incoming President Damon Veach thanked everyone for their confidence in electing him to this office. He also announced that he had some ideas he would share over the next few months to grow the AHS membership.

President Veach appointed Julliette Frasier-Salter to the Board of Directors as his replacement.

With no further business, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the 2012 Annual Convention was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt
Recording Secretary

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AWARDS BANQUET, JUNE 23, 2012

The Harry Goulding Grafting Award to Doyle Williams, Space City Chapter, Pasadena TX, accepted by Petina Pervin.

The Norman and Beverly Brubaker Award for the Judges Favorite Bloom to Sweet Pink, Bobby Dupont/Fr. Bob Gerlich, hybridizers.

The Norman Reasoner Award for the most Amateur Exhibitors to the Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter, accepted by Ann Peltier.

The A. B. Morrison Award for the hybridizer with the most Best of Show Seedling winners to Nola & Carlos Reynolds, presented by Damon Veach, accepted by Paul Felsberg.

Gold Seal Sweepstakes Awards:

Amateur: Islands: Lillian Farara, BVI

Florida: Bill Bryan, Orlando

TX/LA: Jim and Jean Franklin, Space City Chapter

Collector: Islands: Kim & Katherine Simon

Florida: Jim & Mary Bridges

TX/LA: Joyce & CJ Melebeck

Open Collector: Islands: Marva Mactavious

Florida: Nola & Carlos Reynolds

TX/LA: Buddy Short

Commercial: Islands: Errol Chichester

Florida: Unbelievable Hibiscus (Kathy Grandoff/Don Mixon)

TX/LA: Ann & Dave Mitchell

AWARDS BANQUET (Page 2)

SEEDLING OF THE YEAR FOR 2012

Fourth Place with 24.49 points: PRO TEMP
Nola & Carlos Reynolds, hybridizer

Third Place with 25.53 points: LIFE SAVERS
Cindy Erndt, hybridizer

Second Place with 27.81 points: IMA PINK
Nola & Carlos Reynolds, hybridizer

First Place with 29.62 points: MIDNIGHT SERENADE
Nola & Carlos Reynolds, hybridizer

Presidential Citations for lifetime achievement and service to the American
Hibiscus Society:

Nola Reynolds, Ann Mitchell and Pete Conrad