

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa FL

Fall Membership Meeting
November 9 – 11, 2012

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 9, 2012

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 Mary Bridges, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Ann Peltier. Absent: None.

The president welcomed everyone to the Fall Membership Meeting, noting those who were attending a National meeting for the first time.

At the June 2012 Convention held in New Orleans LA, President Veach was asked by the Board to write a letter to the International Society for Horticultural Science in support of the International Cultivar Registration Authority for Hibiscus rosa-sinensis remaining with the Australian Hibiscus Society, or in the event that the Australian Hibiscus Society did not wish to continue as the registration authority, that the ISHS name the American Hibiscus Society as the official registrar. That letter was sent on June 28, 2012, and the president asked Director Carolyn Cormier-Stoute to read it to the committee. To date, nothing has been heard from the ISHS, nor has he heard from anyone in the Internet group calling themselves the International Hibiscus Society who petitioned the ISHS to take over this nomenclature.

President Veach, using an email vote of the committee, has increased the membership on the Seedling Evaluation Committee. The new members are Carolyn Cormier-Stoute (Louisiana), Carlos Reynolds (Florida), and Lillian Farara (British Virgin Islands). He also replaced Dr. David Tate, who resigned due to family health issues, with Mark Gore.

The president appointed a standing and permanent committee to work with the Harry Goulding Grafting Award to insure that it will be presented to an individual who truly promotes the propagation of hibiscus plants through grafting. The members of this committee are Jim Bridges, a member of the Harry Goulding Chapter, and Sam Andrews, a member of the Seedling Evaluation Committee. The third member will be the last recipient of the award.

President Veach also separated the Texas and Louisiana Sweepstakes Awards. When the three groups (Florida, Texas/Louisiana, and the Virgin Islands) were first established, there was only one chapter in Louisiana and two in Texas. Louisiana now has three chapters and three shows, and Texas has two chapters and five shows, so it was decided that these two States should each have their own sweepstakes competition.

After discussion of these changes, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried that they be sent to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

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

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FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:50 P.M., NOVEMBER 9, 2012

Chairman Mary Bridges 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, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Mary Bridges, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Ann Peltier. Directors C J Melebeck, Julliette Frasier-Salter, Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Lillian Lopez-Farara, Wally Neef, Fred Roush. Immediate Past President Don Mixon; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Ann Peltier. Absent: Director Mario Francis.

Motions were made and seconded to ratify the three items approved by the President's Committee and sent to the Board of Directors for their consideration. After discussion, the following were approved by the Board:

1. Addition of three members to the Seedling Evaluation Committee, and the replacement of Dr. David Tate. Approved with one opposed.
2. The appointment of a standing and permanent committee to handle the Harry Goulding Grafting Award. Approved unanimously.
3. The separation of the sweepstakes awards for Texas and Louisiana. Approved unanimously.

See the Minutes of the First President's Committee meeting for details.

New Business

Don Mixon announced that the Tampa Unbelievable Chapter has been disbanded.

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

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COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2012

President Damon Veach welcomed everyone and introduced first-time attendees to a National meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Walter Bisselle

Committee members present: Dave Flanders, Damon Veach, Ed Flory, Walter Bisselle. Absent: Jo Conrad. Copies of the November 2012 Budget Bits were provided by the treasurer, a copy of which is made a part of these Minutes and will be posted on the AHS web site.

THE SEED POD: Rita Hall

The printer we have been using has merged with another printer. This merger was partially to blame for the lateness of the October issue. The printing costs have gone up to \$1,598 per issue, which is still a very good price. The extra copies sent to Chapter presidents arrived with postage due. That was caused by the printer using 100-lb stock instead of 80-lb stock. Sorry about that, it won't happen again.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Paul Felsberg

Committee members present: Paul Felsberg, Walter Bisselle, Fred Roush, Rita Hall. Absent: Roland Gaudet. The Tropical Hibiscus Handbook is selling well online. Show Packets are \$30, and an invoice is included when they are shipped. Contact Roland Gaudet for a permanent exhibitor number. When an exhibitor changes classifications, notify Roland that the permanent number in the old class is available for reissue.

NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE: C J Melebeck for Marti Graves

Committee members present: Cindy Erndt, Pat Merritt, C J Melebeck, Tom Miller. Absent: Marti Graves and Sam Andrews. Director Melebeck gave an update on the data base that he is always working to improve. That web site is <http://www.hibiscusdb.org>

BYLAWS: Joanna Schimek

There are no bylaws changes at this time.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' COORDINATOR: Ann Peltier

All Chapters were present or represented except the St. Croix and St. Thomas Chapters. Jeanette Elliff, president of the Lone Star Chapter, was elected Chapter Presidents' Coordinator replacing Ann Peltier.

SEED BANK: Bob Carran

Most of the requests for seeds come from overseas. Sent out 300 to 400 seeds since the June Convention. He still needs seeds.

SHOW AND JUDGING RULES COMMITTEE: Rita Hall

Committee members present: Rita Hall, Paul Felsberg, Ed Flory, Zelma Neef, Pat Merritt, Krista Mathews. Absent: Marti Graves, Bonnie Orpi. Chairman Hall reminded everyone to use the new miniature list form to check off the blooms that come across the judging tables, and to add any blooms not included on the list. This will help to keep the miniature list up-to-date and over time we can eliminate those blooms no longer being exhibited at shows. This new form will be emailed to each Chapter president prior to their show, and should be sent to Rita after each show. Remember to turn seedling cards over so that any identifying information is hidden from the judges. If a seedling is a miniature, hybridizers must write "Mini" on the back of the card so that the bloom can be placed in the proper classification. If this is not done, the bloom will be placed in the regular single or double class. The Show Director cannot be responsible for determining if a hybridizer intends a seedling bloom to be a miniature or not. The Gold/Blue/Red ribbons have become rather costly, and exhibitors are encouraged to recycle them within their Chapters. Chairman Hall reminded judges to send her and Treasurer Walter Bisselle any address changes so that the judges' list can be kept current. A lengthy discussion about creating a permanent Hobbyist Class for exhibitors who have completed the two-year Amateur Class, but who only grow a few varieties and only compete in their local Chapter's show. A motion was made and seconded that the number of varieties be limited to 25. This was amended to be limited to 10 varieties, which failed. A motion was made and seconded to create a Hobbyist Classification for exhibitors with no more than 25 varieties. The motion failed. Meeting adjourned. Rita Hall then conducted a Judges' Seminar.

SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE: Cindy Erndt

Committee members present: Cindy Erndt, Mark Gore, Kathy Grandoff, Gary Mathews, Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, and Lillian Farara. Absent: Greg Graves, Sam Andrews, Bradley Christian, and Carlos Reynolds. The Class of 2009 that will produce the Seedling of the Year for 2013 was reviewed. After discussion, Ana Lyn Sport will be dropped for underperformance. This leaves five seedlings in the Class to be evaluated one more time in the spring: Dragon Flirt, Grand Marquis, Queen of Dreams, Snow on the Mountain and Storm Front. The Class of 2010 discussion resulted in two seedlings being dropped from the evaluation process: Clair's Future and Bob Carran. Chairman Erndt asked the committee members not to evaluate the 2011 Class at this meeting since the plants have only been distributed for six months. She remarked that this Class was one of the best in a long time. The chairman also observed that hybridizers should not have to furnish more than two plants of a seedling to members. If they lose both of those, the member should be required to purchase replacements. A discussion followed about the need for a supplier of seedling evaluation plants to committee members, either grafted or rooted. The chairman will talk with Curt Sinclair about supplying plants to members in Florida and the Islands, and Don Florus about supplying plants to members in Texas and Louisiana. Meeting adjourned.

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 3:10 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2012

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 Mary Bridges, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Ann Peltier. Absent: None.

There was no business to come before this meeting.

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

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:15 P.M., November 10, 2012

Chairman of Directors Mary Bridges called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

The first agenda item for this meeting was a request from a Chapter in Florida for a waiver of the bylaws' requirement to sponsor one show each year. This Chapter does not have the manpower or the funds to sponsor a show in 2013. After discussion, on motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved this request, and it will be re-evaluated on a year-by-year basis in the future.

A new Chairman of the Board is elected at each Fall Membership Meeting. Carolyn Cormier-Stoute was nominated and unanimously elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors to serve through the 2013 Fall Membership Meeting.

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

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FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2012

President Damon Veach called the First General Session to order and asked Jane Flory to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The president corrected an oversight that occurred at the June 2012 Annual Meeting in New Orleans and presented Life Memberships to Don Mixon and Kathy Grandoff.

Session adjourned.

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 11, 2012

President Veach welcomed everyone to the Second General Session on Sunday morning.

Treasurer Bisselle asked the membership to think about changing the exhibitor classifications to Amateur for three years, establishing a permanent Hobbyist Class, and merging the Collector and Open Collector Classes into one Class. This was not initially well-received, but it will be discussed again at the 2013 Annual Convention in Boca Raton, FL June 20 – 23.

We had a great number of plants available at this meeting for the raffle. Thank you to all who provided them.

With no further business, the Fall Membership Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia B. Merritt
Recording Secretary**