

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

First President's Committee Meeting, 4:30pm, November 13, 2015

President James Bridges called the meeting to order and roll was called. Present: President James Bridges, 1st VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Marti Graves. Absent: 2nd VP Damon Veach and Chairman of Directors Carolyn Cormier-Stoute.

There were no suggestions brought up to the committee at this time.

Walter Bisselle discussed the mid fiscal year treasurer's report. The BVI chapter is coming back. Our advertising in the Seedpod has doubled since last fiscal year. It was discussed that the cost of printing the Seedpod changes depending on the size.

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

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

First Board of Director's Meeting, 5:00pm, November 13, 2015

Fred Roush, sitting in for Carolyn Cormier-Stoute as Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Krista Mathews called roll. Present: President James Bridges, 1st VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Marti Graves, Directors: Fred Roush, Dave Wallin, Bradley Christian, Paul Felsberg. Absent: 2nd VP Damon Veach, Directors: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Lillian Lopez-Farara, Pat Merritt, Ann Peltier, Chapter President's Coordinator Jeanette Elliff.

With no business brought up at the President's Committee meeting, Fred brought up some business that had been left open at the June Convention.

A letter was supposed to be written to Facebook about the non-sanctioned American Hibiscus Society Pages. All pages are still up and running. Letter had not been written.

AHS Nomenclature is not being run by anyone. We are paying for a site we cannot use or register anything on, as CJ Melebeck is not doing it for us anymore. Pat Merritt is trying to get the information from CJ so that we can start updating the site again. We need to talk to Pat Merritt and Tom Miller about the problems with nomenclature.

Handout for new exhibitors was agreed to, but no one had received a copy of it. Joanna Schimek will take care of it when she sends out the New Updated Judges' List in a couple of weeks.

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

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

First General Session, 8:30am, November 14, 2015

President James Bridges called the meeting to order. Big Bad Flower had given us sweatshirts. There were 24 of every size from small to extra-large. Everyone was able to take one, and some chapter presidents got extras to take back to their chapters.

Treasurer's Report and Membership Overview Including MAL: Walter Bisselle

The chairman furnished copies of his report. We are only five months into this fiscal year, so this is only an overview not the final numbers for the fiscal year. As of right now, our memberships are below the 2014 fiscal year, but above the 2013 fiscal year. The BVI chapter is making a come back, but the MAL dues are down a little. It was brought up to redo the DVD as our publication sales are down. The Seedpod Advertising is up, and our cash on hand is healthy. The new printer of the Seedpod is working well. The larger the Seedpod is the more it costs. July's issue was 36 pages, so it did cost a bit more than some others we have had in the past. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report.

Memberships are down a little, but we do have some strong chapters. BVI is coming back, but their dues had not been received as of this meeting. The St. Thomas Chapter is also coming back, and the St. Croix chapter is hanging in there.

Chapter Growth Committee: Damon Veach absent (no report)

Wanda Schmoyer did discuss how the James E. Hendry Chapter gained 16 new members the day of their plant sale on November 6, 2015. Press Releases had gone out to 15 Newspapers in the Fort Myers area, and signs were posted up and down McGregor Street. The line was around the building. They sold out of 356 plants in 1 hour and 30 minutes. Each newly signed on member receive a \$5 discount on every plant purchased. This was advertised as well. It does not cost the chapters anything to do a Press Release in their local papers to advertise their shows and plant sales.

James Bridges did update the group on some of the new chapters that had been coming together at the June Convention. The Treasure Coast Chapter in Port St. Lucie, FL is not really interested in hibiscus. They have not been answering Jim's calls. The Lake Charles Chapter is still being worked on, but nothing new to report. We need to build the chapters we already have.

Show and Judging Rules Committee: Joanna Schimek

The Consequences for cheating during a show that were discussed at the June convention have been added to the manual and available for printing. New list of judges will be sent out to us in a couple of weeks, as well as the handout to be given to any new exhibitors.

A show directors Seminar was given by Krista Mathews.

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

Nominating Committee: Joyce Melebeck absent (Report sent to Val Longson and Walter Bisselle)

A motion was made and seconded to not close the nominations until Sunday morning, but to accept the list sent by Joyce. No nominations were brought from the floor, but Dave Wallin declined to run for 2nd VP. This will be unfinished business to go over Sunday morning.

A motion was made and seconded to have Nancy Kopp as the new chairman of the nominating committee due to the perception of CJ Melebeck running for Director and Joyce Melebeck being the chairman still. The vote was unanimous.

Seed Bank: Don Bernard

For the past year, the Seed Bank has delivered 2330 hybrid seeds to 67 hibiscus enthusiasts in 26 foreign countries and to 17 growers. Many of our requests are from Spain. This is most likely because there is a Spanish Language Gardening Site advertising the Seed Bank's existence. This is also putting a strain on the shipping cost and seed supply. It was discussed about the feasibility of requesting postage prepayment prior to shipping seeds. With PayPal postage prepayment could be done in any currency. The hybridizers who have shared their seeds with the Seed Bank were thanked.

Any hybridizer who would like to donate their extra seeds can send them to Don Bernard, 2414 Sundown Lane, Lantana, FL 33462. Any gardener who would like to request seeds can email their request to lantalandscape@bellsouth.net.

Seedpod: Rita Hall

The printer is working well. They have cut our cost by adding the names and addresses to the Seedpod during printing rather than going through Bulk Mailing. Also since we are considered a Non-Profit organization, someone does not have to go to the post office once a year to fill out paperwork anymore. This saves time and energy. Articles for the Seedpod were asked for, and those who already write articles were thanked.

Please send your show ad to Rita Hall as a PDF if possible, and get it to her 2 months prior to the next printing.

Publications Committee and Show Packets: Paul Felsberg

There are still 4,800 hibiscus handbooks in storage. They cost \$6 to the chapters. Chapters should notify Roland Gaudet about getting their show packet early. They should also notify him if they need any exhibitor cards with their packet. If a chapter does not need any exhibitor cards, they need to notify Roland, and the cost of sending the show packet will be much less. Anyone who needs a permanent number for the next show season should also contact Roland Gaudet.

It was discussed to reduce the online cost of the hibiscus handbooks from \$20 domestic and \$25 foreign. There will be no change in cost at this time. The DVD is exhausted. We can check with the new printer to see if it can be reproduced, and if necessary do some checking on cost. Need to see if it can be put on a flash drive rather than a DVD.

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

Seedling Evaluation Committee: Cindy Adkins

The chairman Cindy Adkins called the meeting to order. Three of the seven members were present, and Wanda Schmoyer sat in for the newest appointee, Paul Zinszer. All members had been heard from during their regular evaluation.

Discussion of the Class of 2012: Drop Dirty Deeds, Hannah's Love, and Strawberry Nee High. Dirty Deeds and Strawberry Nee High were graded lowest in the class, and not enough committee members had Hannah's Love. It was agreed that Damon Veach will be eliminated from voting the Class of 2012 in the Spring.

Discussion of the Class of 2013: Drop Cool Brees, Gyro, Infactuation, and Princess Karen. The evaluators present agreed that not enough evaluators were able to evaluate these plants properly due to lack of plants, or the plant being too small.

Discussion of the Class of 2014: Drop Kenya, Maizie, Stormy Blue, and Trish. These were all dropped due to lack of wood or plants. The committee will give the rest of the Class of 2014 another six months.

A motion was made and seconded to keep Cindy Adkins on as the Chairman of the Seedling Evaluation Committee for next year. The vote was unanimous.

It was discussed to have no designated grafter for Florida, and have the Florida winners either find someone to graft the plants for them or graft or root the plants themselves.

Curt Sinclair brought up a proposal that the committee be dissolved and that the society use a beauty contest. Again both sides were discussed. Curt had discussed the problems with a make shift committee that he had formed. Curt stated that many of them think that the Seedling Evaluation committee should be dissolved. Gary Mathews and Cindy Adkins rebutted with their own research. Many of which had contradicted what Curt had said. One of the problems discussed was brought up by Buddy Short in an email that he is not being notified of missing plants until the week before a convention and/or a meeting. A solution to this issue could be a monthly check of the evaluation plants, and to notify the entire committee. If this is done, maybe the hybridizers would not feel like the communication is lacking. Hybridizers are just not interested in showing their new seedlings anymore.

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

Second President's Committee Meeting, 3:30pm, November 14, 2015

President James Bridges called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Krista Mathews called roll. Present: President James Bridges, 1st VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Marti Graves. Absent: 2nd VP Damon Veach and Chairman of the Board Carolyn Cormier Stoute.

Motion was made and seconded to have a form to be able to opt out of seedling evaluation. An exhibitor will be able to sign that he does not have enough wood and does not want to pay the \$50 to be able to have his winning seedling be evaluated. The vote was three to two so the motion passes.

Motion was made and seconded to wait until Sunday morning to vote on a new chairman of the board.

Motion was made and seconded to form a committee of three people to look at the running of the seedling evaluation committee and report back to the President's Committee at the June Convention. The vote was unanimous. President James Bridges will announce the committee members on Sunday Morning.

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

Second Board of Directors Meeting, 4:00pm, November 14, 2015

Fred Roush, sitting in for Carolyn Cormier-Stoute as the Chairman of the board called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Krista Mathews called roll. Present: President James Bridges, 1st VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Marti Graves, Directors, Paul Felsberg, Dave Wallin, and Fred Roush. Absent: 2nd VP Damon Veach, Chairman of Directors Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Directors: Lillian Lopez-Farara, Bradley Christian, Pat Merritt, Ann Peltier, Chapter President's Coordinator Jeanette Elliff.

There was no quorum at this meeting, and with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015

Second General Session, 9:00am, November 15, 2015

President James Bridges called the meeting to order and the recording secretary called roll.

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made and seconded that the Chairman of the Board for next year is going to be Paul Felsberg. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded that the Chapter President Coordinator for next year is going to be Wanda Schmoyer. The vote was unanimous.

President James Bridges announced the members of the committee to evaluate the running of the seedling evaluation committee are Melanie Craig, Todd Alvis, and Greg Graves. This committee will report back to the President's Committee as to what they find out and come up with as a solution to the Seedling Evaluation Committee problems.

A motion was made and seconded that the nominations for officers be closed as presented by former chairman of the committee Joyce Melebeck.

List of candidates are as follows:

President:	Joanna Schimek Damon Veach
1 st VP:	Deb Spencer Carolyn Cormier-Stoute
2 nd VP:	Fred Roush
Recording Secretary:	Krista Mathews
Directors:	Todd Alvis Don Bernard Connie Roush Cindy Wilson CJ Melebeck

The June 2016 Convention will be held at the Omni Westside Hotel in Houston, TX from June 23-26, 2016.

With no further business, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the 2015 Fall Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista L. Mathews
Recording Secretary

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 13-15, 2015