

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

South Shore Harbor Resort
League City TX

Annual Convention
June 16 – 19, 2011

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 P.M., JUNE 16, 2011

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 Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt. Absent: None.

The president welcomed everyone to Texas on behalf of the two host Chapters, Lone Star and Space City. In the absence of Parliamentarians Ed Flory (meetings) and Paul Felsberg (Internet), President Mixon appointed Rita Hall as acting parliamentarian. The president also appointed Tony Erndt Sergeant-At-Arms.

National Nominating Committee

Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach will ask each Chapter president to appoint one member to serve on the National Nominating Committee. This committee will meet after the First General Session on Saturday afternoon.

Policy and Procedures Manual

2nd VP Deb Spencer will convert this manual into a Word document that can be easily edited and updated.

Nomenclature Database

The Roz Merritt Memorial Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Nomenclature Database is up and running at www.hibiscusdb.org There is still some graphics work to be done, which is mainly cosmetic, and an online registration form to be added.

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

**South Shore Harbor Resort
League City TX**

**Annual Convention
June 16 – 19, 2011**

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5 P.M., JUNE 16, 2011

Chairman of the Board Kathy Grandoff 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 Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt; Directors Joyce Comingore, Wanda Schmoyer, C. J. Melebeck, Damon Veach; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Ed Flory, Mary Bridges, and Mario Francis; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith.

The chairman went over the items discussed at the President's Committee meeting, and there was nothing that required Board approval.

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE, 8:30 A.M., JUNE 17, 2011

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Chairman Deb Spencer called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Deb Spencer, Rita Hall, David Tate. Absent: Ed Flory and Mario Francis.

Chairman Spencer read the proposed changes to the bylaws, which were printed in the January 2011 issue of The Seed Pod. They are:

- 1) To amend Article VII Government, Section 1 Insert new item b, all following items will be re-lettered.

b. Voting. For business conducted between meetings, the Board of Directors may take any action within its jurisdiction by mail, fax, Internet, or any other suitable electronic media. A reasonable amount of time will be allowed for each Director to cast their vote.

Reason: By allowing Internet votes the Board of Directors and President's Committee will be able to conduct business and vote on items that need to be taken care of between meetings.

- 2) Section 2 Officers and Duties:

d. Recording Secretary:

(1) Recording Secretary shall:

(a) Record proceedings of all meetings for the membership, the Board of Directors and President's Committee.

(b) Record all votes of the Board of Directors and President's Committee at meetings, by mail, fax, Internet or by any other suitable electronic media by listing motion, Director's/President's Committee members' name and how they voted.

(c) Provide copies of all proceedings to the Executive Secretary for proper distribution no later than thirty (30) days after such proceedings.

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued) Bylaws Committee (continued)

Reason: Will keep all Internet votes recorded for review by other AHS members if a question regarding a vote occurs.

3) Article VIII Committees, Section 1 General Activity

Reword item b to exclude the “sunshine law.”

b. Each committee will function under an “open door” policy. During voting, however, if the Committee Chairman feels that a discussion should involve only the Committee members, the Committee Chairman may direct the space be cleared of all but Committee members. Non-Committee members attending a meeting may not voice any opinion or in any way intrude on the meeting unless specifically recognized and called upon by the Chairman. Disruptive individuals may be expelled from the meeting.

Reason: The Florida Sunshine Laws only apply to those companies that do business with various City and State agencies, of which the AHS is not one. Therefore, the Sunshine Laws do not apply to the AHS.

4) Seedling Evaluation Committee:

Add: It will be the Seedling Evaluation Committee’s duty to determine the eligibility of a seedling for SOTY. If for some reason it is determined that a seedling should be disqualified, it will be the responsibility of the Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairperson to notify the hybridizer of the disqualification.

Reason: It should not fall to the Show Directors or other Show Committee members to have to contact the hybridizer to inform him of the disqualification.

5) Article X Meetings

Section 2

a) The Board of Directors shall hold an Annual Meeting during June. At the time of the Annual Meeting, the committees of the Society may meet at the call of the President, the Committee Chairperson, or a majority of the Board of Directors. The date and place of the next Annual Convention shall be among the last items on the agenda of each Annual Convention.

Reason: With the cost of travel and hotels it has become cost-prohibitive for many members to attend two meetings a year. By only having one meeting a year it will encourage more members to attend the yearly meeting.

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued) Bylaws Committee (continued)

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Treasurer Walter Bisselle reported that the committee foresees a more comfortable fiscal year for two reasons, the bequest of \$10,000 by our long-time executive secretary Jeri Grantham who died last year, and the reduced costs of printing The Seed Pod. We are saving about \$1,250 an issue with a new printer. We are pursuing the return of the \$6,000 grant to LSU for the Nomenclature Database. An Annual Report for the fiscal year June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011 was provided to those present.

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

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued)

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

In the absence of Chairman Paul Felsberg, Rita Hall called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Walter Bisselle, Fred Roush, Rita Hall. Absent: Paul Felsberg, Roland Gaudet.

Treasurer Walter Bisselle made a motion that the AHS pay Roland Gaudet \$300 per quarter to cover unreceipted expenses in connection with his work in preparing show packets and sending out publications. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Rita Hall asked why we no longer have a Publications Room at the membership meetings. After discussion, it was decided that with so many publications being available online now, this was no longer relevant. The membership directory that was published in the past was deemed too expensive to update and print, and we do not want to put it online because of the abuse of the information that might ensue. Walter Bisselle will discuss with Tom Miller a way we can put the membership roster on the AHS web site with access by members only. The new printer allows us to put color on every page at no extra charge if no more than three colors are used. Our advertising rates for black and white are ¼-page \$30, ½-page \$50, full page \$100. For color the rates are ½-page \$150, full- page \$300. These rates have been in effect for more than 15 years. There followed a discussion of advertising rates. Since our circulation is so small (approximately 1,000 copies of each issue), and the printer does not charge extra for color, these new rates were adopted:

Chapter show ads will remain at \$50 for ½-page and color can be added.

½-page color = \$100

Full-page color = \$200

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

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued)

NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

Chairman Marti Graves called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Marti Graves, Chairman, Cindy Erndt, Pat Merritt, C. J. Melebeck. Absent: Fern Betancourt, Tom Miller, Eddie Griffith, and Sam Andrews.

The chairman announced the link to the Nomenclature Database: www.hibiscusdb.org. The meeting was then turned over to C. J. Melebeck who demonstrated some of its features. Joelle Busby, Joe Ludick's granddaughter, has been retained to provide graphics for the site. An online registration form and a User's Guide will be added soon. Until the security can be worked out with Godaddy (the host of our site), registrations may be submitted using the paper form that can be printed from the AHS web site at <http://www.americanhibiscus.org>.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried that the AHS pay C. J. Melebeck \$300 per quarter, retroactive to January 1, 2011, to cover unreceipted expenses.

It will be recommended to the President's Committee that a letter be written to the Chancellor of LSU requesting the return of the \$6,000 grant for their proposed work on the database on the basis of non-performance.

Links to other hibiscus sites will be added, and the link will be published in The Seed Pod.

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

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued)

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' MEETING

Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach called the meeting to order with only two Chapters not being represented. The coordinator announced that the only business was the appointment of a National Nominating Committee. One member from each Chapter will be appointed to serve. Those appointed:

British Virgin Islands: Clarice Lettsome

Central Florida: Krista Mathews

Conrad Sunrise:

Golby Reasoner: Rae Flanders

Gulf Coast: Val Longson

Harry Goulding: Jim Bridges

James E. Hendry: Wanda Schmoyer

Lone Star: John Newton

Michael Bernard Acadiana: Theresa Gore

New Orleans: Jim Gedicke

Red Stick: Julliette Frasier-Salter

Space City: Joyce Melebeck, Chairman

St. Croix and St. Thomas: Winston Quammie

Sunset: Connie Roush

Tampa Unbelievable: Kathy Grandoff

A meeting of this Committee will be held at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, June 18, 2011.

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

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued)

SHOW AND JUDGING RULES COMMITTEE

Chairman Fred Roush called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Chairman Fred Roush, Marti Graves, Pat Merritt, Krista Mathews. Absent: Paul Felsberg, Ed Flory, Zelma Neef, Bonnie Orpi, and Randy Cox.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Australian method of exhibiting miniature blooms. Any bloom that fits through the 5" ring on show day is a Miniature. This would eliminate the Miniature List and the problems encountered with keeping it updated. After discussion, the motion passed 3 for, 1 against.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning entering someone else's blooms for them at shows. Under the current rules, only Amateurs must be present to enter blooms. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously that an exhibitor must enter his/her blooms in person unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as illness, and with the prior permission of the Show Director.

A motion was made to create a Judge Emeritus status for those judges who had been Senior Judges for 20 years or more that would exempt them from having to judge at three shows each year to maintain their credentials. After discussion, it was decided that a provision for this is already in place that allows a judge who is not able to travel to shows and can only judge his/her own show to maintain status. He/she only needs to contact the first vice president and ask for a waiver of the three-show rule. The motion was withdrawn.

An Open Collector exhibitor inquired if selling hibiscus seeds make an exhibitor commercial? After discussion, the Committee decided that: Yes, it is a commercial endeavor.

Jim Gedicke presented NOLA Chapter member Wally Barr's suggestions for improving the Gold Seal process and the Sweepstakes tally counting.

Val Longson went over the proper way to return a completed show packet.

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued)

A Judges' Seminar was conducted following this meeting.

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

SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Greg Graves called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Chairman Greg Graves, David Tate, Kathy Grandoff, Cindy Erndt. Statistics Coordinator Jim Gedicke was also present. Absent: Sam Andrews, Pete Conrad, Annelle Cox, and Bradley Christian.

The chairman first discussed the Class of 2008 from which the SOTY of 2012 will come. Based upon the averages of the scores, the following cultivars were dropped from the list for poor performance:

City Girl
Amber and Eve
Lucky Lady
Silver Rain

From the Class of 2009, the following cultivars were eliminated:

Pecan Cream
Pride & Joy
Butterscotch Brownie
Moonlight Love

The Class of 2010 was left intact.

A discussion followed about Best of Show Seedlings being withdrawn because the hybridizer decides after their win to patent them. The consensus of the Committee is that if a hybridizer wins Best of Show Seedling at a show, that cultivar is released and can be propagated and sold by anyone who has it. If the

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (continued) SEEDLING EVALUATION (continued)

hybridizer intends to patent a cultivar, it should not be entered as a seedling in an AHS show.

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, JUNE 17, 2011

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 Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt. Absent: None.

Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt announced that transportation for the garden tour to the Schlueter's home will leave at 9 a.m. There will be two groups, one at 9 a.m. and one at 10 a.m.

Bylaws: Deb Spencer

See Committee meeting Minutes for detailed explanation of the bylaws proposals. The votes:

- Proposal 1: Carried unanimously.
- Proposal 2: Carried unanimously.
- Proposal 3: Carried unanimously.
- Proposal 4: Carried unanimously.
- Proposal 5: Failed 5 against, 2 for.

Budget: See earlier report

Publications

The committee approved a proposal to pay Roland Gaudet \$300 per quarter retroactive to January 2011 for unreceipted expenses. Approved unanimously.

Nomenclature

The committee approved a proposal to pay C. J. Melebeck \$300 per quarter retroactive to January 2011 for unreceipted expenses. Approved unanimously.

SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE (continued)

Show and Judging Rules

Entering blooms for others not present (see committee report for details).
Carried unanimously.

Miniature blooms (see committee report for details). Four for, two
opposed, 1 abstention.

Seedling Evaluation

Jo Conrad has requested that Pete Conrad be replaced on the Seedling
Evaluation Committee by John Webster. Pete's health is such that he cannot
continue to evaluate plants. This request has not yet been received in writing.

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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Annual Convention
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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JUNE 17, 2011

Chairman of the Board Kathy Grandoff 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 Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt; Directors Joyce Comingore, Wanda Schmoyer, C. J. Melebeck, Damon Veach; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Ed Flory, Mary Bridges, and Mario Francis; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith.

The chairman read the bylaws proposals that were approved by the President's Committee and asked the Board to vote. All four proposals were approved unanimously.

The President's Committee has approved committee recommendations to pay Roland Gaudet and C. J. Melebeck \$300 per quarter each for unreceipted expenses. The Board approved this unanimously with one abstention.

Show and Judging Rules Committee's recommendation to adopt the Australian Hibiscus Society's method of entering miniature blooms, if it goes through the 5" ring on show day it is a Miniature. Eight for, three against.

Recommendation that all exhibitor classes must enter their own blooms at shows unless there are extenuating circumstances and with prior permission from the Show Director. Passed unanimously.

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

South Shore Harbor Resort
League City TX

Annual Convention
June 16 – 19, 2011

FIRST GENERAL SESSION, JUNE 18, 2011

President Don Mixon welcomed everyone to the First General Session of the 2011 Convention, and asked Rita Hall to deliver the Invocation and Fred Roush to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Treasurer's Report: Walter Bisselle

For the first time in a number of years we have ended the fiscal year on the plus side, mainly due to the generous bequest from Jeri Grantham and the ongoing reduction in the cost of producing The Seed Pod.

Bylaws Report: Deb Spencer

See the original Bylaws Committee report for details. All four bylaws proposals were unanimously approved by the membership.

National Awards and Show Dates: Deb Spencer

As soon as your Chapter sets its show date or dates, please send the information to Deb Spencer. Email: daknorr@yahoo.com

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall

With the new printer we are saving about \$5,000 per year. Ideal Printing does not count the covers as numbered pages, so we now have a 40-page publication instead of 36 pages. We can put color throughout at no additional charge, and the color is brighter and sharper. We are printing only 1,000 copies instead of 1,500. We need our members to submit articles. See earlier Minutes for changes to advertising rates. Thank you to Pat Merritt and Katie McClain for their help in proofing and mailing.

Publications: Rita Hall for Paul Felsberg

See the Minutes of the meeting held June 17th.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION (continued)

Chapter Presidents' Committee: Damon Veach

See Minutes of the meeting held June 17th.

Members-At-Large: Walter Bisselle for Sam Andrews

MALs number about 225 members scattered all around the World.

Show and Judging Rules Committee: Fred Roush

Two changes were presented to the membership:

An exhibitor must be present to enter blooms unless there are extenuating circumstances and with prior approval of the Show Director (listed in The Seed Pod). If an exhibitor is growing another hybridizer's seedlings, that exhibitor may enter a seedling for that hybridizer showing himself as grower and listing the name of the hybridizer. After discussion, the proposal passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Australian method of exhibiting miniature blooms: if it fits through the 5" ring on show day, it is a Miniature bloom and may be entered on a Miniature Tag. This would eliminate keeping the Miniature List updated. After a lengthy discussion, the proposal failed.

Nomenclature Committee: Marti Graves

Thanks to C. J. Melebeck, the Roz Merritt Memorial Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Nomenclature Database is now online hosted by Godaddy.com. The link to the site is www.hibiscusdb.org See Minutes of the meeting held June 17th for more details.

Seed Bank: Walter Bisselle for Bob Carran

This year was a very low demand year for seeds. I attribute this to the fact that there are so many people selling seeds from their "great" crosses that no one seems to want the ones that come from the Seed Bank. I sent a total of 783 seeds to mainly Europe and to the United States. A few went to Asia, a few to South America and to Africa. I have been out of seeds for the past month. Please send any extra seeds to me for the Seed Bank.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION (continued)

Seedling Evaluation Committee: Greg Graves

See Minutes of the meeting held June 17th.

Board of Directors: Kathy Grandoff

All matters were covered in other committee reports.

National Nominating Committee

President Mixon thanked those who volunteered to serve on this committee, and reminded them that there would be a meeting at 3:30 p.m. right after the conclusion of the First General Session.

There followed a general discussion about moving the Annual Convention away from the Father's Day weekend to the last weekend in June. This will not take a bylaws amendment, just a vote by the Board of Directors, which can now be conducted on the Internet.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the First General Session was adjourned.

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

South Shore Harbor Resort
League City TX

Annual Convention
June 16 – 19, 2011

SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M, JUNE 19, 2011

President Don Mixon called the Second General Session to order and asked Jeanette Elliff to deliver the Invocation and Fred Roush to lead the Salute to the Flag.

The 2012 Annual Convention details will be announced at the November Membership meeting.

Rita Hall read a message from Mario Francis, president of the St. Thomas Chapter, describing the work his Steering Committee is doing to pull a Convention in the USVI together. It appears that a convention in the U. S Virgin Islands may be pushed back to 2013. The membership present at this session was asked for a show of hands of those who would be able to attend a convention in either St. Thomas or St. Croix USVI. Twenty-two: Yes; 13: No.

The president next called for Chapter reports.

British Virgin Islands: Lillian Lopez-Farara, President

Thanks to the efforts of many USVI and Florida AHS members, the BVI Chapter has been reinstated and is fully functional. We meet each 2nd Sunday, except for July and August, at the Botanic Garden, Fishlock Hall. We participated in the National Parks & Trust Department's flower show and gained five new members. We started with 12. Our first hibiscus show was October 31, 2010, which added to our treasury, and we have a show on September 25, 2011. Several members chartered a plane and participated in the St. Croix show in January, and 15 of us traveled to the St. Thomas show in March. Two senior judges were reinstated, two new senior judges received their badges, and we have several members in various stages of judges' training. Our various fundraising activities have been successful to provide us with operating funds.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION (continued)

Central Florida: Fred Fallman, President. Gary Mathews representing

Margaret and Gerald Nixon have been members of our Chapter for about 18 months and we thank them for all that they do. Margaret arranged for us to have a Hibiscus Society booth at the Epcot Flower and Garden Show, and she and Gerald spent several days manning the booth, along with the Mathews' Family. We had to move our annual show from Leu Gardens to the Mead Botanical Gardens after the City of Orlando raised the rent to \$1,400. We still have our monthly meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Leu Gardens. The attendance was down from last year, likely due to the change in location. We will advertise more heavily next year. Fred Fallman does a great job of running our meetings, and Jane provides the greatest brownies.

Conrad Sunrise: Maureen Buono, President

No report.

Golby-Reasoner: Gayler Boettcher, President. Marti Graves representing

Membership continues to be our number one challenge. We have 31 members and four associates, down 10 members from last year. Our active members exhibit good morale and willingly support our Chapter's efforts. Our Chapter newsletter Petal Power continues to provide an excellent resource and news source. Renewed emphasis on electronic delivery has reduced costs. We appreciate the receipt of newsletters from other Chapters. Our 47th Annual show was a mixed success. Our plant sales did not meet expectations, we think because of the expanding competition from other events happening the same day and weekend in the same area. A new attraction this year, art vendor booths at no charge, were very popular. We repeated last year's 15-minute mini-sessions at 20-minute intervals, which was a huge success. Thanks to all exhibitors, show directors and judges.

Gulf Coast: Wally Neef, President. Marti Graves representing

Our major accomplishment was our 46th Annual Show on May 14th. With 600 blooms entered it was an unqualified success. The Chapter faces serious

SECOND GENERAL SESSION (continued) Gulf Coast (continued)

challenges with dwindling membership. We need to actively recruit new members through interesting programs advertised to the public.

Harry Goulding: Jerry Smyth, President.

No report.

James E. Hendry: Wanda Schmoyer, President. Joyce Comingore representing

We had a very successful year finishing with 61 memberships, 98 members. We presented our 60th Annual Hibiscus Show and plant sale where we sold 750 plants and gained five new memberships. We are growing so fast that we had to move our meetings to a fellowship hall at a local church. We have been successful at retaining members by assigning them committee positions as well as board positions.

Lone Star: Deb Spencer, President

We currently have 101 memberships; however only about 25 members attend meetings. We had two shows and noticed a decrease in the general public's attendance. The economy and the heat may be factors in the decreased attendance. We are now sending The Petaloid out electronically to those with email access. Only about 20 are still receiving it by snail-mail. Thanks to the two host Chapters for making this Convention memorable.

Michael Bernard Acadiana: Sandra Theall, President. Ann Peltier representing

It was a very good year (thank you Frank Sinatra) for our Chapter. Our members continue to think up new ways to spread the word on Hibiscus. We developed a 2" x 3" business card with our show and Chapter information, web site address and a picture of our signature Hibiscus bloom, "Pride of Acadiana." We planted a Hibiscus garden at our show site school, Cathedral Carmel, and we developed the "Fallen Soldier" idea whereby we name a seedling in honor of area fallen heroes and present a framed photograph of the bloom to the family. I identified 18 families and sent out formal letters requesting their permission to do this. We have heard from six families so far, and have made two presentations. Visit our web site at www.acadianahibiscus.com and see for

SECOND GENERAL SESSION (continued) MB Acadiana (continued)

yourself. Our thanks to Bobby Dupont and his nursery for their invaluable assistance to our Chapter.

New Orleans: Fr. Bob Gerlich, President. Jim Gedicke representing

Our Chapter enjoyed another good hibiscus season. At our show and sale we signed up 13 new members. Public interest in hibiscus continues to rise, and nurseries in our area are bringing in a greater variety of plants due to an informed public seeking greater access to new and popular cultivars. Cooperation among the three Louisiana Chapters has brought a growing sense of maturity. We remain strong financially, and enthusiasm continues to be high. The level of expertise among the membership has improved and more members are grafting and hybridizing than ever before. Members of all three Chapters were invited to participate in two grafting parties, and the turnout was great.

Red Stick: Damon Veach, President. Jim Gedicke representing

Our Chapter has enjoyed a very successful year. A trip to Dupont nursery, a booth at the LSU Spring Garden Show, lunch meetings and our annual show were highlights of the year. Our membership numbers keep growing, and we have a daily posting of hibiscus information on the Internet that is shared with hibiscus enthusiasts all over the world. We hope to get our scholarship program started soon. We have something special going on in Louisiana, and we welcome other chapters and individuals to join in this loving endeavor involving Hibiscus rosa-sinensis.

Space City: Cindy Erndt, President.

We returned from the 2010 Convention and immediately started planning this one. Thanks to all of the area Chapter members who did so much to make this Convention successful. We sponsored three shows this year and made a lot of operating funds. Our membership has tripled in the last five years to 89 memberships. We give door prizes at each meeting...at the end of the meeting. Our business at meetings is kept to a minimum, and the mini show is a popular feature.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION (continued)

St. Croix: Marsha Schuman, President. Winston Quammie representing

Our Chapter, with 25 members, had yet another fun and productive year. We love our hibiscus, love growing them, and never tire of seeing what's bloomed each morning. And, we love showing them off at two shows each year. Monthly meetings taught us pesticide management; how to plant and care for "foster" plants, plants that we bring in and grow for our plant sales; judges training; and grafting. We had our first beginner judging training and testing and graduated a half-dozen new judges-in-training. We plan a once-a-year judging workshop with all three islands (St. Croix, St. Thomas and Tortola) participating. We participated in the Ag Fair Hibiscus Booth and Plant Sale, the St. George Village Botanical Garden's Bloom Show and Plant Sale. We moved our January show to larger quarters at the UVI Great Hall. We are planning a new web site for our Chapter, and a membership bloom inventory to swap cuttings at next year's meetings.

St. Thomas: Mario Francis, President. Rita Hall representing

Our Chapter continues to develop new and innovative ideas to attract and sustain its membership. Mario Francis was elected to another term as president, and four new members were elected to the Board of seven. A special meeting was held on St. John with a mini show and a lecture on growing and caring for Hibiscus. We held our annual pre-Father's Day plant sale where two new members joined. In September we plan a meeting of all three Virgin Islands Chapters to discuss membership recruitment and retention and education programs. Also a topic to be discussed is hosting the 2012 Convention.

Sunset: Fred Roush, Acting President

Our Chapter continued its search for new members, a quest filled with frustration. The meetings are well-attended with visitors who enjoy the programs, but shaking them loose from 35 bucks is like trying to get through a summer without spider mites. Our membership has remained steady. Our program schedule started with "Waking your hibiscus from their winter sleep" followed by monthly programs on hybridizing, pruning, fertilizing, rooting, grafting and general discussions on all things pertaining to hibiscus. With several

SECOND GENERAL SESSION (continued) Sunset (continued)

working members on the walking wounded list, Katie McClain drafted two of her sons and their families to do a lot of the work setting up our show. Our new venue on a well-traveled road really packed in the visitors and gave us our best plant sale in recent history. Special thanks to Unbelievable Hibiscus for supplying their quality plants and handling the plant sales. Thanks, also, to our friends from other Chapters for their help and support at our show.

Tampa Unbelievable: Don Mixon, President

Our Chapter is struggling, but we do have three paid members. The Florida State Fair show in February was small due to the cold weather. We are having a Fourth of July party. Our goal this year is to have regular meetings and grow. We work together with Sunset Chapter.

First VP Fred Roush, who tracks the judges, thanked all of the judges for traveling to shows, and especially Rita Hall who judged every Florida show and traveled to the Islands to judge their shows.

President Don Mixon thanked everyone in the Texas Chapters for hosting a great Convention.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the 2011 Convention was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt
Recording Secretary

2011 Convention Awards

Harry Goulding Grafting Award: Richard Johnson, Tahiti

Norman and Beverly Brubaker Award for Judges' Favorite Bloom: Bayou Rose, hybridized by Dupont/Gerlich

Norman Reasoner Award for the Chapter having the most Amateur Exhibitors in the 2010 Show Season: Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter, Lafayette LA

The A. B. Morrison Award for the hybridizer having the most Best of Show Seedlings in the 2010 Show Season: Dupont/Gerlich, Plaquemine LA (Bobby Dupont and Fr. Bob Gerlich).

Gold Seal Awards:

Amateur:

Florida: Dixie Resnick

Texas/Louisiana: Jean & Tom Franklin

Islands: Tie: Tina Roberge and Barbara Gelardi

Collector:

Florida: Tie: Jim Bridges and Karla & Jerry Holmes

Texas/Louisiana: Joyce & C J Melebeck

Islands: Susan Sheehan

Open Collector:

Florida: Nola & Carlos Reynolds

Texas/Louisiana: Deb & Nick Spencer

Islands: Gordon & Elizabeth Hesser

Commercial:

Florida: Unbelievable Hibiscus (Kathy Grandoff/Don Mixon)

Texas/Louisiana: Dupont Nursery

Islands: Errol Chichester

SEEDLING OF THE YEAR FOR 2011

First Place: Nitroexpress

Hybridized by Nola & Carlos Reynolds

Second Place: American Maid

Hybridized by Susan & Barry Schlueter

Third Place: Cloudy Days
Hybridized by Nola & Carlos Reynolds

Honorable Mention: Major Exception
Hybridized by Nola & Carlos Reynolds