

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa FL

Fall Membership Meeting
November 11 – 13, 2011

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 P.M., NOVEMBER 11, 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 members and thanked them for traveling to the meeting. Several committee members need to be replaced and some permanently removed. Bobby Dupont's health issues preclude him from traveling and he asked to be removed from all committees on which he currently serves. Damon Veach volunteered to take his place on these committees. Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith seems to have moved on to other things and no longer attends meetings. Fern Betancourt has family health issues making it unlikely he will attend any meetings. Randy and Annelle Cox have asked to be removed from all committees. Pete Conrad's health caused him to resign from the Seedling Evaluation Committee. That committee is down to six members, and Pete will be replaced. President Mixon asked that anyone wishing to serve on various committees to please see him this weekend.

An email request was received from Anna Galovich asking permission to translate the "About the American Hibiscus Society" on the AHS web site into the Estonian language for a project she is working on "Web Flower Society." Attribution will be given on the site to the AHS. After discussion, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, permission was granted.

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

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FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5 P.M., NOVEMBER 11, 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, Ed Flory, Wanda Schmoyer, Mary Bridges, Damon Veach; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Mario Francis, C. J. Melebeck; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith.

Board members were reminded that, in the event they are unable to attend a membership meeting, they must contact the president or the board chairman for an excused absence.

On motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the action of the President's Committee granting permission for the AHS Events Page to be translated into the Estonian language.

Seed Bank Chairman Bob Carran asked to be replaced because he has had no seeds to send out since March.

Katie McClain sent the president a letter of resignation from her duties with The Seed Pod, citing declining health. This is to be effective after the January 2012 issue is complete. The bulk mail permit is in Katie's name and was issued in Pinellas County. Rita Hall, who also lives in Pinellas County, has volunteered to take on Katie's duties with help from Diane and Debbie Roeder and Kathy Grandoff.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board voted to issue a resolution of commendation to Katie McClain for her many years of service to the AHS.

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 12, 2011

President Mixon welcomed everyone to the meetings and recognized those attending their first Fall Membership Meeting: Monica Allen from the British Virgin Islands Chapter and Ann Peltier, the incoming president of the Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter in Lafayette LA. He next called for Committee meetings.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman Paul Felsberg called the meeting to order with members Walter Bisselle, Fred Roush and Rita Hall present. Absent: Roland Gaudet. Rita is thrilled with the job the new printer is doing, and she will assume Katie's duties after the January 2012 issue is mailed. Roland Gaudet is having difficulties with his telephone and Internet service. If anyone needs to reach him contact Paul Felsberg who will get messages to him until Roland re-establishes his lines of communication. If any Chapters need a supply of the DVD Catalogue, the treasurer has about 250 copies on hand. Send Walter Bisselle an email to request these.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Walter Bisselle furnished copies of "Budget Bits" through November 2011, a copy of which is made a part of these Minutes.

SEED BANK

Chairman Bob Carran reported that the Seed Bank had sent no seeds out since March of last year. The weather prevented seeds from setting in his yard and no one sent him any seeds. The requests for seeds keep arriving, but he had

no seeds to send. Sandra Theall sent seeds to Bob via Damon Veach, so he will continue to serve as chairman. Members please hybridize and send your seeds to the Seed Bank. Sending free seeds around the world has long been an AHS tradition, and needs to be continued.

Membership Overview

Treasurer Walter Bisselle directed attention to the second page of the “Budget Bits” that has three years of membership data. This is the time of year when the numbers are most accurate, showing membership is fairly steady. Chapter dues are all paid and the members at large are billed on their anniversary date all year.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Chairman Deb Spencer called the meeting to order with members Deb Spencer, Rita Hall and Ed Flory present. Absent: David Tate and Mario Francis. Chairman Spencer has updated the Bylaws with the changes voted on at the June Convention and will send them to Tom Miller for posting on the AHS web site. The chairman proposed a bylaws change to Article VII, Section 2 a, b, and c, Government. Currently, the President, First Vice President and the Second Vice President are term-limited to one two-year term. The change proposed is to allow each of these three officers to run for a second consecutive two-year term.

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

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS’ COMMITTEE

Chapter Presidents’ Coordinator Damon Veach called the meeting to order with the following Chapter Presidents present: BVI, Red Stick, Sunset, Tampa Unbelievable, James Hendry, Lone Star, Space City, Mike Bernard Acadiana, Gulf Coast. Also represented: Central Florida and Harry Goulding. A general discussion concerning ways to build membership followed. The chairman explained the particulars of his Chapter’s scholarship program for students studying horticulture at Louisiana universities. Fund raising techniques and getting publicity were also discussed. Ann Peltier, the incoming president of the

Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter in Lafayette LA, was elected Chapter Presidents' Coordinator to replace Damon Veach.

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

NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

Sitting in for Chairman Marti Graves, Cindy Erndt called the meeting to order with members Cindy Erndt, Pat Merritt, and Tom Miller present. Absent: Marti Graves, CJ Melebeck, Eddie Griffith, and Sam Andrews. C J Melebeck has made significant improvements to the nomenclature data base, including those listed below.

- . Improved and corrected the search function for all areas.
- Modified the application so that the user would not have to scroll as much to view information.
- Added context menus to most of the screens (These menus let you view additional information and can be selected by Right-Clicking on the mouse button when you are over the main area on the screen or selected photo in the photo viewer)
- Added capability in context menus to “Enlarge Image”. This allows the user to enlarge the image, modify the image, and save the image to their local computer in .png, .bmp, or .jpg format. The image is not changed on the Nomenclature database web site. (NOTE: This capability currently fails on the web site. I am working on fixing this now. I believe there is a missing library and I am trying to find out the library that is missing.)
- Modified add, update, and delete functions for all areas.
- Created a separate directory for smaller photos to help improve performance.
- Fixed login function to accept user registrations.
- Added capability to identify and select the “Fallen Hero” hibiscus.
- Added ability to display announcements on Home screen and listed email addresses that can be used to contact either the Webmaster (me) or the Administrator (at this time me, but I intend to add Marty and any additional people as needed).
- Created a Help menu for documentation, forms, and other information.
- Created User’s Guide in both Microsoft Word (.docx) and Adobe (.pdf) format. The guide is not complete. I have only documented the Advanced

Search function and the Context Menu function. This documentation is located under the Help menu. If the Word document is selected, the documentation will be displayed on the current screen. This is useful if you only want to read through the documentation. If you want to view the documentation and perform the steps on the web site, then select the Adobe version. The Adobe version opens in a separate window so you can view the documentation and the web site. The Adobe version also allows you to save the document to your computer or print the document.

Hybridizers are asked to look at their information on the site and forward any corrections to C J at webmaster@hibiscusdb.org. Forward registrations to admin@hibiscusdb.org.

Acting chairman Erndt took us on a tour of the updated web site.

THE SEED POD

Editor Rita Hall reported that the new printer is doing a great job. Katie is retiring and Rita will take over her responsibilities with help from several volunteers. Chapters can use color in their show ad at no additional cost.

SHOW AND JUDGING RULES COMMITTEE

First Vice President Fred Roush called the meeting to order with members Ed Flory, Zelma Neef, Pat Merritt, Fred Roush and Krista Mathews present. Absent: Paul Felsberg, Marti Graves and Bonnie Orpi. Senior Judge Rita Hall conducted a judge's seminar for those judges present.

Past AHS president and commercial grower Curt Sinclair presented a request to the committee to rescind the rule passed at the June 2011 Convention that every exhibitor must enter his/her own blooms at shows. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made and seconded that this rule be rescinded. The motion passed 3 – 2.

Second VP Deb Spencer created a form as an aid in managing the Miniature List. It will be included in the show packets for next year.

Creating the position of Judge Emeritus was again discussed, and tabled until the June 2012 Convention.

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

SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Cindy Erndt, presiding for Chairman Greg Graves, called the meeting to order with members Kathy Grandoff and Cindy Erndt present. Absent: Sam Andrews, Pete Conrad, David Tate, and Bradley Christian. Committee business was conducted via the Internet prior to this meeting with four of the six members voting. Details of these votes are included as a part of these Minutes.

Class of 2008: A seconded motion to drop from consideration Funny Voodoo and Glades Bronze Star carried on an Internet vote of four for, two did not vote. The final four for Seedling of the Year 2012 are:

Midnight Serenade	29.43	(Reynolds)
I'ma Pink	28.19	(Reynolds)
Live Saver	25.17	(Erndt)
Pro Temp	24.72	(Reynolds)

with another evaluation to be done in the early spring 2012.

Class of 2009: In an Internet vote, Black Rainbow and Purple Goddess were removed from consideration with four voting for, two did not vote.

Class of 2010: Most members do not have the following plants because of lack of wood or plants: Dupree's Diamond, Georgeann, LaBelle Creole, Marva's Baby. These cultivars were dropped from consideration because of this.

January through June show winners have until the next June Convention to get wood or plants to the evaluators. Winners at fall shows have until the next fall meeting to provide wood or plants.

On motion made and seconded, Cindy Erndt was recommended to the President's Committee to be Chairman of the Seedling Evaluation Committee.

The committee recommended that Gary Mathews be added to the SEC to bring the membership up to seven members. This would be effective with the 2011 Class of candidates.

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

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4:15 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 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

Seed Bank Chairman Bob Carran received 250 seeds today from Sandra Theall and rescinded his request to be replaced. Rita Hall will assume Katie McClain's duties of mailing The Seed Pod.

The Bylaws Committee recommended one change: Article VII, Section 2 a, b, and c, Government. Currently, the President, First Vice President and the Second Vice President are term-limited to one two-year term. The change proposed is to allow each of these three officers to run for a second consecutive two-year term. A motion was made and seconded that the President's Committee approve this proposed change and send it on to the Board for their ratification. The motion carried four for, two against.

Ann Peltier was elected to replace Damon Veach as Chapter Presidents' Coordinator.

The Show and Judging Rules Committee voted to rescind the rule passed at the June 2011 Convention that each exhibitor must enter his/her own blooms. A motion was made and seconded that the President's Committee approve this rules change and send it on to the Board for their ratification. The motion carried four for, three against.

Cindy Erndt was elected Chairman of the Seedling Evaluation Committee. The Committee recommended that Gary Mathews be added to replace a member who resigned. The President's Committee approved this recommendation unanimously.

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

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 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, Ed Flory, Wanda Schmoyer, Mary Bridges, Damon Veach; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Mario Francis, C. J. Melebeck; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith.

The President's Committee approved the following Committee recommendations/votes, and the full Board votes on each one:

The Bylaws Committee recommended one change: Article VII, Section 2 a, b, and c, Government. Currently, the President, First Vice President and the Second Vice President are term-limited to one two-year term. The change proposed is to allow each of these three officers to run for a second consecutive two-year term. The Board voted 4 for, 8 against. The recommendation failed.

The Seedling Evaluation Committee recommended adding Gary Mathews to that Committee. The Board vote was unanimous for adding Mr. Mathews.

The Show and Judging Rules Committee voted to rescind the rule passed at the June 2011 Convention that each exhibitor must enter his/her own blooms. The Board voted 3 for, 6 against, 3 abstentions. The recommendation failed.

Nominations for Chairman of the Board are: Kathy Grandoff, Damon Veach, Mary Bridges, and Joyce Comingore. By paper ballot, Mary Bridges is the new Chairman of the Board.

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

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FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 8 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 2011

President Don Mixon welcomed everyone to the First General Session, and went over the highlights of today's meetings.

The president called on Val Longson to report on the National Nominating Committee's activities. She also thanked the four outgoing Directors for their service these past four years. They are: Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory, Kathy Grandoff and Wanda Schmoyer.

The candidates nominated for the 2012 – 2014 period are:

Directors: (2012 – 2016)

Carolyn Cormier-Stout
Fred Roush
Lillian Lopez-Farara
Wally Neef

Secretary:

Pat Merritt

Second Vice President:

Joanne Schimek
Kathy Grandoff

First Vice President:

Rita Hall

President:

Deb Spencer

Damon Veach

Nominations from the floor will be open until the end of the meeting on Sunday. Contact Val Longson.

Executive Secretary Cindy Erndt gave a report on the 2012 Convention to be held in New Orleans Louisiana, June 21-24, 2012, at the Courtyard Marriott, Metairie LA. The room rate is \$79 per night and parking is free. She thanked Wally Barr and Jim Gedicke for doing the leg work in NOLA, saving her a trip. The membership present voted overwhelmingly to accept this recommendation.

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

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2011

President Don Mixon recapped the events of the meetings earlier in the weekend:

The Seed Bank is back in business.

If you need to contact Roland Gaudet, email Paul Felsberg at pockets5@comcast.net and he will get a message to him.

The new Chapter Presidents' Coordinator is Ann Peltier.

Seven members attended the Judges Training Class conducted by Zelma Neef.

Cindy Erndt is the new Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairman, and Gary Mathews was added as a member.

Rita Hall will assume Katie McClain's duties in mailing out The Seed Pod.

A letter from St. Thomas Chapter President Mario Francis was read requesting that the 2013 Convention be held in the U. S. Virgin Islands. After discussion, the membership present voted to ask Secretary Pat Merritt to send out an email to those on the VIP list asking how many would consider traveling to the Islands for a convention, either in June or November.

Val Longson asked for nominations from the floor. There were none and the nominations were closed.

Second VP Deb Spencer asked Chapter Presidents to review their show dates in The Seed Pod and send any changes or corrections to her ASAP.

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