

HOOKED ON HIBISCUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MIKE BERNARD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

APRIL 2003

RETURN TO SCHEDULE

The meetings will return to being held on the first Tuesday of the month. For April, it will be at 6pm April 1st. Dan And Dorothy, this is not an April Fool's joke. Refreshments will be provided by Gwen Williams and Stan Blackstone.

NAME CHANGE

At the previous meeting a proposal was made to change the name of the Society to the Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. Mike was the driving force behind getting a chapter started in our area and has been a leader in our organization and a wonderful grower of outstanding flowers. Mike is always willing to share his knowledge and expertise. Now, he is engaged in a gallant personal fight. While we can't fight this one for him, we can offer our prayers and support. Cards can be sent to his home: 13802 Lynnedale Loop, Abbeville, LA 70510.

COMING EVENTS

Events of local interest include the following:

Festival de Fleurs.....	April 4-5
Baton Rouge.....	May 4
Space City Chapter #1 Pasadena TX.....	May 18
New Orleans Chapter.....	June 1
Lone Star Chapter Show #1 Houston TX.....	June 8
National Convention Boca Raton FL.....	June 12-15
ACADIANA CHAPTER.....	June 22
Space City Chapter Show #2 Pasadena TX.....	July 20
Lone Star Chapter Show #2 Houston TX.....	August 17
Membership Meeting.....	Nov. 15 & 16

FUTURE MEETINGS

April 1
May 6
June 3
July 2 Nominations for elections opened
August 5 Report from Nominations Committee
September 2 Election Results
October 7
November 4
December Christmas party date TBA

FESTIVAL de FLEURS

The Chapter will have a booth at Festival de Fleurs. Set up will be on Friday April 4th, starting about 10 am. We need workers for Saturday and Sunday, as well as help late Sunday afternoon to break down. If you were not at the last meeting, contact Sandra (if she hasn't contacted you) to set up your time slot. This is an important fund raiser for the club, second only to our show. Wear your club shirt for easy identification when someone needs help. Its usually a fun time, for those of you who are new members.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The meeting was called to order on March 12 at 6pm. An update was given on the health of our beloved founding member, Mike Bernard. A proposal was made to change the name of the club to the *Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter* of the American Hibiscus Society. The motion passed with no objections. A banner was donated by Jean Hebert to be signed by the members, then presented to Mike.

Dorothy Jowers designed the ad to be put in The Seed Pod to promote our show in June. Thanks Dorothy. (We are so grateful that you and Dan will be staying in the area, and not just for your artistic abilities.)

The Treasurer's report was given by Ricky Meaux. At this point we have a healthy treasury.

The sign-up sheet for refreshments was passed around. It will be at the next meeting also. The person/people responsible for the coming month's refreshments will be published in the newsletter.

The upcoming Festival de Fleurs was discussed. Volunteers are needed for April 4,5, and 6.

The educational program included a slide presentation about spring care for hibiscus. Thanks to Rick Landers for surfing the net to keep us updated.

The door prize was won by Dan Jowers. Raffles were won by Stephanie Meaux and Gwen Williams.

To help us identify blooms, we will guess the identity of unlabeled blooms each month. Those who guess successfully will have their names entered in a drawing.

The meeting was adjourned and wonderful refreshments were provided by Sandra Theall.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME.....

Or in this case, a hibiscus by another name. How many relatives of our lovely H. rosa-sinesis can you think of? Okra and Rose of Sharon are two of the most commonly known. The person bringing in a listing of the most relatives will receive a plant.

BUGS!! UGH!!

As plants are brought out of greenhouses and sheltered areas, you may notice some unsightly critters. Be alert for aphids, mealy bugs, scale insects, thrips and mites. White flies may also be present, if not now, then later in the season. There are many products on the market that will control most types of infestation. Treat early to minimize damage.

MORE SPRING CHORES

I have been bring plants out slowly, examining the root system on each before I place the plant where I want it. I was taking a quick glance to see if the plant was root-bound. I realized that I was looking at just the root ball, but not really at the bottom of the roots. Many that I originally thought were okay proved to have 2-3 inches of roots curled around the bottom. I now make a thorough inspection before I decide that the plant is ready for placement. So far, all my plants have come through winter in good shape, and no sign of insects yet. However, I am only 1/3 of the way through my plants.

I have become a pack-rat about plants and have acquired many that I really don't want. I plan to bring some, or at least a list, to the next meeting. Anyone else interested in trades or sales?

DO YOU KNOW?

Anther is the enlarged tip of the stamen in which pollen is developed

Callus tissue is the whitish cell tissue developing at the base of a cutting or other wound

Cambium is the layer of rapidly dividing cells located between the wood and bark of woody stems and roots, responsible for their growth in diameter and the healing of wounds; of special importance in grafting

Chelate (key-late) is an organic compound which combines with iron or other heavy metals to release them slowly in the soil for plant use and yet prevents their being tied up in unavailable form by other soil chemicals

Drip-line is the outer circle around the base of the plant where moisture will fall from the branches

Genus is a closely related group of species; the plural form is genera

Remember, the next meeting is at 6pm, April 1, at our usual location.