



Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter American Hibiscus Society



Cool Mornings ~ Hot Days

After a few days of wonderful temps the heat quickly returned. I do enjoy the cool mornings with my coffee outside surrounded by hibiscus even though at that time of morning I only have unopened buds and day old blooms. It does signify that it is time to begin making your plans for winterizing your plants. Whether in-ground or in pots they will need protection.

Master Gardener Plant Fest

Thanks to all who volunteered at our booth at Plant Fest on September 15th. It was a wonderful day and we had a lot of visitors seeking information, free hibiscus seeds, and signing up to take a chance on winning one of the (5) hibiscus plants offered by the chapter and Mark & Theresa Gore. As the picture shows, our young visitors were happy with the free blooms, hibiscus beads, and Tootsie Rolls. Who needed plants?



MBAC Meeting – Tuesday, October 2nd

Come join us on Tuesday, October 2nd at 6pm for our monthly meeting. We will have our second technical sessions on propagation, *Cuttings, Rooting, and Grafting*. I encourage everyone to visit the rooting and grafting links on our website prior to the meeting. We will be looking for a couple of volunteers to do the grafting with expert instruction and assistance.

Calendar Photo Contest - Remember to bring your bloom photos. We will be selecting 3 blooms this month, so each member can enter 3 photos. We will be selecting the October, November, and December photos to allow time to get our calendar compiled and ready for sale before year end.

Mini Show – Each member can enter 2 blooms in each of the 3 categories of Single, Double, and Miniature. Have lots of blooms to share? Extra blooms can be displayed on the front table.

Have an October Birthday? Come to the meeting to be included in the Birthday Lottery.

Refreshments will be provided by Jennie Marcantel, Mignon Arton, JoAnn Pugh, Carol Broussard, and Betty Biagus.

AHS Fall Membership Meeting

November 9th – 11th

Hilton Garden Inn, Tampa East/Brandon

10309 Highland Manors Drive

Tampa, Florida 33610

(813) 626-6700

Hotel Rate - \$102 per night

New Orleans Chapter Grafting Party at Houmas House

The New Orleans Chapter invites members of the three Louisiana Chapters to join them at Houmas House Plantation on Sunday, October 7th for lunch at Latil's Landing to be followed by their annual Grafting Party. Most people arrive around 11:00am for a walk through the gardens and visiting before lunch begins between 11:30 and 12:00. Everyone will pay for their own meal.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend as the New Orleans Chapter will need to give the restaurant a head count so they can plan accordingly.

Grafting will begin around 1pm. You are invited to bring scion wood of "hard to find" or "rare" plants to share. The New Orleans Chapter will have rootstock available at \$2.00 a plant.

Directions: Take Interstate-10 East to Gonzales. Take Exit 179 (Hwy 44). Turn right off the exit onto Hwy 44 and proceed past Pelican Point Homes and Golf Club, across the intersection with LA Hwy 22. After you cross Hwy 22, go about a half mile and turn right at the levee onto River Road. Houmas House is less than a half mile on your right. Enter the parking area on the far side of the property just past the white fence along the front of the property.

2013 Officer Elections

It is time to consider who you would like guiding our chapter in 2013. Are you interested in serving our chapter as an officer? **President ~ Vice President ~ Secretary ~ Treasurer** Elections will be held at the November 13th Meeting. Please email me at ann@acadianahibiscus.com if you are interested in holding an office or would like to nominate someone for an office. If nominating someone else, please check with them first to be sure they are interested and willing to take on the responsibilities of the office. Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the election.

Upcoming Events

MBAC Meeting – October 2nd

New Orleans Grafting Party at Houmas House – October 7th

AHS Fall Membership Meeting – November 9th – 11th

MBAC Meeting – November 13th

Please feel free to call me at 337-781-4992 or email me at ann@acadianahibiscus.com if you have any questions or need additional information about any of the above. **See you on the 2nd! Ann**

Blooms and Things October 2012.....

Last month we discussed the hybridizing process and many of you walked away with the intention of trying your hand at creating seeds (that assumes you have blooms). I hope you gave it a try and were successful. If not, try again.

If you picked up seeds from me, keep me posted on your results. I'll be most interested in how you do. Remember I can send you pictures of the parents if you're curious.

July, August and most of September have been extremely hot so I've spent most of my hibiscus time reading individual responses on the yahoo to my question, "during the non blooming time of the year, what do you do?"

Most of the answers have been predictable but you like seeing those responses in print just to confirm your own thinking. I heard things like, 1) I've decided to prune my plants early this year to give them adequate time to grow out and regain their strength before they are put up for our winter. Made sense to me. 2) from a grower.....we've been taking root stock cuttings and sticking them in oasis cubes. We will eventually graft up close to 10,000 plants for customers. 3) I've been inspecting for insects and doing whatever was necessary to eliminate them from my collection (she should have attended Theresa Gore's presentation) 4) this individual talked about his preparation for winter and his culling process. Determining which plants stay and which ones need to hit the road. Etc., etc.,

Note: no one was talking about blooms. They were all talking about their ongoing preparation for the next batch of blooms or getting prepared for the cold and dampness ahead.

If you get email and you read the ones I send to the yahoo (few lately due to few blooms) then you should have seen what I am doing. Like you, I'm still doing the necessary things to try to get a few more blooms before the bloom season ends. That means that I'm fertilizing again and applying some Epsom Salts to my babies. I call those treats.

I'm also paying close attention to the leaf coloration as I try to identify those plants that are struggling for some other reason. Here's something I have noticed. Occasionally I'll see a plant that seems to be in need of water. After I examine the potting mix and find that it is not dry I immediately remove the plant from the pot. 9 out of 10 times, guess what I find? I find a colony of ants inside my mix. That happens more than you know. Of course, I quickly take care of those critters.

The end of September and the whole month of October and normally November as well are excellent months to do some cross pollinating so give it a try. You might find a new excitement in life.

Guess what? Regardless of your experience in this hobby, we are all just like you. It matters not if you are a collector, a commercial grower, or whether you are brand new to this hobby. It seems we are all getting ready for something.

I guess that will never change.....

See you Tuesday night October 2nd 6PM..... **Buddy**