

Greetings!

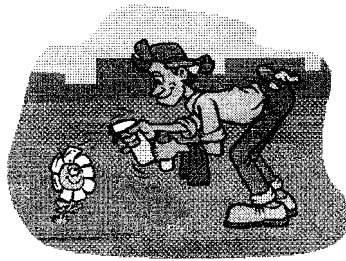
Our regular monthly meeting will be held this coming Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center at 2206 Johnston St. beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> is the grafting party sponsored by the New Orleans Chapter, at Longue Vue House and Gardens located at #7 Bamboo Road New Orleans, LA. 70124. Phone: (504) 488-5488. The grafting party will be from 1 to 4 pm. At the meeting, we will discuss car-pooling for those interested in going.

Directions to Longue Vue are: From Lafayette areas: I-10 through Baton Rouge to Exit 231A to Metairie Rd / City Park Ave; Go south .2 mile; Continue on Pontchartrain Blvd and go South for .2 mile; Turn right on Metairie Rd. and go West .6 mile; turn left on Bamboo Rd to Longue Vue Gardens.

From New Iberia / Abbeville areas: Go to Hwy 90. Go east 105.2 miles. Take I-310 ramp to Exit 1A I-10 east to New Orleans. Then follow above directions to Metairie Rd / City Park Ave.

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:**



It's a wonderful time of the year! With the days getting shorter and temperatures cooler, many blooms are larger and colors much more vibrant. Also many blooms last two or three days in this cooler weather.

Hopefully you have made plans for the coming winter months? This cooler weather has nudged me out of my procrastination and I have just finished re-skinning my greenhouse. Now if I can just fit all these plants in it, I'll be lucky.

Next month I will try to share some helpful tips on caring for your plants through the winter. For now, continue to fertilize regularly- but apply less than you would do in the warmer months. (I have cut my fertilization by 1/2). Regular monthly fertilization in moderation will help your plants remain healthy to withstand any cold snaps. Watch your watering habits! Plants are not using as much water as they did in the warmer months. Avoid keeping them waterlogged, as this is an invitation for fungal problems.

Dr. Pat Hegwood will be our speaker this month. He has been Professor and Head of the Department of Horticulture at LSU. This year he has taken on a new position as Resident Director at LSU AgCenter-Burden Research Plantation. He is very knowledgeable, so bring your fertilization and greenhouse questions.

Next month Fr. Robert Gerlich will give us a presentation on Hybridizing. Why not try your hand at hybridizing in the meantime? When the temperatures are between 60-80 degrees and the dew point between 50-60 degrees, the highest frequency of successful crosses will occur. Be sure to label the momma bloom with the name of the pollen used, so the babies will know their father.

Luck to you!  
Mike Bernard

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Grafting party in New Orleans Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1-4 PM Longue Vue Gardens.

Our next monthly meeting (and last for 2000) will be held on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6PM.

Acadiana Chapter's Show & Sale – Setup on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> with the show and sale on Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>. (Folks, this year it counts – It is an officially sanctioned show.) We need everyone's help and support to make this a successful event. Although the show & sale is scheduled, we have not determined the location where it will be held. A site selection committee was formed at our September meeting to look into a new location. If anyone has any "inside" assistance in getting us a good location with reasonable rates, please get in touch with Catherine Forbes, Sandra Theall, or Rick Landers as soon as possible.

## **OUR NEWSLETTER:**

With luck, we will have a monthly newsletter that will be sent out to our members reminding them of the meetings and upcoming events. However, we have no name for this newsletter. I would like everyone to think about giving it a name. At the March meeting we will list all of the suggestions and vote on the one we like. You can submit one or more names. I'll list them in the November, February and March newsletters. The winner will have their membership renewal paid (in addition to bragging rights). Either submit your suggestion along with your name on a piece of paper & give it to me at one of the meetings or send it to me via email or U.S. Mail. My email address is: [AcadianaHibiscus@aol.com](mailto:AcadianaHibiscus@aol.com); or 210 Parkview Dr. New Iberia, LA. 70563.

I will be trying out some different formats for the newsletter over the next few issues. Bare with me during this growing process. And please submit any articles, tid-bits, humorous stories, photos, etc. so that I can publish them.

## **Great websites to check out:**

<http://www.exotic-hibiscus.com/> Hidden Valley Hibiscus tropical plants nursery

<http://www.exotichibiscus.com/>

<http://www.lonestarahs.org/> Lone Star Chapter, AHS

<http://www.americanhibiscus.org/> Official site of the American Hibiscus Society

A great source of information regarding hibiscus is from The Packet. It is emails that are sent directly to your email address from people all over the country and the world who love and grow hibiscus. Any questions, problems, etc. can be posed to the packet. Any question can be asked, and the best part is that its free. All you have to do to subscribe to this service is to send a blank email to: [reg.hibiscus@packet.net](mailto:reg.hibiscus@packet.net) In the subject line type "subscribe". Introduce yourself and let them know you are from the Acadiana Chapter! \*\*From personal experience, I have set up a separate email address just for this since you do tend to receive quite a bit of mail. Another way is to set up a filter where all mail from the packet goes directly into a file and does not clog up your mailbox.

## **Closing comments:**

Bring your flowers to the meetings. We would love to see what you have! And be sure to invite your friends and relatives to join us. We always want new members.

Remember this society is **YOUR SOCIETY**. As with our flowers, you get out of it what you put into it. Be active & fertile ...grow & bloom. **IT WILL MAKE US ALL WILL GROW AND BLOOM!** And everyone loves beautiful blooms!