



Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter American Hibiscus Society



**Join us Tuesday, April 6th at 6:00 pm
at the Ira Nelson Horticultural Center**

Masks are required for all attendees!

Space is limited to 25 people to ensure social distancing.

Please let Buddy know if you plan to attend.



Places, everyone! The show **WILL** go on! And...ACTION!

What a difference a month makes! We are cleared for takeoff. At the April meeting, Mary, our Vice President and Show Chairperson, will take us through all our volunteer needs for our show on Sunday, May 16th. Saturday is set-up day, and we work as quickly as possible to turn Cathedral Carmel gym into a colorful, tropical oasis. Sunday is equally demanding: from assisting in the judging area as clerks or bloom runners to greeting the public and answering their hibiscus questions. We also have the membership table, the checkout area, and the kitchen, all in need of friendly faces and energetic bodies. You'll no doubt have two or three roles before the day is over!

If you are interested in doing show promo via Zoom calls, let us know. You could be on TV! We will also need help getting our show postcards and business cards out there. With no Festival des Fleurs to kick off our exposure, and with many plant enthusiasts likely assuming events are still canceled due to COVID, we need every ounce of publicity we can get to make this show as successful as ever.

As show season approaches, remember the 30-day rule. You must have had a plant in your possession for at least thirty days before you enter a bloom from that plant in a show. The idea is to demonstrate how well **you** have cared for the plant, not how great a



**Sandra Barr
Kim Siefert
Gary Shaffer
Gayle Breaux
Craig Kimball
Francis Rush
Kathleen Short**

bloom looks freshly fertilized by a nursery and right off your shopping cart.

Since our April meeting will be packed with show business, I would like to do a spring mini-show at our May meeting. In addition to showing off our spring blooms, this gives newer members a chance to learn the basics of collecting, transporting, staging, and judging blooms. Your first time entering a show may seem intimidating, but we're here to help!

I look forward to seeing some of you at our next meeting, Tuesday, April 6th. Don't forget to RSVP to Buddy if you plan on attending. MBAC President, *Ryan Perry*



2022 Hibiscus Calendar Contest



The 2022 MBAC Calendar Contest continued at our March meeting with the next two winners being Todd and Janelle Alvis with Adrenaline Junkie and Sandy Scheuermann with Marianne Charlton. Bring your 4x6 bloom photos to the meeting. Each member can enter two photos in the



monthly contests. They do not have to be recent photos, but must be blooms you have grown.

Reminder! Winning photos should be emailed to Buddy (buddy@acadianahibiscus.com) as soon as possible after the meeting.



Upcoming Events

MBAC Meeting	Tuesday, April 6th
Red Stick Hibiscus Show	Sunday, May 2nd
MBAC Meeting	Tuesday, May 4th
MBAC Show Setup	Saturday, May 15th
MBAC Hibiscus Show	Sunday, May 16th
MBAC Meeting	Tuesday, June 1st
AHS National Convention	Thursday, June 24th – Sunday, June 27th
MBAC Meeting	Tuesday, July 6th



Your Chapter At Work

Now that we have officially started a new hibiscus year and our show is a go for 2021 several items need some updated information.

1. **Chapter pots**...I have been informed by Dupont Nursery that the cost of our chapter pots has increased. Since we offer these pots to our members at nursery cost your pricing will be affected. Your cost for 10" pots will be \$1.50, 12" will be \$2.25, and 14" will be \$3. Those are still exceptional prices. Currently I have a case of 10 " on hand. 12 and 14" have been ordered and should be available soon. If you desire any of these pots you must let me know by email quickly.



2. **Chapter shirt**.....many of you have inquired about how to get a "chapter" shirt. Our chapter requirements are simple. Buy a **solid** colorful shirt of your preference, then either drop it off to me or drop it off at Jo-Del's Monogramming at 108 S. Lee St., Broussard. Please identify yourself as a member of the hibiscus chapter. **The chapter will pay for the cost of monogramming.**



3. **Show volunteers**.....have you volunteered to help out at our show? Mary Jones will pass around a volunteer and food list at our next two meetings. If however you need to contact her, she can be reached at maryjones132@gmail.com or 337 212-3907. We need your help so don't be shy.

As we get closer to show date lots of updated information will be coming out. Obviously we will keep you posted.....



Buddy's Blooms and Things

"Lights, Camera, Action!", ladies and gentlemen, we are now back in show business and the Red Stick and Lafayette hibiscus shows will go on as scheduled in 2021. Due to recent complications the New Orleans show had to be canceled. We were sorry to get that news. Each of you should be revisiting the dates of the remaining two shows and determining if you will attend and/or participate this year. Red Stick (Baton Rouge) is Sunday May 2nd and our show is

Sunday May 16th. In the words of one of our new and youngest members, Carmen Walker, “I am so excited!” Yes, I am and I’ll bet you are too!!

Our temperatures seem to have finally leveled off and given us many days and now even night at 70 degrees. That’s our growth temperature so your plants should be sprouting new leaves and even forming a few buds. With that new growth you should now be able to tell which plants survived and which ones did not. Most of my potted plants were inside my garage and Man Cave and the vast majority of them made it. Looks like I lost about 10 potted plants. I have noted that all of my “in ground” Albo plants survived. They were mostly mature plants and had been in the ground for several years so that helped. In spite of those extremely cold temperatures, blocking that north wind and heavily mulching the base of those in ground plants did the trick. That’s another exciting event for me. I hope yours survived as well. It won’t be long now for more buds to form and blooms to start opening up and bringing us the real beauty of our hobby. For me, it’s all been worth it.

With the start of show season I plan on starting my show routine today and giving my plants some extra attention to encourage maximum bloom output. That means I’ll be fertilizing weekly from today through our show on May 16th. Your plants are starting to grow and are hungry too so get out your fertilizer and do likewise. How much, or often, you fertilizer is your call but be generous. It should also be noted that a monthly application of Epsom Salt is also a necessity. Do it now and be prepared to apply it again around the 1st of May. Let’s all be prepared to exhibit a few blooms come show time. Your chapter is counting on you.

Many of you took advantage of my offer to give away a bunch of baby seedling plants. As of today I have given away 22 trays of 6 to members. 132 little babies! Let me encourage those of you that received these seedlings to go to the International Hibiscus website and look up a picture of each cross. If you can’t find a picture then contact me. I may have it in file and I’ll happily send it to you. Once you have identified the parents you can’t help but dream about what their “new baby” will look like. That’s the fun part of hybridizing. Remember these plants are yours. I only ask that when your plant blooms that you take a picture and send it to me. We can then decide together if it is worth duplicating. I have a few seedlings left but not many. Don’t delay if this is of interest to you. Remember you must email me your intentions. buddy@acadianahibiscus.com I enjoy the entire hybridizing process so I intend to continue making my crosses and giving away the majority to our members. I hope you get a few. Remember new seedlings are the future of the hibiscus world.

Get outside amongst your plants and enjoy these temperatures...in the words of one of the long time members of the AHS said one day, “the best thing to see in your garden is your *shadow*”. Do I need to explain that? See you at the next meeting Tuesday April 6th*Buddy*



It's Show Time!!

And we have the promo items you need!

8.5" x 11" Flyer



**Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter
American Hibiscus Society**
presents its 20th Annual

Hibiscus Show & Sale

**Sunday
May 16, 2021**




Cathedral Carmel Gym
St. John Street, Lafayette, LA

Bloom Entry
8:00am - 11:30am
Plant Sale
1:00pm - 4:00pm



Free Admission
Exotic Varieties
Fertilizer
Expert Advice & Tips
Membership Available

www.acadianahibiscus.com

4" x 6" Postcard



**Hibiscus, Hibiscus
& More
Hibiscus...**

Join us
Sunday, May 16, 2021
at Cathedral Carmel Gym
Corner of St. John & Versailles, Lafayette, LA

For the MBAC 21st Annual

HIBISCUS SHOW & SALE

Bloom Entry for Judging	Exotic Varieties Exclusive Fertilizer
8:00 - 11:00am	Expert Advice & Tips
Show & Plant Sale	Membership
1:00 - 4:00pm	Available
Free Admission	

Mike Bernard Acadiana Hibiscus Chapter
www.acadianahibiscus.com

Business Card



**Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter
American Hibiscus Society**

Meetings - 6:00pm
First Tuesday of each Month
Ira Nelson Horticultural Center

www.acadianahibiscus.com

Hibiscus Show & Sale
Sunday, May 16, 2021 ~ 1pm - 4pm
Cathedral Carmel Gym
Corner of St. John & Versailles, Lafayette, Louisiana

"Pride of Acadiana"

Pick up your supply at the April 6th Meeting or contact Buddy by text or email.





AHS National Convention

June 24th to June 27th, 2021

Sheraton Tampa Brandon Hotel

10221 Princess Palm Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33610



Hotel Rate

\$129.00+ per night (including breakfast) June 24th - 27th

*Due to Covid conditions at the time, if breakfast is not available, your room rate will be reduced to \$119.00+ per night.

Call **(813) 623-6363** directly to make your reservations.
Identify yourself as a member of the American
Hibiscus Society.

Deadline for reservations is May 27, 2021.

Rooms will be *released* by the hotel on **May 28th**.

Registration \$30

Registration after June 17, 2021 - \$40

Saturday Night Banquet \$40

Payable by check, PayPal, or credit card to:

AHS Treasurer, PO Box 1580, Venice, FL 34284-1580



2021 MBAC Board

President ~ Ryan Perry ~ 504-352-6091 ~ rperry123@gmail.com

Vice President ~ Mary Jones ~ 337-212-3907 ~ maryjones132@gmail.com

Secretary ~ Ann Peltier ~ 337-781-4992 ~ ann@acadianahibiscus.com

Treasurer ~ Buddy Short ~ 337-278-0946 ~ buddy@acadianahibiscus.com

Member Liaison ~ Debbie McGovern ~ 337-804-2784 ~ debgasmac@gmail.com

Member Liaison ~ Carthy Guillet ~ 337-273-0953 ~ TCGuillet302@aol.com

Member Liaison ~ Cherie Martin ~ 337-322-0303 ~ mitchellmartin@aol.com

Member Liaison ~ Carrol Vice ~ 318-820-4242 ~ RVTLLC@yahoo.com

*Submissions to the newsletter should be sent to your editor,
Ann Peltier, at ann@acadianahibiscus.com by the 15th of the month.*