

HOOKED ON HIBISCUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MIKE BERNARD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY JUNE 2003

IT'S SHOW TIME

Our show season has started with the Space City Show held recently in Pasadena TX. Our Chapter was well represented with several members attending. Bobby Dupont got Head Table as well as Sweepstakes. David Tate received numerous ribbons, including at least 15 Golds. Way to go group. The rest of us didn't bring blooms to exhibit. The selection of plants for sale was a nice variety, including some we probably won't see at our shows. That's what makes attending out of town shows so much fun. The next Texas show will be Lone Star on June 8. The next show is June 1 in New Orleans. Several Chapter members are planning to attend. Contact Sandra to arrange car pooling or traveling in a group (unless she has already contacted you).

ACADIANA SHOW

Our show is fast approaching. Now is the time to really pay attention to your plants to get the best blooms possible. We have had spectacular blooms in previous years. Lets make this year even better. We want a high bloom count. Enter any type of hibiscus you grow. The show is not limited to the hybrid and garden varieties. You may earn enough ribbons to capture a Sweepstakes award.

HOW IS THAT FLOWER JUDGED?

A judge will determine whether a particular bloom is true to type in form, size, color, and substance, then review the condition of the bloom and determine the award to be given. *Form* refers to shape and symmetry of the petals. A bloom that is asymmetrical may receive a gold seal award if such is typical of that variety. *Size* refers to the size of blooms from average garden grown plants, not necessarily to over-sized blooms. *Color* refers to colors typical for normal warm weather blooms. *Substance* refers to the normal material of petals for that variety and includes freshness of texture. *Condition* refers to damage from weather, insects and disease, spray or handling.

Blooms are judged on a 10 point scoring system, with each category worth 0-2 points. To receive a Gold Seal Ribbon, the bloom must receive a score of 9-10; Blue Ribbon, or first place, is 7-8 points; Red Ribbon, or second place, is 4-6 points.

When you enter a bloom for judging, you must have had it in your possession for at least 30 days. Only one entry per variety per garden is allowed in any one class. Family members of an exhibitor may only show blooms from plants they grow and maintain themselves. Before placing a bloom to be judged, all efforts to identify the bloom should be made. If reasonable persistence has been attempted and identification has failed, then the bloom may be labeled as "unlisted".

Terms used to describe a bloom include:

Single A bloom that has a corolla of 5 base petals and a style, usually with 5 stigma pads. The stigma pad may be missing on some varieties.

Double A bloom composed of 5 base petals with many or few additional petals on a tight *or* loose formation. Staminal columns and/or stigma pads may be missing.

Miniature A bloom that is normally 5 inches or less in diameter. The bloom must be listed on the official miniature list. The show director will have a copy.

Crested Style petaloids on singles, or secondary petals on doubles, more noticeable in mid-summer.

The classes for entering blooms are:

Amateur A non-commercial exhibitor showing hibiscus for the first season; a non-commercial exhibitor with fewer than 25 named varieties. An amateur must be present to enter blooms.

Collector A non-commercial exhibitor having not more than 75 named varieties.

Open collector A non-commercial exhibitor having more than 75 named varieties.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

With the extremely warm weather we have been experiencing, plants should be growing well, with regular watering. If your plants don't look their best, they may be suffering from an essential element deficit. A deficiency of any one or more of the 16 essential elements will cause a plant to show symptoms of abnormal growth, such as yellowish leaves (chlorosis), die-back of twigs or dead areas in the leaves (necrosis), reduced leaf size, and distorted growth. It may be difficult to distinguish which element is responsible, as many deficiencies produce similar symptoms, and different plants with the same deficiency will exhibit different symptoms.

Most of the deficiencies of the major elements show up on the older or lower leaves of a plant, while deficiencies of the minor elements are observed in the newer leaves toward the tips of twigs. If a complete balanced fertilizer is applied regularly, deficiencies of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium will be uncommon. Some of the most commonly seen nutritional deficiencies are:

Nitrogen The mature leaves become yellowish. Leaves are evenly affected, including the veins, progressing from light green to yellow.

Potassium The older leaves become scorched or brown at their tips and edges but otherwise remain green. Sometimes the deficiency creates a bronze-red appearance throughout the plant.

Magnesium The older leaves turn bronze yellow with green persisting at their tips and lower central areas. Magnesium sulfate (epsom salts) should be applied. Soil applications will often have no immediate effect if the deficiency is severe. Spraying the solution with a solution of 2 ounces of magnesium sulfate per gallon of water is helpful.

Iron The young leaves turn yellow or cream colored, but the veins remain green. The leaves may be smaller than normal. The lack of iron is often the most visible symptom in yellowing of the leaves. Spraying or drenching with chelated iron restores the iron in a few weeks.

Manganese Similar in appearance to iron deficiency. The young leaves turn yellow-green while the veins remain dark, but the green areas along the veins and veinlets are wider than with iron deficiency and there is no reduction in leaf size.

Zinc The new leaves are small, closely-spaced, and pale or yellowish, often twisted to one side and crinkled in appearance. Zinc sulfate can be used.

Molybdenum Older, then younger leaves may become mottled. Young leaves become long and leathery and may be curled or twisted. The symptoms may appear and disappear for unknown reasons. Sodium molybdenum can be applied according to package directions.

Not all yellow leaves are signs of an impending problem. Each leaf lives its life of 6-8 months, serves the plant, yellows, and drops off. Other leaves, not in the same place, grow and replace them. However, many yellow leaves all over the plant can be a sign of insect or physiological problems and should be examined.

Inspect for insects and treat as soon as infestation is detected. Regular attention to your plants, and interpreting their signals, can head off problems before they get out of hand.

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 on May 6, 2003 by Sandra Theall. Mrs. Boudreaux and Marvin Ellis, members who previously had been unable to attend meetings, were welcomed.

Bobby Dupont and David Tate were thanked for their contribution of flowers for Mike's casket. They were truly beautiful.

Thanks were given to Doug Trahan for the flower blocks he crafted, to the members who helped at Festival de Fleurs, and Kirk Crain and Bera Smith for refreshments. Kay Drouet will do the TV spots for our Show and Sale. THANKS KAY. Flowers will be needed. Contact Kay to make arrangements. The Plaquemine Open House was a great success; thanks Mr. & Mrs. Dupont.

Congratulations to Lu Trahan for her win at the Bromeliad Show in New Orleans. Hope you feel better.

A previous motion was made to donate the proceeds of our Show and Sale to an education fund for Mike's young son, but has had to be rescinded. Ricky Meaux has checked into it and we are unable to do this as a non-profit organization. Instead, we will investigate donating a sum of money to the UL Horticulture Department in Mike's name. The amount was tabled until after the show.

A suggestion was made that the Chapter donate Hibiscus Handbooks to local libraries. This could be tied in to the timing of the show to garner publicity for the upcoming Show. Notices will be written for the area newspapers.

Lou was able to get a very nice large banner advertising the Show and Sale donated by the Coca Cola Company. Signs will also be purchased to be placed around town. Dan Jowers will look into getting signs made, with a budget of up to \$500.

Dues are due no later than this upcoming meeting. They need to be remitted to the National office. Dues are \$32.50 for the family. If you will not be present, send the money to Ricky Meaux.

The Daylily Festival will be held May 31 in Abbeville from 8:30 to 5. If you volunteered to bring a table, don't forget it. We will have about 60 plants to sell. Sandra will organize getting the plants from Mr. Dupont. A schedule for working times was passed around.

For our Show and Sale the Chapter voted to pay for incidentals such as drinks, food trays for judges, coffee, doughnuts, plates and cutlery, ice, and others as needed. If you have an extra ice chest, bring it to the meeting. A sign-up sheet for food was passed out. David has the wires for the flower blocks.

The door prize was won by Candy Walker. Kay and Jean won raffle plants.

Sandra's husband assisted with the slide show on repotting by Wally Barr. Following the slide show, Name the Bloom was played.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2003 at 6:30 pm. Delores, Jean and Lu will provide refreshments.

DON'T FORGET THE DAYLILLY FESTIVAL AND THE NEW ORLEANS SHOW AND SALE.

MATCH GAME

Match the name with the basic color category (as listed in the judges' manual):

<i>ALII UI</i>	PINK
<i>AMANDA DURBIN</i>	TAN
<i>AMBER SUZANNE</i>	RED
<i>ANTIQUE TREASURE</i>	YELLOW
<i>BUTTERSCOTCH SUNDAE</i>	ORANGE
<i>COLORIN' BOOK</i>	PINK
<i>DRAGON'S BREATH</i>	GREY
<i>ERIKA NICOLE</i>	BROWN
<i>ERIN RACHAEL</i>	YELLOW-ORANGE
<i>EYE OF THE STORM</i>	RED-PURPLE
<i>HARVEST MOON</i>	PINK
<i>GRAND HYATT</i>	RED

The winner will receive a plant. In case of a tie, a winning name will be drawn.