

MIKE BERNARD

ACADIANA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

April 08
Newsletter

Back to the Future

Most of us are old (or young) enough to remember a movie called “Back to the Future”. To me, it was really a cute show, very entertaining, simple, and to my surprise I enjoyed it very much. The movie went back and forth from the present to the future and back and forth again. To me, the theme of this movie was a perfect example of our mission today. Do the necessary things today and the future results are predictable.

The present.....March weather wise has been, for the most part, rather pleasant. Our plants started to react to that warmer temperature with new growth and even a few buds started to show up. We started our chapter meetings for 2008 with our special guest Dr. Rod Hendrick from Baton Rouge talking to us about the importance of pruning both the plant and the root ball. He also discussed the necessity of changing our potting mix every several years in order to keep those plants thriving and full of vigor. Did you try his suggestion and technique? I did and I want to report that several of my mature plants are already looking better.

All of this information was great stuff for those of us that have been at this for several years but what about for the majority of you? What about those of you who are just getting started and are simply trying to survive your young plants from one year to the next?

I told you at our first 2008 meeting that, as your president, I have one simple objective and it is to have the best educated chapter in the entire American Hibiscus Society. Lofty Goal? I think not! It is doable if we start and continue to support good solid fundamentals or basics of maintaining our beautiful plants.

I had initially announced that our main subject for April would be “Hybridizing” and that I would be your speaker. I have now re-thought that subject and have decided instead that it was premature. We need to go back to the basics and deal with the now if we ever want to predict a successful future. So Tuesday evening, I will pass out an article I wrote last year about what I consider the 6 basics of maintaining hibiscus in South Louisiana. We’ll cover each one of those 6 topics and each of you will have an opportunity to ask personal questions. Remember these are your meetings so don’t be afraid to speak up. Believe me, we have all been there!

A flashback....On Saturday March 15th, 12 of us traveled to Dupont Nursery and joined up with chapter members from Baton Rouge and New Orleans for a tour and plant purchase from the ever gracious Bobby and Bootsie Dupont. Personally I did not need any more plants (I had already been there twice in the last month) I did however want to see the “expression” on the face of each member as they wit-



Cajun Gold



Pink Blush



Plum Pizzazz



Pride Of Acadiana



Sassy Girl

nessed a greenhouse the size of a football field full of hibiscus plants. I was not disappointed and from the number of plants I saw in the back of each vehicle we all walked away with that total feel of satisfaction.

Leaving our plants unattended in our vehicles was difficult until the lunch “bell” went off. It’s amazing how jambalaya, white beans, salad, dessert, and drinks made everyone forget momentarily their plants and concentrate on the mission at hand which was to *manger* (that’s French for eat, for you foreigners reading our newsletter) Was the food good? I will answer that question this way. “Thank God for elastic!” Man, after 3 (!) plates of jambalaya I had to quit. At that point I was looking for someone to drive my vehicle home. Unfortunately I got “no takers” but we made it anyway.

The future....Today March 26th is an incredible day temperature wise with a low this morning of 56 and a high this afternoon of 72. The great news is the weather predicted for the next week is lows in the 60’s and highs around 80. Ladies and gentlemen, **THAT** is the weather you have been waiting for so get out those plants and start pampering your babies. Start getting out your fertilizer and even some Epsom Salts and give them a little feed. Check your plants closely for any critters and, if you see any, then take appropriate action. Watch how quickly your water goes down in your pots and if it’s not quick enough then do something about it. And if you do each of those “basic” things today then I can predict with a degree of certainty exactly what your future will look like.

See you Tuesday April 1st at the Ira Nelson Center.....Buddy

Your quotes for today.....

“The secret of achievement is to not let what you’re doing get to you before you get to it”.

And

“The greatest possession you have is the 24 hours directly in front of you”

Special note on two very important items.....

1).....We are currently updating our membership roster so that we can distribute a current copy of our roster to each of our members. It is also time to pay our yearly dues. Here’s where we need your assistance. The last sheet of our April newsletter is a membership application. **It should be filled out by each member** and either mailed in to me or handed in to Bonnie at our meeting. All applications should include your annual dues of \$35. To insure that everyone gets an application I have decided to email (those that have email addresses) and **also mail a paper copy to everyone**. If for whatever reason you or a member you know do not get either then one can be picked up at our meetings. You can also contact me for a copy. I will also have extras at every meeting.

2)....I applaud you!.....at our last meeting, we asked for volunteers for one of our two big fund raising events, the Festival Des Fleurs, and once again you showed your true spirit by quickly signing up to help. I thank you for that. If you intended to sign up but either were not at the last meeting or simply didn’t sign up then we will once again have the sign up sheet at next weeks meeting. We could probably use a few more people for the Friday the 4th which is setup day. I did not make that date clear on my sign up sheet. Sorry. Bobby Dupont plans on bringing the plants around 10am and the setup should be finished by around 1 or 2. The Festival itself is Saturday and Sunday, the 5th and 6th. Check out the list for your appropriate times.....again I thank you!

That’s it for this month. We’ll have a great meeting Tuesday. Again I encourage your questions.....come prepared.....see you soon.....***Buddy***

Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter
of the American Hibiscus Society

For more information contact: Buddy Short at 232-2446 or email at buddy@shortfinancialgroup.com

MIKE BERNARD ACADIANA CHAPTER

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



NOW TAKING MEMBERSHIPS

It's easy to join. Just complete the application below and mail or give application to one of our members along with your annual membership dues of \$35. Members receive first choice of plants at events where the Mike Bernard Acadiana Hibiscus Chapter is participating in the show; discounts on plants; Hooked on Hibiscus, the chapter newsletter; The Seed Pod, the quarterly publication from the National Hibiscus Society; Monthly meetings from March-November; Grafting parties; Hybridizing parties; Information on the care of hibiscus, and Much More!

Don't delay...join today!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Please turn in or mail completed application to
Mike Bernard Acadiana Hibiscus Chapter c/o Buddy Short
312 Vennard Ave., Lafayette, La 70501
For more information, call Buddy at:
Phone: (337) 232-2446 or Email: buddy@shortfinancialgroup.com