



Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter American Hibiscus Society



New Member Barbeque Sunday July 29th, 11:30AM

Mark your calendar for our upcoming barbeque. It's a great time to meet some of our new members and to enjoy a fabulous meal amongst friends. Anyone wishing to bring a dish is asked to contact Ann Peltier or to sign up at our next meeting.

Anyone wishing to come early is asked to bring some scissors to cut off all yellow leaves on MY plants. You are welcomed to water too!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our address is 312 Vennard Ave., Lafayette. Kathleen and I look forward to seeing you.....

***** We ask for an RSVP . Use my email address to respond!!!! or call me at 232-2446. Thank you!**

President Message -

C'est fait chaud! Oh yes, it is hot. Are you prepared for the soaring temperatures of July and August? Now is the time to plan your strategy for beating the heat and keeping your hibiscus healthy and blooming.

As our Louisiana/Texas Show Season came to a close with the final shows of the Space City and Lone Star Chapters, MBAC was represented.

Congratulations to Buddy Short for his head table wins at the June 3rd Space City Show!

Best Open Collector Single – Byron Metts

Best Regular Seedling – Dark Eyes

Best of Show Seedling – Night Treasure



I would like to thank the MBAC Members who stepped outside the chapter lines and entered blooms at other shows as well as those who made the trek to New Orleans for the National Convention.

Thanks to the New Orleans Chapter for overcoming the hurdles posed by the Marriott to create a wonderful venue for our National Convention! Votes were counted and the new National Officers were installed. Congratulations to Carolyn Cormier-Stoute who joined the national ranks as a Director and to our new National President, Damon Veach! MBAC once again won the award for the most Amateur exhibitors for the 2011 show season. Congratulations to Buddy Short who won the Open Collector Gold Seal Sweepstakes! Business is business and awards are great, but the best part of convention is the opportunity to meet and visit with members of our great society from other chapters.

MBAC MEETING
Tuesday, July 3rd - 6:00pm – Ira Nelson Horticultural Center

Bugged by pests? Our technical segment of the meeting will be a presentation on Insects and Disease by Theresa Gore.

Mini Bloom Show – Bring your blooms! You can enter two blooms in each of the categories of Single, Double, and Miniature.

Calendar Photo Contest –Bring your favorite 4”x 6” bloom photo to the July 3rd Meeting for the photo contest. If you have no way to print your photo, email it to Buddy and he will print it and bring it to the meeting. Whose photo will be the 7th to go on our calendar?

Summer and Fall Plans – Do you have an idea for a chapter event or meeting topic for the summer or fall? Please be prepared to offer your suggestions for discussion.

Mark your calendar – **New Member Barbecue - Sunday, July 29th** hosted by Buddy and Kathleen Short.

If you have any questions or need additional information about any of the above, please feel free to call me at 337-781-4992 or email me at ann@acadianahibiscus.com.

See you Tuesday night! Ann

Our 2012-2013 Mike Bernard Acadiana Hibiscus Chapter membership list is now official -

Our chapter roster has been updated and has now been turned into the AHS.

**** For new members.....** this roster is used to identify you as an official member of the American Hibiscus Society and for individual mailing of the AHS quarterly publication, The Seed Pod magazine. Read it. It's good information.

****** If for some reason you do not receive this publication please notify us immediately.

Blooms and Things for July 2012 -

I mentioned at our last meeting that we are heading into (in my opinion) the toughest time of the year for maintaining our hibiscus plants. The following two articles should give you some needed hints as to proper procedures during this extremely hot time of the year.

This short piece came from our friend Damon Veach, President of the Red Stick hibiscus chapter in Baton Rouge and our new President of the American Hibiscus Society.....excellent information!!!!!!!

I mentioned some points yesterday about watching your plants in the heat, and today I want to impress upon you the use of the proper potting mix. You really need to be uniform in this procedure. Keep all plants in the same mix. When you buy hibiscus from retail outlets, the first thing you should do is isolate them from your other plants for a few days until you have checked them out for pests and then see how root bound they might be. I think you will find that most of them need to be re-potted. I use potting soil from Louisiana Nursery here in Baton Rouge, but I mix Osmocote (about three teaspoons to the bottom of the pot, and I make sure that I only move up one pot size. Do not use the type that will retain moisture. Then I proceed to follow up with my special fertilizer mix. I no longer use black pots. I try to do all brown ones because of the heat factor. If you don't have any of a lighter color at this time, place your black pots inside another pot and elevate for air circulation. If you have pots on concrete, take the bottom bowl and turn it upside down so that the plants will not only be elevated but they will not be subject to the heat that builds up in the concrete. If you take care of your plants with simple actions like this, I think you will see a vast improvement in their growth and bloom potential. It is bad enough to have so much heat beating down on your plants. You certainly don't want to cook the roots with excessive heat from below. I hope you all have a great day with lots of beautiful blooms.

Damon Veach, President
Red Stick Hibiscus Association
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

2nd Article - on proper watering was written by Father Robert Gerlich, President of the New Orleans Hibiscus Chapter. Once again this is fabulous information. (*View this article on page 4 & 5*)

Pay close attention to these two important summertime issues and your babies will reward you for your kindness. If you are still not sure of what to do then email or call me for an opinion. You KNOW I have one.....

See you at our next meeting July 3rd 6 PM.....good blooming everyone.....**Buddy**

Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter
of the American Hibiscus Society
For more information contact: **Buddy Short** at **337-232-2446** or **Fax: 337-232-9183**
Send an email to: **buddy@shortfinancialgroup.com**
www.acadianahibiscus.com

of the plant remains dry. To make sure that I am doing a good job, I periodically turn a pot on its side and gently pull the plant out. Much to my dismay, on more than one occasion, I have found that the soil was wet only halfway down. Under these conditions, the plant's root system would soon be compromised. Be sure to water thoroughly until the plant is well-watered and then let it dry out. Not of course, to the point of damaging the plant, but sufficiently so that the plant is showing definite signs of needing an infusion of H₂O.

WATERING ON A SCHEDULE: Many gardeners make the mistake of watering on a schedule rather than on the basis of whether or not the plant needs water. Watering should always be tailored to the plant's needs! And those needs are dictated by the intensity of the sun, soil composition, size of the plant and the condition of the plant. In a healthy environment, wet soil dries relatively quickly as the roots bring moisture into the plant and the sun pulls the nutrient-rich water through the plant and evaporates it through the leaves. But cloudy days will slow this process down and every plant has a different rate of transpiration due to variations in leaf coverage. So be careful to treat your hibiscus as individuals. When you water, be aware that one pot might need water and the pot right next to it might need to forgo the additional moisture.

WATERING STRESSED PLANTS: Over watering and under watering are the chief causes of dramatic and systemic defoliation. Once plants lose leaves, for whatever reason, be doubly careful about watering! Plants that have few leaves cannot tolerate excessive water. In fact, with no leaves to transpire water, the root system is unable to draw the water up into the plant. Overly wet soil will reduce the available amount of oxygen in the soil, given that many air pockets collapse under the weight of the water. If this condition lasts too long the root system will begin to die. Dead roots = dead plant!

KEEPING THE SOIL POROUS: One is able to water more successfully when the soil is well drained. Well drained soil retains more oxygen and allows for the re-formation of air pockets more rapidly. Thus, good drainage does a great deal to prevent plants from suffocating. Stir up the soil occasionally if it appears to be compacted. And repot if the situation warrants.

PRUDENT WATERING: Before watering your plants, remember to examine the soil carefully. Top soil will dry quickly, but it can still be quite wet just a couple of inches below the surface. If you are unsure whether you should water, you probably shouldn't. To be sure, lift the pot to see if it is heavy (water actually is fairly heavy). Remember that plants can sometimes fool you into thinking that they need water. It is natural for them to wilt a bit during our hot summer days. And overly watered plants tend not to grow a robust root system. Without a good root system, the plant will invariably give the appearance that it needs water (since it does). But it will not be vigorous until its root system is allowed to fully develop. If you suspect that the roots are underdeveloped, check them. If they are as you suspected, make a special effort to water well and then let the plant's soil dry out moderately throughout the depth of the pot before watering again. You might even consider bottom watering for a time and perhaps occasionally watering with root stimulator to encourage better root growth.

Remember "topping off" a plant with "just a little water" does NOT help the plant, but hurts it. True, the plant needs to retain a certain level of moisture in the soil but it should not be continuously wet. This condition promotes the growth of deadly fungus, deprives the soil of oxygen, and retards the development of a healthy root system.

Keep them growing!

2012 Convention Pictures

