

Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter Newsletter

April 2009

Show Time 2009

March 2009 proved to be a fabulous month in many ways. 1).....we officially kicked off our chapter year with our first meeting of 2009. It was great to see everyone again. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

At the meeting we asked for volunteers to discuss their successes as well as failures through the winter months. The main reason we do this is to assure everyone that we all lose plants through the winter months. Hopefully, we all learned something through our experiences. I've been battling this hobby for 9 years and I can guarantee you that I have lost more plants by far than you have. The sad truth is I'll loose some more. The good news is there are new varieties every year and if I didn't loose a few then I would not have the room for newer varieties. To ole Buddy, that's a positive!

Drum roll please.....we discussed fertilizer and PH factor and how that effects your plants. We encouraged everyone to pay attention to the numbers in their fertilizer of choice. We suggested looking for fertilizer with low Phosphorous numbers (the middle number) and high potassium (the last number) Because those numbers are hard to find each member in attendance received a zipper lock bag of Space City fertilizer which has a potassium reading of 28. **AND** then each person received a hibiscus plant to try their fertilizer on. I know exactly what you are thinking. "maybe I should go to those meetings?" Wow, fertilizer and a plant!

By the way, I have bags of fertilizer for each of you and for those that use it and then run out I'll replace your supply at each meeting or before. Just let me know. (call 232-2446 or email ole Buddy or better yet come to our meetings).

2)...March also brought the annual chapter visit to Dupont Nursery. We are soooooo lucky to have Dupont Nursery only an hour away. You have no idea what others go through to see their beauties. Can you even imagine what it looks like to see a greenhouse 300 x 80 FULL of hibiscus?????? There is no way that your brain can picture that unless you were there in person to see it yourself. Most people will never have that chance. You do. Make the best of it next time.

This coming weekend is one of our major chapter fund raisers. The Festival Des Fleurs at Blackem Coliseum is scheduled for April 4th and 5th from approximately 8:30 till 5 that afternoon, both days. If you have already signed up then I



thank you on behalf of our chapter. Make sure you know your time. If you have not signed up but would like to help out then you can call me at 232-2446, or email me at buddy@shortfinancialgroup.com or call Katie Stout at 893-6157 or her cell at 781-6784. We need your help so don't be shy.

If you intend to work at this show or at our show May 31st then I ask you to review the enclosed brochure entitled Thanks For Taking Me Home. These should be your talking points for the entire show. Help our customers and fellow hibiscus lovers by making certain suggests to all buyers our beautiful plants. The plants will love you for it.

See you Saturday.....Buddy

Here's a very appropriate quote for the day.....

“Life can only be understood by looking backward, but it must be lived by looking forward”.

(Did you make some mistakes with your plants in the past? Learn from each one you made and be determined to not do that again. That's the way I approach this hobby. Don't be afraid to make a few mistakes. It's the only way to learn.)

Here's a quick overview of the next 3 meetings/outings.....

April 7th...”Show Season”.....we'll once again review the steps to showcasing your blooms at one of the Texas/Louisiana shows. If you expect to display blooms this year then you need to start your preparation early to maximizes your bloom quality. Plan on it. It's fun.

May 5th...Damon Veach, president of the Red Stick Chapter will be our guest to discuss the upcoming “American Hibiscus Society Convention” in June in Baton Rouge. This gentleman has really put in an all out effort to insuring that every detail is put in place. It will worth the effort to attend so make plans to participate.

May 31st...our annual show at Cathedral Carmel school here in Lafayette. (check out our flyer)

Repeat quote.....

“Nature and the garden bring out the best in our character”..... (I totally agree)

Attention.....your 2009 dues are due...

Checks for \$35 should be made to the American Hibiscus Society or to our chapter.....if you are a brand new member (this year) then you do not need to pay again. Checks can be brought to the meeting or Festival Des Fleurs or you can mail them to me at Buddy Short, 312 Vennard Ave, Lafayette, LA 70501.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the show in your yard has started. Some of us are even getting a few blooms. What you should be seeing are many buds popping out. Your babies are preparing for a glorious flower season.....I hope you're ready. I know I am.....

See you this weekend and then at the meeting Tuesday April 7th at 6 pm at the Ira Nelson Center.....remember plants are given away as door prizes at every meeting. Maybe you'll be lucky. You won't know unless you're there..... good blooming.....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