

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Hilton Garden Inn North
Tampa, FL

Fall Membership Meeting
November 13-14, 2004

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 8:30 A.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2004

President Rita Hall called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Rita Hall, 1st VP Randy Cox, 2nd VP Walter Bisselle, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews, Treasurer Penny Benninger, Executive Secretary Val Longson.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the President's Committee Meeting held on June 17, 2004, at the Best Western Hotel in Punta Gorda, FL, were approved as written and posted on the American Hibiscus Society web site, www.americanhibiscus.org.

Treasurer Penny Benninger provided a Financial Report covering the period June 1 to October 31, 2004, to the Committee, and there followed a brief discussion. Memberships as of the June Convention were 905, and as of today are 946.

Old Business: None

New Business

Annelle Cox, Chairman of the Seedling Evaluation Committee, sent an email to the President's Committee on November 2, 2004, requesting the removal of Rod Hendrick from that Committee. Set out in this email message were several specific reasons for this request. A copy of that email is made a part of these Minutes. Mrs. Cox repeated her request orally to the President's Committee for the reasons stated in her email. Chairman Andrews moved that the request be tabled until the afternoon, and that a second President's Committee meeting be called for 4 p.m., after the Seedling Evaluation Committee's meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with one opposed.

Seedling Evaluation Coordinator Randy Cox reported that he had received two complaints from hybridizers about SEC members evaluating and scoring their own cultivars. He asked the Committee to consider changing the Seedling Evaluation Committee rules so that a Committee member does not evaluate his own blooms and plants. If a Committee member has one or more cultivars under evaluation for Hibiscus of the Year, he will not enter evaluation scores for his plants. After discussion, on motion made and seconded the rule that an evaluator will not evaluate his own cultivars carried unanimously.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2004

Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Rita Hall, 1st VP Randy Cox, 2nd VP Walter Bisselle, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Sam Andrews, Treasurer Penny Benninger, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Ed Flory, Don Mixon, Linda Hagenon, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn; Immediate Past National President Roz Merritt. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger, Dave Flanders; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Grace Stamps.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on June 17, 2004, at the Best Western Hotel, Punta Gorda, FL, were accepted as written and posted on the American Hibiscus Society web site www.americanhibiscus.org.

Treasurer's Report: Penny Benninger

The treasurer presented a Financial Report for the period June 1 to October 31, 2004, and a brief discussion followed. On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the report was accepted. A copy of this report is filed with these Minutes.

Chairman Andrews welcomed all the new Board members to their first meeting.

Old Business

Executive Secretary Val Longson reported that H&R Block had prepared the Society's tax return and she had filed it in a timely manner. There was no charge for this service, and a copy was available for anyone who wished to review it.

Ms. Longson reported that in response to the letter written by Lynn Andrews and signed by the treasurer and executive secretary, BankOne in Baton Rouge, LA sent a check to the AHS for the funds held by them for the dissolved Baton Rouge Chapter. This is in accordance with the AHS and Chapter Bylaws. The bank has subsequently requested that the AHS sign an indemnification form. No action has been taken on this request.

Chairman Andrews next asked Rita Hall for a status report on the membership brochure approved by the Board at its June meeting. Ms Hall introduced Tim Stark, the printer for *The Seed Pod*, to the Board. He discussed some suggested changes and improvements. The Board approved a 5000 copy run at its June 2004 meeting. Several commercial growers have volunteered to enclose this brochure with their shipped orders. After discussion, and on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, an experimental first run of 10,000 copies was approved. Second VP Walter Bisselle volunteered to be the contact person for the distribution.

Chairman's Remarks: Our focus must be on building membership. I would like to see a study group appointed to develop a plan that has concrete measurable goals with regard to hibiscus promotion and membership. Identify and recruit the necessary skills we need for the future of

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2004 (con't.)

the Society. We must adjust our organization and financial priorities to fit today's needs. If you look at a 20-year-old issue of *The Seed Pod*, the agenda hasn't changed. We must ask ourselves if what we are doing is relevant to today, at this moment. Are we accomplishing the Society's goals? Our common interest is to grow the Society and grow the interest and knowledge of hibiscus in our respective communities. People want to belong to positive, happy organizations. I ask that you think about these things as we continue our meetings here this weekend.

New Business

Chairman Andrews reported that he had received a total of five copies of the October issue of *The Seed Pod*. There followed a lengthy discussion of the mailing procedures, and the need to improve membership record keeping. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to examine the method of handling the mailing of *The Seed Pod* to determine what changes can be made to improve our procedures. Randy Cox volunteered to handle this.

With the printer present at the meeting, a lengthy discussion ensued about the mechanics of putting issues of *The Seed Pod* together and the process of proofing for errors, and what we can do to improve the product and its timely delivery to members. With time running out for the Board Meeting, Chairman Andrews appointed a committee to meet following this meeting to continue the discussion of this issue and report to the Board at its afternoon meeting.

Chairman Andrews next called for the election of a new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Sam Andrews and Don Mixon were nominated and seconded, and Sam Andrews was elected to continue in the position of Chairman.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 P.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2004

President Rita Hall called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Rita Hall, 1st VP Randy Cox, 2nd VP Walter Bisselle, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews, Treasurer Penny Benninger, Executive Secretary Val Longson. Also present were Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairman Annelle Cox and SEC member Rod Hendrick.

Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairman Annelle Cox asked the President's Committee to remove member Rod Hendrick of the Red Stick Chapter, Baton Rouge LA, from the Seedling Evaluation Committee. Among the reasons stated for this request were that his scores reflected favoritism, he did not seem to understand the evaluation scale or is using it improperly, that he was not evaluating all of his plants. Also, Mr. Hendrick is unhappy with the shipping method, that he only received one plant of each cultivar, that he is unhappy with the evaluation scoring method and the time constraints of the SEC meeting. In addition, Mr. Hendrick was consistently late with his evaluation forms. Mrs. Cox told the Committee that she has a waiting list of members who would like to be appointed to the SEC, and she would like Mr. Hendrick to be removed.

President Hall next called on Rod Hendrick. He explained why he did not like the evaluation system that requires a rating number be given in all categories. The two plants he didn't evaluate had not bloomed in over a year. Mr. Hendrick wants to be able to discuss the cultivars under consideration and not just give them an evaluation number. He does not believe he has been disruptive and that he has met the deadlines the Chairman set. Mr. Hendrick stated that he thinks Mrs. Cox is overreacting to his suggestions, and that is perhaps his fault. He requested to remain a member of the Seedling Evaluation Committee.

In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that Mr. Hendrick was not the only member of the Committee who was late returning his evaluation forms. A motion was made and seconded that no action on this request be taken at this time, but to revisit it at the Convention in June 2005 to see if the perception of a problem still exists. The motion included that all members of the Seedling Evaluation Committee be admonished to evaluate their plants according to the system presently in place as they agreed to do for the two-year trial period. It also included a warning to complete and return their evaluation forms on time. Those members not performing their duties in a satisfactory manner will be at risk of being removed and replaced on the Committee. This motion carried with two abstentions.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2004

Chairman Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Rita Hall, 1st VP Randy Cox, 2nd VP Walter Bisselle, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Sam Andrews, Treasurer Penny Benninger, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Ed Flory, Don Mixon, Linda Hagenson, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn; Immediate Past National President Roz Merritt. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger, Dave Flanders; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Grace Stamps.

Old Business

Membership Brochure: Chairman Andrews reported on the meeting held earlier in the day with the printer about the membership brochure. Corrections were made and the executive secretary and the treasurer will obtain a post office box in Venice, FL near their homes to receive membership-related mail. This address will be printed in the brochure. The printer will have the brochure printed and available in about two weeks, and will contact Walter Bisselle who will handle distribution.

Meeting Planner: Cindi Armstrong resigned as Meeting Planner earlier this year, and the position will revert to the executive secretary where it was handled for many years. Val Longson will assume these responsibilities, aided by 2nd VP Walter Bisselle.

Convention 2005 Site: The chairman next asked Val Longson for a report on the site of the 2005 Convention. She reported that a group had traveled to Punta Gorda to check on the progress of the repairs to the hotel, and found it to be badly damaged. The current management assured them that the hotel would be up and running in time for the June convention, and gave them a signed letter to this effect. However, the site inspection group recommended that the Board choose an alternative convention site and lock up the date with a contract that can be finalized or cancelled in late January 2005. The Board chose the Sheraton Safari Hotel in Orlando, FL, the site of our 2002 Convention. The site inspection group will go to Punta Gorda in late January and make a determination at that time whether to stay with the Punta Gorda hotel or cancel that and go with the Orlando hotel. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

The Seed Pod: A group met with the printer this afternoon and discussed ways to improve our product. Printing 1500 copies of each issue is the most cost-effective, and the extras will be used by chapters for membership recruitment. We will look at using a heavier paper stock for the cover to facilitate less damage in mailing. Also considered will be eliminating the bulk mailer and sending all issues first class. This will necessitate volunteer work parties for labeling and stamping. Paul Felsberg has volunteered to help Ms Hall with the *publishing* end. The deadline for the January 2005 issue has been moved up a full month to November 15th. In the future, the treasurer will bill the advertisers and collect the revenues.

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Corporate Membership Class: A discussion followed about the possibility of creating a new class of membership for corporate clients, which would include an ad in *The Seed Pod*. This led to a discussion about advertisement pricing in general, and revealed that we needed more information than we had at hand. The Chairman asked the treasurer and executive secretary to research this and report to the Board at the meeting in June 2005.

New Business

Publications Management: With the death this summer of longtime Publications Committee Chairman Will Gaudet, this Committee will be divided into distribution and development/management. Roland Gaudet will be Chairman of Distribution, and Paul Felsberg will become Chairman of Publications Development and Management. In this capacity, Mr. Felsberg will be responsible for identifying and developing new publications to be offered to our members and the general public.

Bylaws Changes: Several bylaws changes were recommended and will be printed in the April 2005 issue of *The Seed Pod* and will be voted on by the membership attending the June 2005 Convention. These recommended changes include:

1. The Chapter dues year will change to June 1 through May 31 (from July 1 through June 30) to match that of National.

2. The terms of committee chairs and members not designated by the Bylaws will expire at every National election. New President will appoint new non-designated chairs. New committee chairs appoint their members.

3. (New wording) Parliamentarian will serve an indeterminate term at the pleasure and discretion of the President's Committee.

4. (New wording for Chapter dissolution) After payment of all financial obligations, the Chapter will forward all remaining monies to the Society Treasurer. The Chapter charter will become null and void.

5. **Regional Board Representation:** The Bylaws Committee recommends that regional directors be elected every other election, with at-large directors elected in the off years. This will include two directors from Florida, one director from the Islands and one director from Texas/Louisiana.

6. **Publicity and Membership Committee:** The Bylaws Committee recommends that this Committee be split into two separate committees.

Calendar: The printer in attendance at our meeting has given us a price for a 16-month calendar of \$6,300 for 5000 copies, or \$1.26 per copy. After discussion, this project was turned over to Paul Felsberg for further study and development in coordination with the Budget Committee and the treasurer.

New Chapter Presidents' Coordinator: Rick Landers of the Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter was elected Chapter Presidents' Coordinator.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 8 P.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2004

President Rita Hall welcomed everyone to the First General Session and asked Katie McClain to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead the Salute to the Flag. Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Rita Hall, 1st VP Randy Cox, 2nd VP Walter Bisselle, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Sam Andrews, Treasurer Penny Benninger, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Ed Flory, Don Mixon, Linda Hagenon, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn; Immediate Past National President Roz Merritt. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger, Dave Flanders, Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Grace Stamps.

The Minutes of the Annual Convention held in Punta Gorda, FL, June 17-20, 2004, were approved as written and posted on the Society's web site.

The president called upon the chairman of each committee to give a brief report to the membership covering their respective meetings held earlier in the day. Unless specified below, details of reports given earlier to the Board of Directors can be found in the Minutes of the Board Meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Penny Benninger

In addition to the financial report furnished to the membership earlier in the day, Mrs. Benninger stated that in the future, all registrations and fees in connection with our membership meetings would be sent to Executive Secretary Val Longson who will be the meeting planner. Details will be set out in the April issue of *The Seed Pod*. Registration fees cover the cost of meeting rooms, set-up, coffee, etc.

Budget Committee: Don Schermerhorn

The Committee compared the financial trends emerging from the June 1 to October 31, 2004, Financial Report prepared by AHS Treasurer Penny Benninger. The main topics were income from dues and number of memberships, and *The Seed Pod* expenses. This latter item is under study and discussion in an ad hoc committee of the Board of Directors.

Bylaws Committee: Walter Bisselle

The Committee proposed several bylaws changes that will be printed in the April 2005 issue of *The Seed Pod* to be voted on by the membership at the June Convention. Among these changes is the election of regional board members at every other election. Show dates for the 2005 show season are complete with the exception of the St. Thomas Chapter.

Membership & Publicity: Walter Bisselle

This Committee will be the distributor for the new membership brochure due out shortly. It has also requested that a significant number of overage copies of each issue of *The Seed Pod* go to the Membership Committee for distribution to the Chapters for use in membership recruiting. This Committee will work with Publications to market the new handbook. The Publicity Committee will be split from the Membership Committee, and we will need a lot of help with publicity.

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Chapter Presidents' Committee: Grace Stamps, Coordinator (Don Mixon representing)

Six Chapter presidents were present, with three more Chapters represented. Memberships are not only hard to get, but are hard to retain. A new-member mentoring program is helpful. Mini shows at meetings are an incentive for attending. Shows and plant sales attract new members, and the sales are the main source of Chapter revenue. Some chapters have auctions to raise extra funds. Lone Star has a one-third-page flyer with a membership form on one side and show dates and locations and their web site on the other side. Rick Landers, president of the Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter in Lafayette, LA, was elected the new Chapter Presidents' Coordinator.

Historian-Archivist: Barbara Hagen-Smith (no report)

Member-At-Large Committee: Sam Andrews, Chairman

The trend in MAL memberships is up, with 255 in 2003, 269 in June 2004 and 285 currently. The Committee recommended to the Board and the Bylaws Committee that a MAL Coordinator be established with representation on the Board as a peer to the Chapter Presidents' Coordinator.

Nomenclature: Jeri Grantham, Chairman (no report)

Publications and Show Packets: Roland Gaudet, Chairman

Welcomed Paul Felsberg to the Publications Committee. We haven't done much in the past few years except distribute publications. Work will begin on updating existing manuals and creating new ones. We have many thousands of the old catalogues in storage that are becoming more obsolete by the day. (Around 7,500 of the *Hibiscus Illustrated* and 1000 to 2000 of the two older catalogues). We will develop marketing plans to move these publications. Sales of the *Tropical Hibiscus Handbook* have been good, and extrapolating the sales to date we could be looking at a need to reprint in less than four years.

Seed Bank: Bob Carran, Chairman (Rita Hall representing)

From January through November over 16,000 seeds were sent to all continents except Antarctica, more to foreign countries than in the USA. Seeds are usually sent within three to four days of receipt of request. Information is furnished on growing seeds and seedlings, and three web sites are recommended: Lone Star, AHS and Dick Johnson's Tahiti site. I ran out of seeds in late October. I received seeds from IHS members, but no help from the AHS members. We must have seed contributions from hybridizers who have excess seeds. Supplies and postage so far this year have been about \$130.

Seedling Evaluation Committee: Annelle Cox, Chairman

We are currently evaluating 55 plants for the years 2001, 2002, 2003, and eight cultivars for 2004 are ready for shipment. Top scoring plants for 2001 are Black Dragon, Lemon Tree, Barry Schlueter, with Etouffee and Blue Lagoon tied. The President's Committee approved a request from the Seedling Coordinator that hybridizers on the SEC no longer evaluate their own Best of Show Seedling winners.

Seed Pod: Rita Hall, Editor

We will continue the cost-effective publishing of 1500 copies of each issue. The cover stock will be upgraded to facilitate mailing. We would like to develop an article library to draw from, and we're looking for contributors of articles. Paul Felsberg will help me with the publishing end. The deadline for articles has been moved up 30 days. We are looking into

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mailing all issues First Class postage, which will require volunteer help from our members. We are considering offering more ads and a corporate membership.

Show and Judging Rules: Randy Cox, Chairman

We have set in place a process to add and remove blooms from the miniature list. Addressed ways to prevent the large number of errors in the Gold Seal tally procedure: tally in a quiet place away from distractions; remove conflicting exhibitor numbers and review the numbering system in general; attention to where tally clerks sit at the judging table; stress accuracy in a training session before a show. Rules changes include judges will not be fast-tracked. They must serve a minimum of two full years in training prior to becoming a Senior Judge. Judges in Texas/Louisiana and the Islands must serve at three shows each as Novice and Junior Judges before becoming Senior Judges. Judges less than 18 years of age who wish to become a Senior Judge will be considered on a case-by-case basis after a thorough review of their credentials. An exhibitor who has shown in several shows during the past show season will be assigned a permanent exhibitor number. An exhibitor with an assigned number not showing for a year will be removed from the permanent number list. Only an exhibitor who wishes to move to a different class needs to apply for a permanent number in January. Judges who fail to meet the requirements of a Senior Judge for one year will be asked to explain any extenuating circumstances. Failure to meet requirements will result in the judge needing to observe at two shows before being reinstated to Senior Judge status.

Slide Bank: Eddie Griffith, Chairman (Lynn Andrews representing)

In June Eddie Griffith was appointed as the new Slide Bank Chairman. There has been little or no activity since then. I have brought to the meeting the assembled slide shows that were still in my possession so that someone can take them to Eddie.

Board of Directors: Sam Andrews, Chairman

Most of the business is covered in the Board Minutes, except one or two items. 2nd VP Walter Bisselle will contact Nomenclature Officer Jeri Grantham when he sees her at a function of their mutual employer next week. He will ask her if she would like to be relieved of her nomenclature duties. A post office box in Venice, FL will be obtained for membership matters that will be printed on the membership brochure.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2004

President Rita Hall called the Second General Session to order and asked Maralyn Tumelty to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead the Salute to the Flag. Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Rita Hall, 1st VP Randy Cox, 2nd VP Walter Bisselle, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Sam Andrews, Treasurer Penny Benninger, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Ed Flory, Don Mixon, Linda Hagenon, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn; Immediate Past National President Roz Merritt; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Rick Landers. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger, Dave Flanders.

President Hall called for Chapter reports:

British Virgin Islands: Linda Hagenon, President

A new hibiscus garden was planted in Botanic Gardens, with great fun had by the whole Chapter. The new plants are growing well. Elections will be held in November with the treasurer being replaced. President Hagenon will be away January through March and an acting president will be elected. We have several new members, and some of us are getting to be too old to be active.

Conrad-Sunrise: Jo Conrad, President

We had another great auction in September with plants and white elephants, and raised a lot of money for the Chapter. Our meeting programs have covered such topics as seed planting and photography. Our show will be on Saturday, April 23, 2005, at Mounts Botanical Garden. We will decide in January whether we will have a second show in November. We will participate again in the West Palm Beach tropical flower show in February 2005.

Dr. Jack Hoffman-South Dade: Gloria White, President (Tony Orpi representing)

Since the June Convention, our State has been battered by three hurricanes. One of the casualties of these storms was our annual show. A few hearty souls decided to hold the annual plant sale and we turned a profit for the Chapter. Membership continues to be 20 members, with many of these living away from Miami for at least half of the year. Next year we decided to hold meetings only in the first six months of the year and set later dates for a picnic and a Christmas party for the appropriate times.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter: Pat Grant, President (Zelma Neef representing)

While our members had little property or plant damage from the hurricanes, other hibiscus folks did which led to the postponement of our 41st annual show in September. We have rescheduled it for Saturday, May 28, 2005. Our annual show is the high point on our Chapter calendar, and we are somewhat apprehensive about the effect the cancellation will have on the momentum/morale of the Chapter. Our membership stands at 76, less than normal at this time of year. Our Chapter meetings and social events are interesting and informative, with our October pot luck/garage sale being well attended. Mother Nature notwithstanding, our Chapter is vibrant, vigorous and optimistic. We are excited that our 2005 president, Dave Flanders, was elected to the Board of Directors of the AHS.

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Gulf Coast: Walter Bisselle, President

We remain strong with 75 members and 50 Seed Pods. Our finances are solid. Chapter meetings feature a variety of topics, from hands-on grafting sessions to a picnic, to a speaker on good bugs and bad bugs. Sioux Hurley will be our new president, and she and our other officers will be installed at our Christmas dinner meeting on December 12th. The Chapter is involved in the long-term process of establishing a Friends support group for Woodmere Park, where our May 15, 2005 show will be held.

Harry Goulding: Randy Cox, President

We are alive and well and gaining new members, 43 memberships at present. We have participated in several home shows, setting up our booth and stopping traffic with our blooms. We plan an even greater year in 2005.

Indian River: John Celli, President (no report)

James Hendry: Karla Holmes, President (no report)

Lone Star: Greg Graves, President (Pat Merritt representing)

Our Chapter members won several awards this year including the Harry Goulding Grafting Award, the A. B. Morrison Memorial Award and several National Sweepstakes Awards. We had three shows this year, including one in a new area of metro-Houston that was very well attended. We had grafting parties, a bus trip to Dupont Nursery in Plaquemine, LA, and hands-on demonstrations at our monthly meetings. Our membership includes 147 households and growing. We continue to present the gospel of tropical hibiscus to local garden clubs, civic associations and Master Gardener groups.

Michael Bernard Acadiana: Rick Landers, President

Our membership numbers 35 families, up from the low 20's last year. We participated in flower shows in Lafayette and Abbeville. We were represented for the first time this year at the Annual Convention and at this Fall Membership Meeting. Chapter members were active and involved at all of the nine Texas/Louisiana shows. We have started a Chapter hybridizing program where we will track the progress of crosses from seed pods to plants and eventually to blooms. Our Chapter is strong and thriving and we look forward to another very active and fruitful year in 2005.

New Orleans: Fr. Bob Gerlich, President (no report)

Red Stick: Rod Hendrick, President

We have 25 members, and normally have 15 to 18 attending each meeting. As a result of two plant sales and plant raffles at the meetings, our treasury is solid. Our first AHS sanctioned show will be May 15, 2005, and we look forward to a good year.

Space City: Grace Stamps, President (Kathy Grandoff representing)

Our membership is at 39 households. We sponsored our regular two shows and an exhibition in a new area. We hope to have our web site up and running by the first of the year. We have presented programs for area garden clubs and held mini shows at nurseries and grocery stores in the area to promote hibiscus. We meet February through November, with a Christmas party in December.

St. Croix: Audrey McCarthy, President (no report)

St. Thomas: Nathan Sell, President (no report)

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Sunset: Don Mixon, President

Membership is up to 86. We are back to doing three shows a year with the State Fair Show on Saturday, February 12, 2005 being the last of this show season. Last year there were 997 blooms entered in this show. Our Chapter is furnishing plants for a new hibiscus garden at the entrance to the Pinellas Botanical Gardens. We continue to furnish speakers for various groups. The Chapter has produced a hibiscus calendar for 2005.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements

The new membership brochure and extra issues of *The Seed Pod* will be shipped to each Chapter president in the next few weeks. There will be no charge to the Chapters.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Merritt, Secretary