AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Embassy Suites Hotel  Annual Convention
Boca Raton, FL       June 12 – 15, 2008

FIRST PRESIDENT’S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 P.M., JUNE 12, 2008

President Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews. Absent: 1st VP Roz Merritt.

Secretary Pat Merritt reported that Roz Merritt had a mild reaction to a blood transfusion on Monday and his doctor would not let him travel. She requested that his absence be excused.

President Andrews reported that the Nomenclature Project is alive and well and progressing.

Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews submitted her letter of resignation to the Committee effective at the end of June.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.
Chairman of the Board Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews; Directors Dave Flanders, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn, David Tate, Wayne Cameron, Bradley Christian, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents’ Coordinator Jim Bridges. Absent: 1st VP Roz Merritt.

**Treasurer’s Report: Walter Bisselle**

Copies of a financial report covering the period June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2008 were made available to the Board and others present. A copy of this report is filed with these Minutes. The projected expenses for 2008-2009 exceed the projected income for the same period by $12,050. The insurance premium is an unexplained $900 less than last year. Chapters with April shows should put their show ads in the January issue of The Seed Pod.

There followed questions about the 2008-2009 budget, with a general discussion about the amounts allocated for unreceipted expenses for the executive secretary, treasurer and editor of $2,400 per year each. Another $1,200 annually goes to Katie McClain who helps with mailing of The Seed Pod.

**Nomenclature: Sam Andrews**

President Andrews met with Pat Hegwood, head of the Burden Research Center at LSU. For their protection as well as our own, we need to sign a contract, and they will need $6,000 to purchase the software and continue. There will actually be two contracts involved: one between LSU and Sam S. Razi, a staff programmer in the IT Group who has done most of the program modification; and one between LSU and the American Hibiscus Society. Contractually, LSU will own one-half of the rights to the Nomenclature and the AHS will own the other one-half. LSU will give us free hosting and maintenance of the site.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the payment of $6,000 as a 501(c)3 grant to LSU Agricultural Center to move forward on the Nomenclature project once a satisfactory contract has been negotiated by both parties. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Sam Andrews as the duly designated Nomenclature Officer with authority to negotiate and sign the contract with LSU. Motion carried.
2009 Convention
A general discussion followed concerning meeting sites, and the need to choose locations that are serviced by major airlines. Rod Hendrick will ask the Red Stick Chapter members to check out possible sites in Baton Rouge.

Domain Name Registrations: Sam Andrews
At the Fall 2007 Membership Meeting held in Brandon, FL, the Board passed a motion asking the chairman of the Technology Committee, Tom Miller, to register all Internet domain names the Society might use in the future, such as ahs.org, ahs.com, ahs.net, etc. Mr. Miller looked into this extensively and recommended that we not go forward with this because of the volume of names and the cost involved. President Andrews sent an email to members of the President’s Committee on March 26, 2008, requesting a vote on a motion to table this project. The motion carried.
Chairman Griffith called for a vote from the full Board to ratify this Internet vote, which carried unanimously.
President Andrews asked the Board to approve the registration of the American Hibiscus Society in the State of Texas as a foreign corporation. On motion made and seconded the Board vote was unanimous.

DVD Catalogue Committee
Chairman Griffith appointed Pat Merritt, Jo Conrad and Paul Felsberg to a committee to study the preparation of a digital hibiscus catalogue.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.
SECOND PRESIDENT’S COMMITTEE MEETING, 5 P.M., JUNE 13, 2008

President Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews. Absent: 1st VP Roz Merritt.

The only agenda item was the search for a new Executive Secretary to replace Lynn Andrews. There was a general discussion of the importance of this position and the general duties.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.
Chairman of the Board Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews; Directors Dave Flanders, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn, David Tate, Wayne Cameron, Bradley Christian, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents’ Coordinator Jim Bridges. Absent: 1st VP Roz Merritt.

The Show and Judging Rules Committee voted to keep close control on the Miniature List used at shows, and to keep it updated. The Board ratified this vote unanimously.

The Chairman again told the Board that the AHS needs a meeting planner to deal with the hotels, create and have framed the various awards, and a number of details that make our meetings run smoothly. Splitting this position from the duties of the Executive Secretary will make that position much more palatable. A suggestion was made that the meeting planner can change with each meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the 2009 Convention be held in Baton Rouge, LA, the weekend of June 18 – 21, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

The budget for 2008-2009 submitted by the treasurer was approved unanimously.

Barbara Hagan-Smith, AHS Historian and Archivist, addressed the Board about the need to preserve our history. She asked each Chapter to go through their members’ attics and closets and gather any historic material and send it to her for the archives. Her sister Betsy LaFever lives in Wesley Chapel, FL, where the AHS storage unit is located and had agreed to receive this material for storage. Send to: Betsy LaFever, 31515 Cross Creek Lane, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543. Call her at 813-788-0394 with any questions. Secretary Pat Merritt presented Barbara Hagan-Smith with an official archival copy of the DVD set “51 Years of AHS History.”

The A. B. Morrison Award for the hybridizer with the most Best of Show Seedling winners in a show season was discussed. This award is a crystal Mikasa hibiscus bowl that is funded each year by Mr. Morrison’s sister-in-law. We have had repeat winners making multiple bowls undesirable. Changing the award each year to a different hibiscus-related item was favored by the Board.
SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JUNE 13, 2008 (con’t.)

The Seed Pod. The Publications Committee voted to continue using Travis Print and Design for the pre-press work. Three other bids were received, but our present relationship was deemed to be the better option at $2.10 per copy, inclusive. We will continue to search for ways of improving the production and cutting costs, but will make no change at this time.

Paul Felsberg suggested a revision to Article VIII, Section 2, g of the bylaws: Publications: Remove other than The Seed Pod. Add The Publications Committee shall act as an advisory committee to The Seed Pod editor.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.
SPECIAL PRESIDENT’S COMMITTEE MEETING, JUNE 14, 2008

President Sam Andrews called this special meeting to order with a quorum present and voting. Absent: Roz Merritt.

Nomenclature

President Andrews asked the Committee for approval to draw $500, if necessary, to have an attorney in Louisiana read over the contract with LSU’s Burden Research Center for hosting the AHS Nomenclature database. On motion made and seconded, the approval was granted.

Appointment to the Seedling Evaluation Committee

President Andrews appointed Bradley Christian of St. Croix, USVI as an additional member of the SEC. The Committee approved this appointment.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the Special Meeting was adjourned.
The president asked Rita Hall to deliver the Invocation and Paul Felsberg to lead us in the salute to the flag.

President Sam Andrews called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews; Directors Dave Flanders, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn, David Tate, Wayne Cameron, Bradley Christian, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents’ Coordinator Jim Bridges. Absent: 1st VP Roz Merritt.

The Minutes of the Fall Membership Meeting held November 9 – 11, 2007, in Brandon, FL, were approved as written and posted with one correction. A vote was recorded as unanimous when, in fact, one Director voted “No.” This correction was made to the Minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report: Walter Bisselle**

Copies of the Annual Report for the fiscal year June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008, were available. We ended the year with a $6,000 loss and this will likely be repeated next year. We do have adequate reserves to fund ongoing programs.

**Budget Committee: Dave Flanders**

The Budget Committee met June 13, 2008. The budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009 was approved as submitted by the treasurer and was authorized at the Second Board of Directors meeting. A copy of the budget and the full Budget Committee report are made a part of these Minutes.

**Bylaws Committee: Paul Felsberg**

Article XIV, Amendments. A change in this Article was approved at the 2007 Convention, reaffirmed at the November 2007 meeting, and published in The Seed Pod. The change reads “Publication of proposed amendments in the **JANUARY OR April** issue of The Seed Pod, **AS WELL AS THE AHS WEB SITE NO LATER THAN APRIL 30TH** will normally suffice for such notice. The membership present approved this change unanimously.

Suggested changes: Article VI: The Seed Pod. Add a Section 4: **The Publications Committee shall act as an advisory committee to The Seed Pod editor.**

Article VIII: Committees: Section 2, g: Publications: Remove **other than The Seed Pod** and add **including acting as an Advisory Committee to The Seed Pod Editor.**
FIRST GENERAL SESSION, JUNE 14, 2008 (con’t.)

These changes will be read again at the November 2008 Membership Meeting, and will be published in The Seed Pod in January, 2009.

Membership Committee: Sam Andrews

We did not have a formal membership meeting yesterday, but the Chapter Presidents’ Committee meeting covers membership. Society membership is basically stable, but we are slowly aging demographically. We’ve lost a few chapters in recent years, but others are growing.

Publications Committee: Paul Felsberg

Sally Bensusen, the artist who did the drawing of the troubled hibiscus plant that we plan to use for Chapters to hand out at shows, has chosen a bloom to be named for her. Nola and Carlos Reynolds hybridized the bloom that Ms Bensusen chose to name Sally B. A picture of the bloom is made a part of these Minutes.

In the Show Packet is a two-part tally results form, an original and a copy. The copy should be posted at each show so that exhibitors can see their individual results. Also, be sure to seal the envelope before mailing it to the executive secretary.

Chapter Presidents’ Committee: Jim Bridges

Chapter Presidents present or represented were Central Florida, Victor Zeno; Conrad-Sunrise, Paul Felsberg; Golby-Reasoner, Dave Flanders; Gulf Coast, Wally Neef; James Hendry, Joyce Comingore; Lone Star, Marti Graves; MB Acadiana, David Tate; New Orleans, Sam Andrews; Red Stick, Kathy Grandoff; Space City, Cindy Erndt; Sunset, Fred Roush. Increasing membership was the prime topic. A lengthy and well-received talk by President Sam Andrews was on ways to improve the membership. Each Chapter talked about the success they had, or didn’t have.

Nomenclature: Sam Andrews

LSU approved the negotiation and signing of a design and hosting contract and payment by the AHS of a $6,000 grant. Thanks to Marti Graves and Cindy Erndt, the data entry of a five-year backlog of registrations is complete. We hope to have good news by the fall Membership meeting. The Society was founded 58 years ago for the express purpose of Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Nomenclature and it continues to be our driving force.

Please send registrations to Lynn Andrews.

Seed Bank: Bob Carran

Last year, to June 11, 1344 seeds had been sent out. This year to that point, 1200 seeds have gone out. In the last two months, I have sent seeds out to South Korea, Romania, Argentina, Sweden, and Singapore. Fifteen envelopes went out last week. With the continuing rise in stamp prices, it costs 59 cents for domestic mailings, and $1.14 for foreign. Europe requests the most seeds, with South America and Asia second and third.
Seedling Evaluation Committee: Rod Hendrick

Five cultivars from the Class of 2005 were dropped from the evaluation process: Beau Vie, Lady Roz, Magic Mission, Pink.net and Tsunami. The CV’s in the Classes of 2006 and 2007 were discussed. Bids for the designated grafter should be submitted to Rod Hendrick by October 1, 2008.

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall

Katie McClain has requested that she be relieved of her mailing duties. We need someone to take over the First Class and Foreign mailing duties. We are always looking for articles from our membership.

Show and Judging Rules: Roz Merritt (Pat Merritt representing)

We discussed some problem areas our judges had encountered, such as non-exhibitor judges cruising the bloom prep area prior to the start of judging, and judges making an extra effort to be consistent. Judges need to use their common sense and their knowledge of the blooms. This Committee will clean up the Miniature List and will add and remove blooms as needed. We voted to allow oversized blooms that are on the Miniature List to be entered as regular blooms if the exhibitor wishes to do so. No undersized regular blooms may be entered as miniatures.

Board of Directors: Eddie Griffith

The Board of Directors voted to hold the 2009 Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

We need a new Executive Secretary to replace Lynn Andrews.

The Chairman welcomed to the Convention long-time AHS members Frank and Myra Renault from Abingdon, VA, and MAL’s Anwar and Amna Hassan from York, PA.

Election Results: Marti Graves and Victor Zeno

President: Eddie Griffith
1st VP: Wayne Cameron
2nd VP: Don Mixon
Secretary: Pat Merritt
Directors for 2008-2012: Joyce Comingore
Wanda Schmoyer
Ed Flory
Kathy Grandoff

Installation of officers will be at the end of the Second General Session on Sunday morning.

Speaker:

Bill Schall, Extension Agent, Palm Beach County, FL
“Bugs That Love Hibiscus.”

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.
SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 15, 2008

The president asked Rae Flanders to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead us in the salute to the flag.

President Sam Andrews called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews; Directors Dave Flanders, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn, David Tate, Wayne Cameron, Bradley Christian, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents’ Coordinator Jim Bridges. Absent: 1st VP Roz Merritt.

Chapter Reports

British Virgin Islands: Laverne Thomas, President (Rita Hall representing)

Tortola is still there! BVI is in the process of regrouping again. We have three new members. We had a non-sanctioned show and plant sale that recruited the new members. We wish to continue as a Chapter of the AHS.

Central Florida: Fred Fallman, President (Victor Zeno representing)

No written report turned in. The secretary could not hear what was said from the back of the room.

Conrad Sunrise: Paul Felsberg, President

We have had a very good year. We have had programs on starting root stock, grafting, starting hibiscus from seeds, questions and answers about hibiscus with a panel of experts, pest elimination, proper feeding, two auctions, and two social functions. Our Chapter is the only one on the east coast and gathers members from a 13,534 square mile area. We must travel many miles to participate in shows on the west coast and central Florida, and we rely on these friends to come to our shows to exhibit, judge and direct our two shows each year. We appreciate their efforts. We maintain a speakers’ bureau that gives hibiscus programs at libraries and civic clubs.

Golby-Reasoner: Dave Flanders, President

Chapter membership remains fairly constant. We have lost two active couples to the migration north movement. We recently lost Dick Hodill. Our first president 1963-64, James Wallace, is still a member, but is not active. We had seven regular meetings and five social meetings. When the church where we met for over 30 years started charging for the room, we moved to the Community Room at Synovus Bank. We appreciate our members who will do whatever is asked of them.
SECOND GENERAL SESSION, JUNE 15, 2008 (con’t.)

**Gulf Coast: Wally Neef, President**

We have a new meeting place, the Jacaranda Library. It is modern and electronically well-equipped. Selby Garden had an Asian Festival where the Goulding and Gulf Coast Chapters sold hibiscus plants. Meeting attendance is 20 to 30. We have plant raffles and light snacks. Our show was a success as we netted $7. We will have a grafting program, a picnic and a Christmas Party. We gained four new members this year. Randy Cox gives each new member a plant.

**Harry Goulding: Jim Bridges, President**

Our Chapter is alive and well. Our membership records show 17 members as of January 2008, but the real numbers are a secret as no one seems to know. In August we had a joint meeting with Gulf Coast and James Hendry Chapters at Randy and Annelle Cox’s home with about 50 in attendance. We had our annual picnic and our fall show in October. In February we had a joint festival with Gulf Coast at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. We had a work day at John Martins’ home in April to replant his and Marjorie’s garden with hibiscus and celebrated John’s 92nd birthday. Our annual Mothers’ Day show was very successful with 700 blooms and 68 seedlings.

**James E. Hendry: Joyce Comingore, President**

We changed our fiscal year to comply with our bylaws, July 1 to June 30. We started in September with an ice cream social billed as “Come for dessert, stay to learn about hibiscus.” Our Christmas party was at Sam Seltzer’s. Our programs have been informative ones presented by Kathy and Don Mixon, Curt Sinclair and Jim Bridges. We toured Naples Botanical Garden and had our annual picnic in April. Our show in June was very successful financially and we signed up 10 new members. We have 44 memberships at this time. This summer we start work on putting 49 hibiscus plants into the Ft. Myers/Lee County Garden Council’s Botanical Gardens.

**Lone Star: Marti Graves, President**

We had a break-even show in April, netted $37. We had good publicity for the June show, but I left to come over here before the numbers were known. We had six Amateur exhibitors. Attendance at meetings is decreasing, we think due to the price of gas. We continue to offer excellent programs, an ice cream social in July and a Christmas dinner. We have mini shows at all of our meetings. Several members have presented programs to garden clubs and civic groups. We have six growers that support our shows, who work together to supply outstanding cultivars.

**Michael Bernard Acadiana: Buddy Short, President (Dave Tate representing)**

We currently have approximately 50 active members and anticipate picking up several new members at our annual show on June 29th. Our main objective is to become the best “educated” chapter in the AHS. In my opinion this requires that we consistently look for new/active members and that we continue to discuss basic skills of maintenance that are appropriate for our location in South Louisiana. We meet from March through November, and our discussion for the month deals with “what is going on with our plants.
SECOND GENERAL SESSION, JUNE 15, 2008 (con’t.)

TODAY.” Our meeting attendance is usually 25 to 30. We pay strong attention to our newer members making sure they are prepared and knowledgeable for the remainder of the year. We put out a 12-month newsletter and anyone wishing to receive it by email can contact me at buddy@shortfinancialgroup.com We support two major fundraisers, Festival des Fleurs and our annual show coming up on June 29th. Bobby Dupont will be our featured speaker at our meeting/barbeque at my home in July.

New Orleans: Fr. Bob Gerlich, President (Sam Andrews representing)

The city is continuing to struggle to regain its balance after Hurricane Katrina, but the NOLA Chapter meets each month at Loyola University with Fr. Gerlich at its helm. Their show is held in a building that sits in the center of the campus and parking is not close by, making plant loading difficult. They have about 50 or 60 members. They are challenged, but they will survive.

Red Stick: Damon Veach, President (Kathy Grandoff representing)

We have had a very good year. Our two fundraisers, our annual show and the LSU Spring Garden Show, swelled our treasury. We have a great group of members who are supported by the other two Louisiana Chapters NOLA and Michael Bernard Acadiana. Thanks to Greg and Marti Graves and Jim Gedicke for directing our show. Our electronic newsletter “Red Stick Gleanings” is available to all who wish to receive it. We continue our work in the International Hibiscus Garden, and we are working to set up a scholarship fund for high school graduates who wish to major in horticulture at Louisiana universities. Thanks to the entire Dupont family for the support they give to all three Louisiana Chapters.

Space City: Chuck Brooks, President (Cindy Erndt representing)

Ours is a small Chapter with 32 members. We meet from February through November. We had three shows this year, all modestly successful. We have a Girl Scout Troup that helps with our show set-up and helping visitors carry their plants to their cars. One member borrows grocery carts from a local store to enable visitors to buy more plants.

St. Croix: Errol Chichester, President (Barbara Hagan-Smith representing)

We meet from September to June and at present have 22 members. Our full agenda of programs included hands-on workshops on repotting and soil preparation, many methods of propagation, fertilizing, methods of irrigation, pest management and composting. We also visited a tropical fruit tree farm where we learned many of the practices that we do in our effort to grow hibiscus are adopted from other agricultural practices and techniques. Despite the hot, dry weather our January and March shows were well attended and our blooms delighted the public.

St. Thomas: Mario Francis, President (No report)
SECOND GENERAL SESSION, JUNE 15, 2008 (con’t.)

Sunset: Fred Roush, President

Over the history of our Chapter we have been blessed with strong leadership. Our long-time president Don Mixon has moved on to be 2nd VP of National. We commend him for his service at the Chapter level and wish him success at National. Our former First Lady Kathy Grandoff is now a National Director and serves as a member of the Seedling Evaluation Committee. Our membership remains steady and our meetings are well attended by the central group that keeps our Chapter humming. We have presented programs for the Garden Club of St. Petersburg and Sunken Gardens. We supplied blooms for a banquet honoring volunteers of the Florida Blood Services.

AWARDS

Chapter with the most members in attendance at the Convention: Conrad Sunrise

Executive Secretary’s Award for outstanding service: Victor Zeno

A special thank you to Connie Roush for working the registration desk, and to Lila Mulholland for her flower arranging seminar.

Treasurer’s Award: Jo Conrad

Installation of Officers and Directors was conducted by Past President Zelma Neef.

A Life Membership was presented to outgoing president Sam Andrews by incoming president Eddie Griffith.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the 2008 Convention was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt, Secretary
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, 10:20 A.M., JUNE 15, 2008

President Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Eddie Griffith, 1st VP Wayne Cameron, 2nd VP Don Mixon, Secretary Pat Merritt, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Lynn Andrews; Directors Bradley Christian, Fred Roush, Joyce Comingore, Wanda Schmoyer, Kathy Grandoff, Ed Flory; Immediate Past President Sam Andrews; Chapter Presidents’ Coordinator Jim Bridges.

President Griffith asked for nominations to fill the unexpired terms of Directors Wayne Cameron and Eddie Griffith, who were elected to First Vice President and President, respectively.

Cindy Erndt and Paul Felsberg were nominated and unanimously elected to the office of Director of the AHS for the unexpired term 2006-2010.

Val Longson was nominated as Executive Secretary to replace Lynn Andrews who resigned. The appointment was unanimously approved.

Fred Roush was nominated to the position of Chairman of the Board. Fred Roush was unanimously elected to chair the Board.

These Directors were installed by Past President Zelma Neef.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the Special Board Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt, Secretary