Holiday Inn Riverfront Bradenton FL Annual Convention June 15 – 18, 2006

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 3:30 P.M., JUNE 15, 2006

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 Eddie Griffith, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson.

President Hall announced that although Donna Schneider, having no opposition, had likely won election as a Director, she had sent a resignation letter thanking the National Nominating Committee for their consideration, stating that she would be unable to serve. The bylaws provide that a replacement will be appointed by the president with approval by the Board of Directors. There followed a discussion about regional Board representation. Chairman Andrews pointed out that Chapter membership is growing toward the West. Florida Chapter membership is approximately 260, Louisiana Chapter membership is 160, and Texas Chapter membership is 184.

Starting new Chapters was also discussed, with Jacksonville FL and Lake Charles LA as two strong possibilities.

A brief discussion about the defunct Baton Rouge LA Chapter and the lawsuit to regain its treasury followed. There will be a parliamentary procedure hearing on July 11 in Baton Rouge. In accordance with the AHS bylaws Bank One sent the balance of the dissolved Chapter's treasury to the National treasurer, who is holding the funds in a separate CD pending the final outcome.

The president next discussed the way the National Nominating Committee members are chosen, pointing out that in the past telephone area codes were used to appoint members from different areas. Changes in area codes now make this method impractical, and the President's Committee referred the matter to the Board of Directors for study.

Executive Secretary Val Longson led a discussion about Convention and Membership Meeting sites. Hotel room rates are going up, as are the charges for meeting rooms. Hotels are requiring a guarantee of a certain number of room nights and a certain amount of food and beverages being consumed. In past years three or four properties were presented to the membership and it voted on the convention site. With venues being difficult to find, Ms Longson asked the Committee to allow a committee of three or four Board members to make the decision on meeting location and present it to the membership. There was also a brief discussion about Convention program content.

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FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:30 P.M., JUNE 15, 2006

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 Eddie Griffith, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Dave Flanders, Linda Hagenson, Don Schermerhorn, Don Mixon, Ed Flory; Immediate Past National President Roz Merritt; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger and Bernard Pages.

The Minutes of the last Board meeting held November 12, 2005, in Osprey FL, were approved as written and posted on the AHS web site.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Walter Bisselle made copies of this report for the period June 1, 2005 through May 31, 2006, available to everyone present. He also noted that the Budget Committee had met after the show in Venice and prepared a budget for the coming year, copies of which were also available. Copies are filed with these Minutes.

At its June 2005 meeting the Board voted to assess each hybridizer of a Best of Show Seedling winner a \$25 fee to help defray the costs of providing plants to the evaluators. This was effective with the 2005 show season. The Board was informed that Carlos Reynolds had paid the Society for every seedling he currently had under evaluation, causing him to overpay by about \$300. Mr. Reynolds did not want his money returned. After discussion and on motion made and seconded, the Board voted to use the excess funds to purchase a Life Membership for Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds.

A brief discussion followed about the need to increase the cost of a Life Membership, now set at \$300. Since this is covered in the bylaws, the Chairman asked the 2nd vice president to consider this at the Bylaws Committee meeting on Friday. A suggestion was made that instead of setting a dollar amount in the bylaws, that the wording be changed to allow the Board of Directors to determine the amount.

The Seed Pod

Editor Rita Hall reported that the July/August/September issue was ready to go to the printer as soon as the Convention was over. Postage is scheduled to increase at the beginning of next year. We are trying to add new advertisers.

New Business

Use of AHS Membership List

Treasurer Walter Bisselle has received a request for the AHS membership mailing list from a non-member commercial grower. The policy has been that this list be provided to any AHS member requesting it as long as it was not used for commercial purposes. After discussion, and on motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the AHS membership list will not be shared for any commercial purpose.

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:30 P.M., JUNE 15, 2006 (con't.)

Business by Email

Chairman Andrews discussed the need to have any official AHS business conducted by the President's Committee and/or the Board of Directors via email recorded in official Minutes' form and posted on the AHS web site so that the membership can be aware of it. After discussion, on motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, all Society official AHS business and/or votes conducted via email by the President's Committee and/or the Board will be recorded by the recording secretary, who will provide them to the web master for posting on the AHS web site at www.americanhibiscus.org. The recording secretary will send an email on the AHSBiz list announcing that these Minutes are available on the web site.

AHSBiz List

The chairman reminded the Committee that the AHSBiz email list should not be used for anything but AHS business, and that personal messages should be sent to private email addresses. If idle chatter is sent on this List, members will unsubscribe and the purpose of the email list will be defeated.

Choosing National Nominating Committee Members

A discussion on changes in the method of choosing members of the National Nominating Committee followed. The Bylaws Committee will meet and the Chairman will present its recommendations to the Board at the November 2006 Membership Meeting.

Election Advertising

A lengthy discussion about elections, write-in candidates, campaign advertising and the use of *The Seed Pod* for this purpose ensued, without action or recommendations.

Meeting Location Selection

The difficulties in finding a suitable location for meetings were thoroughly discussed, and on motion made, seconded and unanimously approved the Executive Secretary will present to the Board of Directors her recommendations for meeting sites. The Board will determine the location and dates of Society meetings by a vote of the Board members. This will then be presented to the general membership at the First General Session at the Convention.

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4 P.M., JUNE 16, 2006

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 Eddie Griffith, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Dave Flanders, Linda Hagenson, Don Schermerhorn, Don Mixon, Ed Flory; Immediate Past National President Roz Merritt; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger and Bernard Pages.

Old Business

Recommendations for Bylaws Changes

Second Vice President and Bylaws Committee Chairman Eddie Griffith presented the following recommendations from the Bylaws Committee:

Article V, Section 2, Dues:

Eliminate sub-section b, Contributing Members.

Eliminate all mention of dollar amounts in sub-sections d and e, and substitute "to be determined by the Board of Directors."

Change the wording in sub-section d to read: "National Life Members: Cost to be determined by the Board of Directors. Chapter membership dues are not included."

Article IX, Section 2, Nominating Committee, sub-section b:

Eliminate 1) through 4) and substitute: "Request one member from each Chapter and at least one, but no more than three, Members-At-Large."

Article VII, Section 3, Directors and Duties, sub-section 4) was discussed at length. Regional representation was approved by the Board previously, with Texas and Louisiana sharing one Board seat. The membership growth in the Louisiana Chapters dictates that they should have regional representation on the Board. The following motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved as a recommended bylaws change: "Set regional Board elections in one election cycle with one director each from Florida, Texas, Louisiana and Virgin Islands. Four at-large directors will be elected in the next election cycle."

Membership

Treasurer Walter Bisselle reported that we have had a significant increase in Member-At-Large memberships, coming from various sources. Renewals are up, the Internet and via PayPal. He suggested some minor changes in the way MAL memberships are handled, such as including a prepaid return envelope with dues billings, supply chapters with names and addresses of MAL's in their area, contact chapter members who have dropped out of a chapter, or whose chapter has closed, about becoming MAL's.

Convention Meeting Sites

Executive Secretary Val Longson reported that the Ramada Inn in Osprey FL, which she had chosen as a proposed site for the 2006 Fall Membership meeting, notified her that they have closed their restaurant. The Embassy Suites in Boca Raton FL is charging thousands of dollars

SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4 P.M., JUNE 16, 2006 (con't.)

for meeting rooms and set up, and is requiring a large food and beverage expenditure, in addition to our moving our banquet from Saturday night to Friday night. The Lago Mar in Fort Lauderdale FL offers free meeting space, but a one-bedroom suite is \$185 when all taxes and surcharges are added. The Best Western in Punta Gorda has been completely rebuilt after the hurricane damage, with a new restaurant. They will charge us a \$400 meeting room and set-up fee, with a room rate of \$89. The Hilton Hotel in Lafayette has offered a \$109 room rate with free meeting space. Ms Longson reported that our largest convention attendance of 125 was in 2004 in Punta Gorda. There were 80 attendees at the 2006 convention in Bradenton. There followed a lengthy discussion about the meeting sites, with no decision made. The chairman suggested appointing a committee of four Board members to make a recommendation on meeting sites. In order to include the newly elected Board members, a Special Board of Directors meeting was called for 5 p.m., Saturday, June 17.

Installation of Officers and Directors

A discussion about the installation of the new Board Officers and Directors resulted in a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to install the officers at the First General Session, and set aside the rule stating that the new Board would assume its duties immediately following installation. This would allow all of the new Board members to be considered for service on the site selection committee, and for the current president to preside over the Convention Awards Banquet.

Holiday Inn Riverfront Bradenton FL Annual Convention June 15 – 18, 2006

FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 17, 2006

President Rita Hall called the meeting to order and asked Rae Flanders 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 Eddie Griffith, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors: Ed Flory, Don Mixon, Dave Flanders, Linda Hagenson, Don Schermerhorn; Immediate Past President Roz Merritt; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger and Bernard Pages.

President Rita Hall welcomed everyone to the Convention, and recognized first-time attendees and those traveling from great distances. She thanked all of those who helped her throughout her two-year term as president.

The Minutes of the Fall Membership Meeting held November 11 - 13, 2005, at the Ramada Inn in Osprey FL, were accepted as written and posted on the AHS web site.

The president next called upon each committee chairman to give a brief report covering their respective meetings held the day before.

Treasurer's Report: Walter Bisselle

The treasurer made copies of the Financial Report available to all members (a copy is filed with these Minutes). An audit report is also included with the Financial Report.

Budget Committee: Don Schermerhorn

The Budget Committee members met on May 21, 2006, at the Gulf Coast Chapter show in Venice FL, and prepared a budget for 2006 - 2007. The Committee met again yesterday and reviewed and approved the budget that is included in the Financial Report. We also explored additional sources of income and discussed the financial impact of preparing and producing a revision to the handbook when it is needed.

Bylaws, National Awards and Show Dates: Eddie Griffith

One show was added to the schedule listed in *The Seed Pod*; the Harry Goulding Chapter will have a show on October 29, 2006, in Punta Gorda. For Bylaws changes, see the Minutes of the Second Board of Directors Meeting.

Membership Coordinator: Pat Merritt

Working with Walter Bisselle to clean up the membership list to remove duplicates, dropped and deceased members to cut our expenses. When Treasurer Bisselle "inherited" the old membership computer program in Lotus, there were 4000 membership records on it. Many of these should have been dropped. He converted the list into an Excel file and cut the number of records to about 1400. This is the database we are working to clean up so that we can efficiently mail *The Seed Pod* to only those we know are members. Our membership is growing.

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall

We are running 1500 copies of each issue, with the extras being mailed to Chapter presidents for their use in recruiting new members. The July issue is ready to go to press as soon as the Convention news is added. We need articles written by our members. Please send them to me at the address shown in each issue. Keep in mind that the deadlines are: October 24 for the January issue, January 24 for the April issue, April 24 for the July issue, and July 24 for the October issue. The treasurer is now sending out billings for advertisements and receiving the payments, which has streamlined this process.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 17, 2006, (con't.)

Chapter Presidents' Coordinator: Damon Veach

The presidents of all the chapters attending the Convention met in open session to give reports on their accomplishments for the year. Each participating member gave what could be described as an update on how to obtain memberships. All the reports offered good pointers, but the most inclusive was from Dave Flanders with the Golby-Reasoner Chapter. He was very considerate in sharing his media techniques and passed out CDs about their annual hibiscus show which contains jpegs of hibiscus blooms as well as jpegs from previous shows. This is a Windows Media Player file and is comprehensive in covering just about all aspects of their continued success as a chapter of the AHS. Other than the growth perspective as the main focus, all the reports were filled with positive comments and presented to a full room of participants. The panel of presidents showed how their leadership skills were aimed at future growth, and some comments were gleaned from members in attendance.

Members-At Large: Sam Andrews

MAL membership has increased significantly this last year, much attributed to our increased presence on the Internet and the work of Bob Carran and the Seed Bank. He sends an AHS brochure with every seed order. *The Seed Pod* is very important to MAL's whose membership can be acquainted to a magazine subscription. To many, it is their only contact with the AHS. Most are growing their plants in isolation in hibiscus-unfriendly climates, and the AHS web site becomes a great asset to them. Our *Tropical Hibiscus Handbook* is another asset for MAL's.

Nomenclature: Pat Merritt for Rick Osgood

Rick Osgood regrets that he was unable to attend this meeting, but will make every effort to be at the fall meeting. There are currently over 8,000 registrations in the AHS database. Visitors to the site have conducted more than 56,000 searches and traffic continues to increase. The level of cooperation between the AHS and the official Hibiscus rosa-sinensis registrar Brian Cheers, who is also the current president of the Australian Hibiscus Society, continues to rise. New registrations are furnished to him, and he has promised to send registrations sent to him for inclusion in our database. Our goal is to have one source that hybridizers can go to find what they need to register their blooms. This must be easy to use and free to everyone with an Internet connection.

Publications: Walter Bisselle

We are working to contain costs, but make *The Seed Pod* the best it can be. Another mainstay of publications is the *Tropical Hibiscus Handbook*. Ten thousand copies were printed in 2003, and we presently have about 6,800 in inventory, which should be sufficient for other three or four years. But, we need to get the ball rolling on revisions as the lead time is not short. We have not produced a new catalogue since *Hibiscus Illustrated* was published in 1996. With the great cost of color printing, we will pursue producing digital hibiscus images on a DVD to update the blooms that have entered commerce in the last 10 years. Another project discussed was scanning all back issues of *The Seed Pod* and producing them on a DVD for sale.

Seed Bank: Bob Carran

My first full year as Seed Bank Chairman was 2004 when I sent out 1938 seeds to fill 103 requests, at about 20 seeds each. My wife reminded me that if they all came up, those people would have to care for 20 plants. So, I cut back to 10 to 12 seeds each the next year. In 2005, I had 132 requests, and so far this year I have filled 48 seed requests. At first about 30% of the requests were from foreign sources. This year that has risen to about 70% of the requests, coming from Cyprus, Greece, Norway, Slovenia, India, Spain, Italy, Chile, Mexico, South Africa, Canada, Denmark, Philippines, and Germany. The Australian Hibiscus Society Seed

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Bank Chairman, Allan Little, sends out about 1500 seeds per year to only about 30 people, or 50 seeds per request. They charge for foreign postage only, whereas we mail to anyone without charge. At one point last year your Seed Bank was almost out of business, no seeds. Hurricanes, drought and other climate anomalies resulted in few pods. Then some angels came to the rescue with seeds from Zelma and Wally Neef, Marti and Greg Graves, Steve Sinanan from the Virgin Islands. Thanks to everyone who contributed seeds, and we need more!

Seedling Evaluation: Roz Merritt

We have been using the same statistical data gathering form for three years, and are continuing to improve on the earlier work of Rudy Walton, Barbara Ribble, Barry Schlueter, Carol Vannoorbeeck, and Annelle Cox. Thanks to Randy Cox for expanding on Curt Sinclair's suggestion of using a Seedling Coordinator, or designated grafter, to collect winning seedling wood and see that plants are sent to each Committee member.

Show and Judging Rules: Randy Cox

The miniature bloom trial where any bloom 5" or less could be entered as a miniature regardless of its registration or previous history was used at two shows in Texas and the State Fair show in Florida. There were some positives and some negatives, but the Committee decided not to continue this and return to the use of a Miniature List. If a bloom you do not know is seemingly a miniature, but is not on the Miniature List, it should be written in on the list and sent to the Executive Secretary. Show Chairmen should request by email a Miniature List from the executive secretary at wbisselle@aol.com the week of their show.

<u>Measuring Seedlings</u>: The Show Director, or his/her designee, will measure all seedlings before final judging. Blooms that are 5" or less that are not marked as a miniature will be taken back to the exhibitor/hybridizer for confirmation and marking that they want them entered as miniatures. Miniature seedlings must pass through the 5" ring at the time of judging.

Consistent Judging: Some exhibitors will hold their best blooms until late before entering them to be judged, thinking that in shows with 1000 or more blooms entered the judges will be more lenient later. Judges must judge blooms consistently! Judge the same at 9:30 as you do at 11:30. Show Chairmen need to set a bloom entry cut-off time of 11:30 a.m. There are obvious problems with large bloom counts at shows. Exhibitors need to get their blooms in earlier, and judges need to judge faster. There are too many Gold Seals being awarded. Thirty to 35% Gold Seals should be the norm. Judges seem to forget the point scoring system of Form, Size, Color, Substance and Condition, each scoring a minus 2 points.

Seedlings in Commerce: Page 12, No. 2 of the AHS Manual for Judges states: "If a seedling bloom is entered in an exhibit category as a regular variety by an exhibitor other than the hybridizer, even without the hybridizer's consent, it can no longer be shown as a seedling." Giving a seedling plant to a trusted grower to trial and enter as a seedling for a hybridizer at a show is a wise move, but once a hybridizer sells a seedling in general commerce, he loses control of what happens to it. Therefore, the Committee makes the following recommendation to the Board: If a seedling has been sold in commerce, it can no longer be shown as a seedling in a sanctioned AHS show.

Hybridizers must not tout their seedlings at shows or on the Internet mail lists. Judges must refrain from cruising the bloom prep areas at shows. You do not need to see the blooms until they come across your table to be judged. The time to visit with exhibitors is after the judging is finished.

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Trimming Blooms: This has been controversial for years and needs to be called to a vote. Discussion was offered, but there was none. A motion was presented that "trimmed blooms will be given an "X," and was seconded and approved. The vote was 20 "For" trimming, and 25 "Against" trimming. The motion carried that trimmed blooms would be given an "X."

Board of Directors: Sam Andrews

See the Minutes of the First and Second Board of Directors meetings.

New Business

Election Results: Rita Hall

President Hall thanked the members who volunteered as vote counters. They spent a good part of Friday opening the ballots and counting them. She also thanked National Nominating Committee Chairman Connie Roush for her outstanding work.

<u>Directors – 1184 votes cast</u>

Wayne Cameron:	297
Bradley Christian:	290
Fred Roush:	290
Donna Schneider:	287

Second Vice President

Paul Felsberg:	165	5
Rick Landers:	156	5

Secretary

Pat Merritt 298

First Vice President

Eddie Griffith	150
Roz Merritt	174

President

Sam Andrews	217
Jo Conrad	109

Installation of Officers

Past President Zelma Neef installed the new Officers and Directors by administering the Oath of Office:

You have been chosen to fill the various offices of the American Hibiscus Society. You will, I know, fulfill in every way the obligations to which you have been entrusted. You will at once familiarize yourself with the duties of your office, and will perform these duties faithfully in the spirit of the service. The trust and welfare of our Society must depend upon you to carry on the work in conjunction with the American Hibiscus Society's Bylaws as written now and may be amended. Raise your right hand and repeat after me: I, (name), do solemnly swear to pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of my office in the American

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Hibiscus Society. By the authority vested in me as a past president of the AHS, I declare you in full possession of the office to which you have been elected. Good luck!

President Hall thanked commercial growers Annelle and Randy Cox and Jo and Pete Conrad for furnishing the raffle plants for the Convention.

Director Linda Hagenson resigned as a Director of the AHS. She and her husband will be taking a world cruise on their boat, and she will be unable to attend meetings.

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SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5 P.M., JUNE 17, 2006

Chairman Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Rita Hall, 2nd VP Eddie Griffith, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Sam Andrews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Don Mixon, Ed Flory, Dave Flanders, Wayne Cameron, Bradley Christian, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President and 1st VP Roz Merritt; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Directors Carl Benninger, Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn; 1st VP Randy Cox, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg.

Board of Directors Appointments

The Chairman read from the Bylaws Article IX, Section 5, c: The incoming President shall appoint a qualified member to fill any vacancy that may occur in the elected officers or directors positions of the Society, with approval of the Board of Directors.

Since nominations were not in order, Chairman Andrews asked for discussion from the Board. After considerable discussion, the chairman recommended the appointment of Eddie Griffith and Rick Landers to fill the two vacant Board positions. Rick Landers volunteered to accept the remaining two years of Linda Hagenson's term, and Eddie Griffith will serve the four-year term. On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, these new Directors were appointed.

Election of a new Chairman of the Board

Eddie Griffith was nominated to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors. With no other nominations, on motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, Eddie Griffith was elected to serve as Chairman through the November 2006 Membership Meeting.

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 18, 2006

President Sam Andrews called the Second General Session to order and asked Katie McClain to deliver the Invocation, and Russ Scobey to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The chairman called on Zelma Neef to conduct the installation of the two newly appointed Directors, Eddie Griffith and Rick Landers.

President Andrews welcomed everyone to the Second General Session, and remarked how pleased he was that we actually had people campaigning for Board positions that in past years we had difficulty filling. He urged the members to move forward, not dwelling on past unpleasant experiences. The Society's basic mission is to promote the Hibiscus to the public, and to build a society of friends that enjoys in various ways the Hibiscus flower and each other.

Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll: Present: President Sam Andrews, 1st VP Roz Merritt, Recording Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Eddie Griffith; Directors Dave Flanders, Don Schermerhorn, Wayne Cameron, Bradley Christian, Rick Landers, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall, Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Director Bernard Pages.

The president next called for Chapter reports:

Michael Bernard Acadiana: Rick Landers, President

We continue to thrive and grow, gaining new members through our participation in area events. A seminar for new members to help them navigate the hibiscus world, participation in all the area shows, and meetings that are fun and educational led the agenda. Last year was one of devastation for much of our area, with two hurricanes in one month. We were proud to be able to assist AHS members who lost their homes with personal and chapter contributions. We marveled at how the New Orleans Chapter bounced back to sponsor a great show, and congratulate Father Gerlich, Sandra and Wally Barr and all the NOLA members! Our June 25th show, a July 4th barbecue, and a Chapter auction are just a few of our planned activities.

British Virgin Islands: Linda Hagenson, President

The BVI Chapter is losing long time members, but like all AHS Chapters we truly try. Four members up, two old members down, some months we feel we simply want to cry! They say "We love hibiscus" so we give growing tips, as beautiful plants we want to help them grow. We offered programs: grafting, pruning and pest control, but of course, next month, the new members didn't show! With our St. Croix and St. Thomas friends to help, in 2007 we'll host our 27th successful annual show. Once again our loyal and faithful members will work, and the BVI Hibiscus Chapter will prosper and grow!

Central Florida: Fred Fallman, President (No Report)

Conrad Sunrise: Jo Conrad, Co-President

We've had a busy spring with our usual educational programs and a fantastic show. Our membership remains steady. We're always trying to involve newer members who usually have new ideas!

SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 18, 2006 (con't.)

Golby-Reasoner: Dave Flanders, President

Our 42nd Annual Show was a major success with 641 blooms entered, down from the 822 blooms in last year's show, but our guests were delighted. Membership continues to be our number one challenge. It is very difficult to attract and retain active, younger members. We picked up four at last year's show, but only retained two of them, but again picked up a few more at this year's show. We changed our fiscal year to June 1 through May 31 to coincide with National's FY. The terms for the officers and director for our calendar year 2006 were extended into June of this year. For the coming year we reduced our formal meetings from nine to six, added two field trips and a mini show, and retained our social meetings at three. We operated an information booth and plant sale at two other area flower shows, and provided guest speakers for six other garden clubs. "Petal Power" continues to provide an excellent resource for our members thanks to the outstanding efforts of its editor and desktop publisher. We greatly appreciate the receipt of newsletters from other Chapters.

Gulf Coast: Wally Neef, President

Our Chapter show this year had the most bloom entries of any show, ever, with 1,119. Zelma, our boss, judged, clerked and pushed the nine judges to finish by 11:30 a.m. One of our members gave programs at his home on hybridizing, propagating, etc. We got six new members, for a total of 70.

Harry Goulding: John Pelk, President (Wally Neef representing)

This show had 1,009 blooms entered and the judges were slower and didn't finish until 12:15. Randy Cox gave every new member five plants, and the person who recruited the new member got one plant. The Goulding Chapter will have a second show on October 29th with all proceeds going to the Hibiscus Garden in History Park.

James E. Hendry: Karla Holmes, President

The oldest Chapter in the AHS is still kicking! I know that Texas has the largest Chapter, but we have the youngest member! Nicole is 9. Thank you for sending your Chapter newsletters and allowing us to use some of the material. Since we are shrinking we have moved our meetings to private homes and meet in the afternoon. Our members seem to like it.

Lone Star: Marti Graves, President

We changed the date of our third 2005 show from mid-August to July 24 to avoid competition with the beginning of school. Plant sales were up from August shows, but were not outstanding. Our joint Christmas party with the Space City Chapter provided a very nice evening. Our Bellaire show site is undergoing remodeling and we had to move our first show date to April 30th before the work began. With great publicity we had our most successful show ever, selling 1,208 plants and needing more. Our second show will be July 23rd in Fort Bend County. Hibiscus presentations were made by Chapter members to garden clubs, civic associations and Master Gardener meetings.

New Orleans: Fr. Bob Gerlich, President (Rick Landers representing)

Hurricane Katrina scattered Chapter members last fall, with many suffering devastating property losses. The Church sent Fr. Gerlich to Scranton PA when Loyola University temporarily closed. Most members have returned and they put together a fine show on May 28th.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 18, 2006 (con't.)

Red Stick: Damon Veach, President

Our show on May 7th was a huge success in spite of the heavy rain and traffic jam. We donated \$1,000 from the plant sale to Burden Conference Center for the use and care of the International Hibiscus Garden. We also contributed 10% of our total sales to the New Orleans Chapter to assist in its recovery from the hurricane. Kathy Grandoff and Don Mixon and Nola and Carlos Reynolds donated plants to the garden, which is maintained by our Chapter members. The three Louisiana Chapters met at Dupont Nursery in Plaquemine where a portion of the sales was donated to the New Orleans Chapter. Our membership is growing with 20 regular members and 11 associate members.

Space City: Roger Friend, President (Cindy Erndt representing)

The good news is that we had two successful shows this year; the bad news is the Houston paper's gardening section will only cover hibiscus once each season and Lone Star's show was the first one. All the growers were happy since they furnish plants to both Chapters' shows. Our membership is steady at 26 regular and 6 associate members. Our third show will be July 16th in Pasadena.

St. Croix: Jim Burns, President (Barbara Hagen-Smith representing)

Our Chapter meets from September to June. At present we have 27 members who have enjoyed programs that included some hands-on workshops on propagation of rootstock, grafting, hybridizing, pest management, repotting and pruning. Our January show was attended by judges from Tortola and St. Thomas, and several of our members participated in their shows. Our second show was held in March at the St. George Botanical Garden Flower Festival. Even though the hot, dry weather was playing havoc on the plants, our strong-willed group still persevered and there were lots of beautiful blooms to delight the public.

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

Sunset: Don Mixon, President

We have been growing in membership. The State Fair show in February drew AHS members from Alabama and Texas. There was no plant sale at this show. Forty-five people attended a grafting party at Unbelievable Hibiscus with non-members invited. Two new memberships were gained. We had to set up our June show at 5:30 a.m., a long and busy day. Thirteen new members were signed up. Fred Roush is donating time and items to auction off to benefit our Chapter.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the 2006 Convention was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Merritt, Secretary

2006 AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006

HARRY GOULDING GRAFTING AWARD

Presented by Kathy Grandoff & Don Mixon NOLA AND CARLOS REYNOLDS

Accepted by Jo Conrad

BEVERLY AND NORMAN BRUBAKER TROPHY FOR 2005 JUDGES' FAVORITE BLOOM

Presented by Lila Mulholland

DANCING FIRE

Hybridized by Nola and Carlos Reynolds

Accepted by Jo Conrad

NORMAN REASONER TROPHY FOR THE CHAPTER WITH THE MOST AMATEUR EXHIBITORS FOR THE 2005 SHOW SEASON

Presented by Dave Flanders

NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER

Accepted by Rick Landers

A. B. MORRISON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR THE MOST BEST OF SHOW SEEDLINGS WON IN THE 2005 SHOW SEASON

Presented by Gayle Morrison

BOBBY AND BOOTSIE DUPONT

Accepted by Rod Hendrick

SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

Amateur

Presented by Audrey McCarthy Florida: Jim and Mary Bridges Texas/Louisiana: Cindy Erndt Islands: Mark Ferdschneider

Collector

Presented by Ed & Jane Flory
Florida: Irene Collins
Texas/Louisiana: Janice McNatt
Islands: Roger Downing

Open Collector

Presented by Marti and Greg Graves Florida: Nola and Carlos Reynolds Texas/Louisiana: Roz and Pat Merritt Islands: Audrey McCarthy

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SWEEPSTAKES (continued)

Commercial

Presented by Curt Sinclair

Florida: Don Mixon and Kathy Grandoff Texas/Louisiana: Bobby and Bootsie Dupont

Islands: Jim and Jean Burns

HIBISCUS OF THE YEAR

Woody Watson Memorial Award

Presented by Ruth Watson & Wanda Schmoyer

First Place: CLIMAX

Hybridized by Barry and Susan Schlueter

Second Place: JUNE'S DRAGON Hybridized by Elaine and Russ Scobey

Third Place: PAPER MOON
Hybridized by Barry and Susan Schlueter

Fourth Place: NAN E Hybridized by Ed Spillman

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE AHS

Presented by Rita Hall Life Membership to TOM MILLER

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Presented by Rita Hall
CONNIE ROUSH
VAL LONGSON

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S AWARD

Presented by Val Longson **CONNIE ROUSH**

CHAPTER GROWTH AWARD

Presented by Walter Bisselle

HARRY GOULDING CHAPTER

Accepted by Jim Bridges

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Presented by Sam Andrews

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO RITA HALL