

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Hilton Hotel
Lafayette, Louisiana

Fall Membership Meeting
November 10 – 12, 2006

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2006

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

The president emphasized that the primary focus of his term of office will be membership, both new and old.

He announced that his was the first presidency since a new bylaws change mandating that all appointments of non-elected and non-standing committees must be ratified. A motion to re-appoint Val Longson as Executive Secretary, Rita Hall as Editor of *The Seed Pod*, and Walter Bisselle as Treasurer was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Andrews gave an overview of items that would be discussed in the Board of Directors meeting following this President's Committee meeting.

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

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FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:15 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2006

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

*The secretary noted for the record that this was Mr. Pages' second consecutive missed meeting. Don Schermerhorn sent a letter to the Board asking to be excused from this meeting.

The Minutes of the last Board meeting held June 17, 2006, in Bradenton, Florida, were approved as written and posted on the AHS web site.

The chairman informed the Board that an appointment of a director to replace Rick Landers, who resigned, was in order. President Sam Andrews asked the Board to approve his appointment of Dr. David Tate, Kaplan, LA, of the Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter to serve the remainder of this term, which expires in June 2008. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Dr. Tate joined the Board at this time.

The president provided the Board with a list of recommended committee appointments, including the establishment of two special committees, Chapter Growth and Corporate and Research Partnerships, and one new permanent committee, Technology. On motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously ratified the president's committee appointments. A copy of this list is made a part of these Minutes.

Unfinished Business

Nomenclature: The Nomenclature Officer Rick Osgood, Houston TX, resigned because of personal health issues. Mr. Osgood has done a great deal of work since taking on this assignment from the previous Nomenclature Officer, Jeri Grantham, and the Society owes him its gratitude. The AHS Nomenclature database is run on a server that also runs Rick's e-commerce business. He has moved the Lone Star and Space City Chapter web sites to a secure commercial server, and has offered to continue to host our database on his more reliable server until such time as it can be cleaned up and updated. Information from hundreds of paper registrations needs to be entered. A team has been assembled to do this data entry work, consisting of Marti Graves, Janice McNatt, Cindy Erndt and Pat Merritt. This data entry will be accomplished over this winter, and the database will then be moved to a commercial server. President Andrews pointed out that our Nomenclature has always been operated on a shoestring, and that the time has come to budget some serious funds to its preservation and continuation.

Baton Rouge Chapter dissolution conflict: Ed Spillman, Baton Rouge, LA, requested to speak at the Board meeting. He contends that the dissolution of the Baton Rouge Chapter in August 2003 was not valid, and that its treasury should not have been returned to the AHS by BankOne. He appealed to the AHS Board at its November 2004 meeting, and the Board

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:15 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2006 (con't.)

affirmed the dissolution and Charter revocation, and told Mr. Spillman that he could form another Chapter and apply for a new Charter. He refused to surrender the Charter and the AHS Board declared the original Baton Rouge Chapter Charter null and void. Mr. Spillman and Fred Heroman filed a suit naming Damon Veach, the then-president of the Chapter, as Defendant, seeking to recover the \$6,009.21 that the bank returned to the AHS in accordance with Article XVI, Section 2 a. of its bylaws. These funds are now being held in a separate CD by the AHS treasurer.

Mr. Spillman gave the Board copies of a Settlement Agreement dated October 31, 2006, signed only by the attorneys for both sides. This Settlement Agreement (a copy of which is filed with these Minutes) states, in part: "A release in exchange for the amount of \$2,500.00 shall be entered into by FRED HEROMAN and ED SPILLMAN as members of the BATON ROUGE HIBISCUS SOCIETY and DAMON VEACH hereby releasing the defendant. Plaintiffs will pay unto the defendant \$2,500.00 should such money be received from the National Hibiscus Chapter (a third party) by the Baton Rouge Hibiscus Society. All parties are fully aware that this condition is based on the actions of the National Hibiscus Chapter (a third party) and neither party has control over the final decision of the National Hibiscus Chapter as to whether the National Hibiscus Chapter will release funds to the Baton Rouge Hibiscus Society."

The president pointed out that the original Baton Rouge Chapter was never incorporated under Louisiana law, and the Secretary of State has no record of it. Treasurer Walter Bisselle reminded the Board and Mr. Spillman that we operate under a group ruling from the IRS. The dissolution was accepted by the AHS and the IRS has no record of a Baton Rouge Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. Mr. Bisselle also offered to "fast-track" a new Charter for Mr. Spillman's group.

After a lengthy discussion, the president appointed a three-person committee of Board members who had not been involved with the matter in the past to bring a fresh perspective to the problem. Eddie Griffith, Wayne Cameron and Paul Felsberg were asked to meet and make a recommendation to the Board at its meeting on Saturday.

The president also reminded Mr. Spillman that show and plant sale dates must be approved by the 2nd VP to avoid conflicts with other Chapters, and that his scheduling of shows and plant sales on the same day as the Red Stick Chapter would not be tolerated.

2007 Convention Site

On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the Board ratified the location of the 2007 Convention site to be the Clarion Hotel, Fort Myers, Florida, June 14 – 17, 2007..

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

***Addendum: In an email transmitted through Eddie Griffith, Bernard Pages sent a letter explaining his absence and asking to be excused.**

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Fall Membership Meeting
November 10 – 12, 2006

FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 11, 2006

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

President Andrews thanked everyone for coming to the meetings, and recognized Felix Cooper, a member-at-large who traveled from Ohio.

He also urged everyone to purchase raffle tickets to win the beautiful hibiscus plants donated by Bobby Dupont and Kathy Grandoff/Don Mixon. The Society appreciates the generosity of these commercial growers.

Membership

The president presented a very thorough and informative PowerPoint program on AHS membership data covering the most recent six years. The data show that Chapter membership has declined 6%, and MAL membership has risen 34%.

Treasurer's Report: Walter Bisselle

The treasurer provided copies of a Budget Snapshot for the Fiscal Year June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2007. A copy is filed with these Minutes. A discussion followed about the mailing cost of *The Seed Pod*. First Class within the U. S. is 87 cents (not including the envelope). Members who wish to receive their issues this way pay an extra \$5 per year directly to the AHS treasurer. Overseas first class costs \$2.40 to \$2.60, depending upon destination. Foreign members who choose first class delivery pay an extra \$10 per year. These first class mailings are stuffed, labeled and stamped by hand (Katie McClain). With postage set to rise next year, these fees will have to be increased. The majority of the issues are mailed using bulk mail. Non-profit mailings are cheaper, slower, and cannot contain advertising. .

Scanning of *The Seed Pod*

Recording Secretary Pat Merritt located a source for a complete set of early issues of *The Seed Pod*. James E. Hendry Chapter Charter member Helen Sanders graciously loaned her collection for the scanning project through Fern Betancourt. A sample of the old issues was previewed for the membership present. AHS Historian Barbara Hagan-Smith will index these issues and a set of DVD's should be available for sale in spring 2007. Upon completion of the project, the Board will set the price for this piece of our history.

Nomenclature: Pat Merritt

It is my recommendation that we leave the AHS Nomenclature database on Rick Osgood's server over the winter until our data entry team can enter the data from the paper registrations and clean up the database. A four-person team has been identified that I trust to do the detailed "grunt work" of entering the data. It is imperative that the American Hibiscus

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Society maintains its 56-year body of work on the database. We must cooperate with the official ICRA for *H. rosa sinensis* by providing registration information, but we must also preserve our history.

Hibiscus Handout: Director Fred Roush asked that Chapters send him any hibiscus care handouts they use at their shows. This brought to light that one handout being used was copyrighted and we needed to clear up the legality of our usage of it. Second VP Paul Felsberg will pursue this with the author of the handout to secure her permission for its continued use.

Other Business

The Pink Mealybug is being reported all over Florida. If you find this pest, it is imperative that you call your local Agricultural Extension Office and report it.

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4:15 P.M., NOVEMBER 11, 2006

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

New Seedling Coordinator

The president asked the Committee to approve the Seedling Evaluation Committee's choice of Randy Cox as Seedling Coordinator or designated grafter. The bidders were Randy Cox, Don Mixon, Nathan Richey, and Curt Sinclair. On motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the SEC's recommendation.

President Andrews recommended that a Seedling Evaluation Study Group be formed to study the proposal by Randy Cox that a different method be found to select Hibiscus of the Year candidates in the future. He is suggesting that the HOTY candidates be separated from the Best of Show Seedling winners.

New Chapter Presidents' Coordinator

Marti Graves, Lone Star Chapter in Houston, Texas, was elected Chapter Presidents' Coordinator.

Mr. Andrews also told the Board that an additional study group would be formed with Rod Hendrick as chairman to recommend new forms of seedling evaluation.

Neither of these recommendations required approval by the Committee.

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:20 P.M., NOVEMBER 11, 2006.

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

Unfinished Business

Baton Rouge Chapter: The Special Committee appointed by the Chairman, whose members are Wayne Cameron, Paul Felsberg and Eddie Griffith, reported their findings as follows:

The Baton Rouge Chapter was legitimately dissolved in August 2003;

The American Hibiscus Society legitimately took possession of the Chapter's funds according to the AHS Bylaws;

The remaining group of members may apply for a new Chapter Charter in accordance with AHS Bylaws;

The Special Committee recommends that a determination be made of what portion of the \$6,009.21 returned to the AHS treasury was generated from the plant sale held by the Chapter to benefit a Burden Research Center Scholarship. Upon proper documentation, that amount will be sent by the AHS to Burden Center for this purpose. If no documentation can be found, the entire amount will remain in the AHS general fund.

A motion to accept the Special Committee's findings and recommendations on the Baton Rouge matter was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

Election of a new Chairman of the Board: On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, Eddie Griffith was re-elected Chairman of the Board of Directors to serve through the Fall 2007 Membership Meeting.

Committee Appointments: President Sam Andrews told the Board about new committees and committee appointments. The first Special Committee will be the **Corporate and Research Partnerships Committee** to be chaired by Janice McNatt of the Lone Star Chapter. This committee will seek out corporate sponsorships for research projects involving hibiscus from such companies as Bayer. Other appointments to this committee are Eddie Griffith and Pat Hegwood. The second Special Committee is the **Seedling Study Committee** inspired by the recommendation by Randy Cox that a different method for selecting HOTY candidates be explored. Tony Orpi will chair this committee with members Randy Cox, Carlos Reynolds, Roz Merritt, Fr. Bob Gerlich, Bobby Dupont, Marti Graves and Sam Andrews

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

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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**Fall Membership Meeting
November 10 – 12, 2006**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 8:30 A.M.,
NOVEMBER 12, 2006, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE NOMENCLATURE**

A Special Board Meeting was convened for the purpose of approving the funding for updating and moving the AHS Nomenclature database to a new commercial server and the purchase of new software for this purpose.

Present: President Sam Andrews, 1st VP Roz Merritt, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Recording Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Dave Flanders, David Tate, Wayne Cameron, Fred Roush. Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Marti Graves.

This Special Board Meeting was called to ask the Board to authorize the President's Committee to spend up to \$1,000 for expenses that could be incurred in bringing the AHS Nomenclature database up to date. These expenses may include monthly fees for a server, software (FileMaker Pro), and perhaps some programming work. Expenses above the initial \$1,000 must be brought to the Board for its approval.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the above authorization.

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

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 12, 2006

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

The president urged everyone to make the worthwhile trip to Dupont Nursery and furnished directions and telephone numbers.

He announced that the 2007 Convention would be held June 14 – 17, 2007, at the Clarion Hotel in Fort Myers, Florida.

President Andrews also reported that the Board had held a Special Meeting earlier this morning to authorize the President's Committee to spend up to \$1,000 for work on the Nomenclature.

The president reviewed the various new committees appointed at this meeting, and announced the creation of the Technology Committee, chaired by Tom Miller with members Lynn Andrews, Pat Merritt and Wayne Cameron. Others may be added later. He has requested that 2nd VP Felsberg write an addition to the Bylaws making this committee a permanent committee.

Bylaws: Paul Felsberg

Article V Dues, Section 2 c: Honorary Members: Exempt from dues.

Article V Dues, Section 2 d: National Life Members: Price to be set by the Board of Directors.

Article VII Government, Section 3 a 4: ...Starting with the election of 2006, four directors will be elected on a regional basis, 1 from the Florida region, 1 from the Texas region, 1 from the Louisiana region, and 1 from the Caribbean Islands region. Three directors in the 2008 election will be elected at large, and one from the Florida region. Thenceforth, regional and at large elections of directors will proceed on an alternating basis....

Article IX Nominations and Elections, Section 2 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 VIII Committees: Add m. **Technology Committee**: Duties will be to keep the Board informed of all advancements in technology, electronic and otherwise, that will enhance the Society, including, but not limited to, nomenclature, financial information, and video conferencing as well as future technological improvements in the horticulture industry as it relates to hibiscus. This Committee will also oversee the American Hibiscus Society web site.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 12, 2006 (con't)

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

The AHS Seed Bank depends on seed donations from its members. Hurricanes and then the drought and heat experienced in my yard have severely limited my seed pod production. Without the 600 seeds given to me by Marti and Greg Graves in June, the Seed Bank would have been out of business. I have had to limit the number of seeds to about a dozen, or 3 packets of 4 seeds per request. This way, everyone gets 3 different crosses. So far this year, 134 requests have been filled with another 8 weeks to go. Last year, more seeds were sent to people here in the United States, however, this year more seeds have gone to foreign countries. Six Asian countries, including Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, India, Japan and the Philippines have been provided with seeds. Requests were filled from 13 European countries including the Canary Islands, Malta, Cyprus, Norway, Sweden and the most requests from Spain. Seed requests from South America and the Caribbean totaled 3 countries, and in North America the requests were from Canada, the U. S. and Mexico. Only one country in Africa requested seeds. All together, 27 different countries world-wide were provided with your tropical hibiscus seeds. Remember, for every dozen seeds I send out, someone around the world becomes a convert and may even become an AHS member. Please keep those seeds coming!

Proposal for a new award

Joe Ludick of Port St. Lucie, Florida and a past president of the American Hibiscus Society sent a proposal for a new award to honor hybridizers who have created a bloom that wins 20 or more Best of Show honors. Only one bloom would currently be eligible to receive this award. Mr. Ludick will fund this trophy or plaque.

President Andrews thanked the three Louisiana Chapters for their outstanding hospitality over the entire weekend.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Merritt, Secretary