



Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter American Hibiscus Society



**Join us at the next meeting
Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00pm
at the Ira Nelson Horticultural Center**

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the New Member Barbecue, but especially our hosts, Buddy and Kathleen Short. We had a wonderful group of hibiscus enthusiasts from Louisiana and Texas to welcome our new members. Everyone seems to be having pest problems this time of year. We will have an open discussion on pest problems and solutions. Bring your favorite product or recipe for pest control for show and tell. Don't miss Buddy's discussion on cuttings in this newsletter. Have a plant that needs pruning? Bring a few cuttings with you to the meeting to share with the other members. Hope to see you there! Ann



Bloom Contest

The Calendar Bloom Contest rolls on. Our most recent winners were Whistlin' Dixie submitted by Martha Dousay and My Picture Perfect submitted by Carolyn Cormier-Stoute. We will be selecting two more photos at the September Meeting. Each attending member can enter two photos in the contest. Remember that it does not have to be a recent photo, but must be of a cultivar grown by you.



**Welcome to Our
New Members!**

Cindy Romero
Shirley & Ted Bourque
Ramona Plaisance
Marcia & Jim Shelton
Anita & Rusty Petitjean

Mini Bloom Show

Bring your blooms to the meeting. We will have a Mini Bloom Show. Each member can enter up to 2 blooms in each of 3 categories: Single-Double-Miniature.

Happy Birthday!!



August

Ann Peltier

Carole Broussard

September

Mark Gore

Convention 2014 Planning Committee

We need volunteers to serve on the Convention 2014 Planning Committee. Our chapter will be hosting the convention and will be responsible for the Hospitality Suite and arranging special events or excursions for the down time during the convention weekend. Please let Ann know if you are willing to serve on this committee.

2013 PlantFest

September 14th

8:00am – 4:00pm

The Horse Farm

It's time for the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners 2nd Annual PlantFest. Our chapter will once again have an information booth. This is a great opportunity to promote hibiscus, our chapter, and the American Hibiscus Society. We will need volunteers to be on-site at 7:00am that day to set up the booth and throughout the day to man the booth. Theresa and Mark are once again going to be offering free packets of hibiscus seeds and we will have a free raffle for a couple of plants which will enable us to add to our mailing list for show promotion.



Upcoming Events

MBAC Meeting - September 3rd

Plant Fest - September 14th

MBAC Meeting - October 1st

MBAC Meeting - November 5th

AHS Membership Meeting - November 8th-10th



Buddy's Blooms and Things

“To Prune or not to Prune”

The last time I saw most of you we were having a great time at our New Member Barbeque. I hope you had as much fun as I did.

Shortly after our outing a huge limb fell from one of our big pecan trees and landed right on top of about 30 of my plants. The limb was so big I could not get to my babies and there they sat for about 3 days in the blistering heat until I could get a tree service to remove the obstruction. The sad part was wondering which plants were affected and how they made out. I found myself trying to remember which plants were located where and that alone caused me some grief. Finally the limb was gone and I got to see first hand which plants were salvageable and which were not. Naturally there were lots of broken branches and I had to immediately determine where to cut and whether I wanted to stick some cuttings in potting mix and try to root. Little by little I pruned away and stuck some cuttings in mix and threw away the rest. The throw away part was hard for me but had I tried to stick everything I might still be outside sticking the leftovers. The good news is many of these cuttings seem to be taking so my message today will be about when to prune. It's August and it's hot but sometimes you have no choice.

Many individuals have asked me, “when is the best time to prune?” My simple answer to you is as long as your plant is in the growth mode then prune away. That's my belief and I doubt that you can change my opinion. I've had too much success adhering to that exact Rule.

So now the question is, where do I cut and how then do I stick and maintain my cuttings for best results? Typically I cut down about 6 inches from the end tips where the wood is turning brown. I cut just above an eye node and leave as many leaves as I can on my cuttings. After the cuts have been made I remove most of the bottom leaves but keep most of the tip leaves. I then snip across the top leaves to about 1/3 size. The cuttings are placed in a glass of tap water and then dipped into my rooting powder of choice.

NOTE: There are many rooting powders or liquids to choose from and most can be easily obtained at any of the big stores, a garden center or nursery, or a feed and seed store. I've had success with most of those but just recently I was introduced to another rooting powder that seems to be the best I've found to this point. It's called Rhizoapon AA #3 and on the label it is described as excellent for hard to root cuttings. That alone made sense to me so I bought two 1 lbs containers, one for me and one for the chapter for you to try (if you want to). I'll have a few small zipper lock bags at our next meeting for you to pick up.

Once the cuttings have been stuck I label the pot, water in to eliminate air holes in my pots, and place the pot in the shade outside. After that I simply spray with the hose to maintain some moisture.

Remember there are two things necessary for rooting a cutting: *moisture and warmth*. We certainly have the warmth so now it's just a matter of providing some moisture.

Here's one additional comment about where to place the pot once you've stuck your cuttings. To this point I've only talked about outside. I've wanted to try to root some cuttings inside so recently I purchased 5 six-inch domes to place over a tray of cuttings. I haven't tried it yet but I intend to try this during our upcoming cooler temperatures. These will be placed in the Man Cave (storeroom) where my climate is somewhat controlled and away from the outside elements. Once I've spray misted my pots the domes will provide the consistent moisture so needed in the rooting process. I'll let you know about my results once I try it.

Remember probably 95% of the plants you buy can be rooted so give this a try. This is a great way to propagate a new seedling or simply a way to multiply one of your favorite plants. Both are great reasons to try the own roots propagation method.....

Good rooting everyone.....Buddy



For your viewing pleasure.....



Mysteria



Lorraine & Shirley with their July Mini Show Wins



Violette from Jennie



Creole Fire



First Bloom of Lata's First Seedling



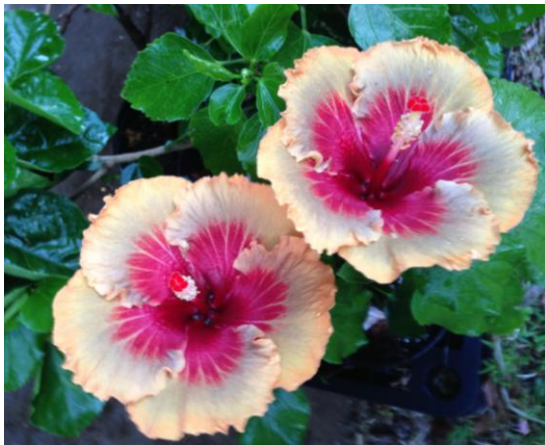
Happy Heart



Swamp Cloud



Spotted Fever



Electric Pizzazz



Nebula

MBAC Officers

President ~ Ann Peltier ~ 337-781-4992 ~ ann@acadianahibiscus.com

Vice President ~ Carolyn Cormier-Stoute ~ 337-962-7175 ~ carolyn.a.cormier@chase.com

Secretary ~ Jennie Marcantel ~ 337-824-5602 ~ bluesbabyj@hotmail.com

Treasurer ~ Buddy Short ~ 337-278-0946 ~ buddy@shortfinancialgroup.com