



Hibiscus International

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I'm able to announce we are making head way on several fronts:

1) Hibiscus International is now on track with Jim doing a fine and timely job of bringing us a lot of interesting information. Moreover, for the first time H.I. has been published in Spanish, Portuguese and French and posted on the appropriate forums. For these efforts we owe great thanks, firstly to Jim for creating the English version and secondly to our alternate language editors, i.e., Françoise (Hibiscusmania), Montse (IHS Latina - Spanish), Beth and Teresa (IHS Latina - Portuguese). I would hope we can continue with this, but time will tell. Our alternate language editors have done a lot of work to make those editions possible, so we hope their efforts are appreciated by the IHS and affiliate membership.

2) At long last the IHS Auction has commenced. In fact by the time you read this we will have had our first auction since Joseph was unable to continue. Kes Winwood has agreed to chair the IHS Auction Committee Forum, and under his leadership, it has worked very well. The format has changed in that rather than doing the auctions with our in-house software, we are doing so on eBay. Linda Eastman, our IHS expert on eBay has been of particular assistance, but all on the committee have contributed. I trust this auction will be a great success and that it will continue on its quarterly schedule. Of course, its main goal is to derive funds for the IHS treasury, which permits us to function as a society with many projects on many fronts, without requiring a membership fee.

3) The IHS Nomenclature program ran into a major problem which thanks to the work of Joseph Dimino (once again) assisted by Ian Rebenda has been mostly solved. We ran into a 4,000 files limit per folder, which disrupted TGHL (The Global Hibiscus Library) in a major manner and risked putting our present system in jeopardy unless we went to a dedicated server which would be beyond our financial means. The solution was made by dividing our nomenclature folder into folders for each letter of the alphabet which can now house 4,000 files each, meaning the system should now work for many decades before those file limits are exceeded. Those changes have caused other areas to not work as they should and slowly each of those problems is being tracked down and resolved.

4) The IHS SOTY/HOTY program continues, but we have problems to overcome. We have made our first IHS HOTY Selection, which was for the year 2003 and are now in the process of choosing the 2004, HOTY. The main problem is lack of participation, so we would really like to see those of you with quality seedlings enter the SOTY competitions.

Actually, you don't have to be the hybridizer, but the one that has grown seed that you acquired.

Even if you aren't a hybridizer or grower of such seed, you probably know people that are, so please encourage them to participate. It doesn't take that much time and there are dozens of you out there that should be participating. To name a few, I would strongly like to encourage the below and our other hybridizer or growers of seed to participate (listed alphabetically): Allan Little, Beth Jordan, Bob Carran, Bob Rivers/Smith, Charles Atiu, Connie & Fred Roush, Esteban McGrath, Fred Westerman, Joe Ludick, Jill Coryell, Peter Molle, Pushpa, Sonny Stallings, Ursula Lengdabler, etc. Please direct any questions you might have and/or get your entries into Jim Purdie before the deadline to the e-mail address of jpu11707@bigpond.net.au The next SOTY competition 2009-3 will close on the 31st August 2009 at midnight GMT, please read the Special Notice re the seedling entries to find out what is required to be able to enter your seedlings in the competition re 3 entries required, etc.

Our program is unique in that it permits anyone, anywhere in the world to participate, but to make it work we need quality candidates. Please do your part to help make this program as success.

Lastly, if you like some of the things our many members working behind the scenes are doing on behalf of the IHS and the hibiscus world, please say so. For many their sole satisfaction is to know that what they are doing on behalf of the many is appreciated.

Dick Johnson

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E-mail Address— InternationalHibiscusSociety@yahoogroups.com

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Training Topaz Glory To grow Upright

Message from Nina -

It is strange that Topaz Glory is reported by some as being an excellent plant, and by some others as being a very poor plant. Unfortunately, I drop into the latter category. I would like to know what to do to make my bad plant a good one. Any suggestions?. Has any one discovered what the specific needs of this cv are?.

Reply from Joe Ludick -

Nina, in my opinion, for what it is worth, sometimes people get wood for grafting from the donor who takes the wood from scraggly branches that he wanted to get rid of, instead of a cutting from a good healthy branch.

You have to grow out that old wood, you let it grow for a year and it is still no better. You have to get some new wood and it is easy enough to grow and some of you who grow plants on their own roots should try it.

My experience with growing on their own root was not successful, although one of my friends did grow it on its own roots. Location means a lot and heat and sun are the secrets in my opinion.

Reply from Larry Johnson

Something that Joe Ludick and a few others taught us when I first got into growing hibiscus, was to tie young plants to a good stake.

First of all it helped to stabilize the whole plant and help protect the root system and secondly the stake would be available to tie up the first branches and cause them to be upright. An awful lot of hibiscus start out growing upright and then because of the weight of the branch, begin to fall away towards the ground.

By tying up these first branches that later become thicker and stand alone very well, they will give the appearance of being a very nice bush.

Topaz Glory might grow 2 or 3 feet upright, but will continue to grow upwards, it would be wise to tie those first branches to a serious stake and pinch the tip to cause more branching.

Topaz Glory isn't a bad bush just not a super strong, upright grower. Joe and I have had several over the years that were kept at 5 or 6 feet high with many side branches and plenty of new growth at the bottom because of heavy feeding and removing wood twice a year.

Pinching not only causes branching but causes the main branch to thicken because you have removed the dominant end. The tips chemically dominate the branch.

That is good for awhile, but when you want the branch to thicken, or to branch, the tip should be removed.



The photo on the left is of Topaz Glory showing some of the plant.

The photo on the right is another of Topaz Glory growing in our old garden at Camp Hill, and you can see more of the bush in this photo



Growing Hibiscus in Louisiana

A Gardening Passion That Won't Go Away

**By Damon Veach, President
Red Stick Hibiscus Association
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

I guess you could classify Louisiana as having a sub-tropical climate, but I sometimes wonder if it is just on the borderline for this title. I grew up in the northern part of the state and have lived in the southern part since 1977. I've seen temperatures in the summer season go past 100 degrees Fahrenheit, but I have also seen it drop to 10 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months. Normally, the average winter temperatures stay in the 30s and 40s at night and going into the 50s and 60s during the day. This is what makes growing Hibiscus rosa-sinensis a difficult plant to keep alive here.

Since I started raising these plants in the late 1970s, I have always done it by keeping them in pots. I added a greenhouse so I could keep them alive during the winter months, and I even decorate my living room, bedrooms, kitchen, bath, and utility room with different size plants. It may sound crowded, but it really isn't. I merely plan space to bring my tropical garden inside. Of course, those plants in huge pots have to go in the greenhouse or the utility room which is on a ground-level section of my raised bungalow cottage. I've even put my garden varieties in the garage when my normal space became too crowded. It all works out.

However, this year I am trying something a little different. After seeing a huge black water moccasin crawl through my back garden during one of our tropical storms last summer, I decided it was time to discontinue the black pots by converting to the brown or lighter colored pots and to also put some of these plants in the ground. This raised the question of what to do with my plants during the winter that were growing in the ground. I know I run the risk of losing them, but I have to try even if it means replacing all these plants the following year.

When our hurricanes and tropical storms come through, our cities and towns become decorated with blue tarps which cover roof damage, so I've decided to drape my gardens, front and back, with blue tarps during the cold season. I learned one thing last winter. One of my hibiscus plants was in a pot and so large that I just had to trust it to survive the elements. I live in the downtown section of Baton Rouge, so I am protected by high fences, lots of trees and shrubs, concrete that holds in the warmth, and surrounded by the Mississippi River and Capitol Lake. The temps at my property are almost two or three degrees different from the surrounding parts of the city. I've also noticed that when the weatherman says that it will be 29 degrees, I think 31 or 32. It also depends on how long that temperature will stay at 29 to 32 degrees. I have noticed that this happens right at daylight, so the sun immediately raises the temperature, and the cold doesn't seem to damage my plants.

In fact, I sometimes think it has helped them. Last winter, the large pot of Hoochie Coochie hibiscus that was in my front garden and too big to move gave me a jolting surprise. My son called and woke me up to tell me it was snowing. Indeed it was. I stood at my front door and watched the snowflakes sticking to all my plants including this hibiscus. There was nothing I could do. I went to the back door leading from the utility room to the garden there, and all my plants that I had sitting by the door to yank inside in case of extreme cold were also covered with snow. I think I gave up and accepted the fact that I had lost everything except those in the greenhouse and those that I had already brought into my home.

That layer of snow remained all day and some parts of the garden had snow for several days, but I did not lose one single plant. That just goes to show that snow and sleet are two different things to deal with during the winter. The third would be to consider what would happen if the temperatures remained below freezing all day. This would kill the plants – any tropical plants – if they were not mulched or covered, and even then, some would not make it. I've noticed one of my neighbors draping her Jane Cowl and Edward LaPlante hibiscus plants with sheets each year. So far, they have survived the past two winters. I have one called Lipstick that is growing next to one of my sasanqua shrubs at the southeast corner of my front porch. In that location and with the covering of the evergreen sasanqua, it has survived through four winters. Any new tip growth is usually damaged, but the coming warmth of spring makes it branch out even more producing lots of beautiful flowers.

This also brings another point to consider. I am placing both garden varieties growing on their own roots and grafted plants in the ground. I realize what that can mean if the temperatures go down and stay down for a lengthy period of time, but I'm going to chance doing it. All my in-ground plants will be mulched well and then covered with the blue tarps – but only when I feel there is a need. Otherwise, they are going to weather the season like the other plants in my garden. I realize this would never work with new and tender plants, but you will be surprised to find the thicker stock can withstand cold better than you think. Again, timing is the factor. As long as the temperatures drop and stay for only a short period of time, the plants will most likely survive. With my tree coverings and the fences, I usually don't have to worry about frost, but if I do notice frost, I hose everything down before the sun hits them.

I know what I'm doing is a gamble, but because of my limited storage space and my desire to always want another hibiscus plant, I have no choice but to try this method out this year. If I lose them all, I'll replace them. If they survive, I will have succeeded in my efforts to grow hibiscus in the ground all year and through the four seasons. I always soak my gardens during the winter months anyway to hold in the heat, and this is something I find improves their chances of survival. However, this doesn't work in greenhouse conditions or in-house growing conditions. If I lose a plant, it is usually during the winter months, and the culprit is root rot. I therefore try to keep my potted plants as dry as possible at this time and water them only when they approach the wilting stage.

The solution to all this is strictly up to the individual grower. Depending on your location, the growing conditions can vary quite a lot. I have a friend in Lafayette, located about 60 miles to the west of Baton Rouge, who moves his plants in and out of his garage when cold fronts approach the area, and he has more plants to work with than I have. It just all narrows down to doing what is best for you. This can not only work with growing your plants indoors or outdoors but also in how you fertilize and spray your plants throughout the year. I have my own fertilizer routine, and I use chemical sprays only when all other options have been carried out unsuccessfully. It has been a trial and error method for me, and I can only state what I do. You have to decide what is best for you and your plants. A healthy plant will survive the elements much better than one that has been neglected.

Just remember one thing – never give up. Where there is a will, there is a way. You just have to do this on your own by using good judgment and common sense. If it works for you, keep it up. If not, seek the change that will work. It is all a learning situation. You are both the teacher and the student. Passing or failing is up to you.

Failing should never be permitted.



Hoochie Coochie Bush covered in snow, December 11th 2008 Sandy the Dog in the back yard and the plants covered in snow.



Margo blooming in all the snow and none of the plants were affected even though the snow stayed for some time



Hoochie Coochie bloom which flowered today the 13-5-09 and the bush has grown twice the size

PREPARING SEED FOR PLANTING

Written by Brian Kerr [Australia]

Regarding how my seed is put down etc, I've tried several methods from not nicking to soaking in water overnight, to cotton wool, onto blotting paper, different mediums, different times of the year, bottom heat etc and in the end would have to say that the method used by Barry Schlueter is basically the way I go about it as well. An overview of my method in SE Queensland Australia, with a rare Summer up to 40c max and a rare Winter down to 1c.

My practice is to: Store dried out seed in lidded containers; indoors where possible i.e. not in shade house or garage where mice / rats have been known to sniff out seed for a feed. Choose mid Spring to start to put seed down, when temps range between 15 and 25c. Set up inside away from breeze - at a table with a thick newspaper opened out and a white piece of thin cardboard over the newspaper; with the sharpest, sterilized, firm edged blade you can find eg scalpel; have marking pen and sterilized tags aside; work in an area where seed can be easily found if dropped. Know how many seed need to put down and how many seed per pot and source enough pots etc. Use sterilized 2" pots or seedling trays - using 2% bleach solution or purchase product made for pot etc sterilizing. Have a secure way of protecting the seed and emerging seedling from pests eg use holeless, sterilized foam boxes with heavy perspex for lids.

Purchase a sterilized seed raising mix or ... Mix own medium of a 40/60 mix of sharp washed river sand and broken up peat moss. Add water until mix is uniformly damp/wet, but not so wet at water can be squeezed out from a handful, but it should just hold together as a ball in your hand once you open your hand. Sterilize own medium, by taking a plastic ice-cream container, half fill with mix, put lid on and microwave for approx 1-2 mins, until steaming hot; remove with care and allow to cool. Whilst batches of medium are cooling, nick seed - I use the seed from the late Summer/Autumn's harvest. Hold seed down against thin white c/board so as pointed end is under control and rounded end is protruding. Nick seed case barely to expose white seed. Write parentage tags up as I go (1 tag per 2" pot - 3 to 4 seed per pot). When all seed ready, fill all pots and screed off level. When planting seed, work under same conditions as when nicking. As far as placing seed, ensure exposed white of seed is facing upward. Space seed evenly around pot and depress lightly into the mix to a depth no deeper than the seed size. Cover each seed with mix that is aside each seed.

Place prepared tag into pot at side and also write cross ID onto pot (curious children have been known to remove tags). When a tray full is ready, give a light spray of water to settle the mix down. Place tray full of 2" plastic pots/seedling tray into foam boxes, lid and keep in warm, morning sun position. After 5 to 10 days most seeds that are going to germinate have emerged, so open the lid a little each day - though a few late starters or planted too deep will still be coming up over the next week or so. Check emerging seedlings twice daily - any that have got roots facing upwards or sideways, gently remove, skewer a hole for the root and gently replant. With recent seed and certain crosses, germination can average 70% or higher, though seed up to a year or more older, not kept under refrigeration in airtight containers, will go down to 40% or lower. Water with a hand spray pump until I think all seeds are up, then I fill trays they are in with ¼ strength Phostogen fertilizer solution (I use Macca type trays and they hold just enough for all pots to soak tray dry).

Lid is off by now and true leaves are showing. I move them to an open area now where roofing is opaque and sun is available for most of the day and importantly, they can be exposed to wind - still here they are out of the rain for another few weeks or so; until white roots start to appear out of pot drainage holes - it is important to expose them to wind to not only reduce possibility of fungal disease, but to allow them movement from the wind as movement builds up trunk strength. Get prepared to pot up the more advanced ones - make up new tags as necessary; write names on 3" tall black plastic pots that will be used for potting the seedlings on. Make sure 2" pot about to be upended to remove up to 4 seedlings is moist, tip up and remove all seedlings and tease apart. Use proper potting mix (moist), not soil; pot each seedling into its own named and tagged pot - sprinkle a little slow release fertilizer into each pot (as per 1/4 quantity recommended for that size pot) - ensure fertilizer pellets do not rest against seedling stem - use a fertilizer that is even in NPK (5-5-5) and has trace elements - water seedling in lightly and check seedling is not planted too shallow or too deep - roots should not be visible, nor the trunk plated deeper than it was in the 2" pot.

For the slower growing ones, I replot them back into the 2" pots individually where they stay until they are ready using potting mix. They all stay another few weeks or so in that area - kept in low sided foam boxes. When growth is evident, the boxes are moved out into the open where they get full sun till late morning then filtered sun for the rest of the day (summer can be quite hot). Watering and fertilizing as the plants tell you by growth and leaf colour - as they increase in size, water needs can be twice per day - fertilizer is slow release with a higher K, potassium and has trace elements. Re-potting on into 6" or 7" black plastic pots happens as each individual seedling shows significant growth and white roots are accumulating out of the drainage holes - not lasting the day before drooping is also a good guide to needing to be potted on. Repot into bigger pots as necessary or into garden.

Seedlings flower after 1 to 2 years, though some do in 9 months, some can take 10 years or more and some never do. If you don't admire the seedling's bush and it is not budding up after several years and you don't have the space to keep it, send it to hibiscus heaven – there's plenty more seed out there, even from the same cross and it is quite likely you'll get one with much better traits!! As Barry said, everyone has their own way and no doubt we will all change little things to suit our own situation. There is one more bit of advice – if you don't want to have all seedlings needing potting up at same time or at close intervals, stagger the batches of seedlings a week or two apart. Whichever way you do it, get ready for a time of intrigue, amazement and opportunities – Nature really can be a Rush.

SOME BLOOMS BRED BY BRIAN KERR



Triple Hot
[Triple Shot X Schizophrenic]



Jayella
Jayne X Herm Geller



Morayfield Magic
Topaz Glory X Sunburnt



Berried Treasure
Topaz Glory X Oyster Pearl



Bodacious
Topaz Glory X Honey Do



Candy Cane
Triple Shot X Expo



Cola
Hawaiian Girl X Lady Adele



Coraleah
Hawaiian Girl X Carousel



Emma Jayne [Mini]
Coconut Ice X Ezpo

SOME SLANTS ON PRUNING

By Stan Beard [written in 1992]

One of the most regularly asked questions by newcomers to the hibiscus world is “How do you Prune”? And most of the people asking will confess to a timidity towards this essential operation to the extent that they never take away enough wood, with the result that they never control the plant’s growth. This is one of the features of hibiscus culture vital to quality production.

Comparison of example invariably assists explanation, and here, I instance the orchardist who wouldn’t be in business if he didn’t prune his fruit trees annually. Firstly, without pruning he would not have a saleable crop to market because the fruit would be small and inferior, and secondly he wouldn’t be able to pick it because most of the trees would grow out of control and be taller than his longest ladder. An orchard can be many years old but overall height and spread of the trees, by correct pruning, is maintained the same over each annual growth period. A hibiscus bush is similar, only smaller, but remember in particular that each hibiscus bush has it’s own individuality, especially in growth habit. They present themselves basically as low, medium and tall, and I think it is here that the newcomer is confused as to how much wood to remove.

These members most likely do not have an initial knowledge of “ that pretty flower’s” growth pattern. They have no nomenclature list and might have purchased the plant from a general nursery where hibiscus know-how generally is rare. However, the plant will tell them within a few months of good growing, and when early spring comes, to take approximately one third from selected branches and remove the ill-shaped and puny ones.

This initial pruning step makes it easy work for subsequent annual pruning because, like the orchardist, you have made a mark to guide you, the old cut mark from last year. The scar is quickly found and the new cut should be made above this and above the lowest visible eye bud facing in the direction you want the new branch to grow. Of course the cut should be made slanting down towards the side opposite to the selected bud. This simple procedure ensures that almost all of last year’s wood has been removed and the fullest control is maintained over the bush in relation to its particular growth habit, be it small, medium or tall.

The rest is grooming— removal of surplus branches completely if there is overcrowding in the centre of the bush, and the removal of crossed or wayward branches. Develop a trunk— do not permit any growth to occur within at least 12 inches from the ground.

It is easier to work, mulch, fertilize and water that way. Some of the most beautiful blooms are produced on bushes which have an untidy or sprawling growth. Then, if you were to cut away all the hanging branches you’d have nothing left, so here again, select the most usable branches and turn them upwards and tie to the trunk or the stake with some light plastic twine. This will give stability and help to strengthen them because you have stopped them from being blown around by the wind. In a few months you can remove the ties and have branches standing upright and some thing better to work on next year.

One more point worth mentioning is, after major pruning there is always a waiting period for re-growth and new blooms, but if you leave those growing twigs that may look untidy, chances are that they will produce some blooms while you are waiting for the main crop to start again. They can be groomed away later and you will have hibiscus blooms all year. There is nothing like it.

A BIT OF HUMOUR

Subject: AIN’T THAT THE TRUTH

I was testing the children in my Sunday School class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. I asked them, “If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church. Would that get me into Heaven?”.

“No’ the children answered.

“If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?”.

Again the answer was “No”.

By now I was starting to smile. Hey this was fun.

“Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?”. I asked them again.

Again they all answered, “No”.

I was just bursting with pride for them, “Well,” I continued, “then how can I get into Heaven?”.

A five year old boy shouted out, “YOU GOTTA BE DEAD.”

A bit of Heaven on Earth

By Elizabeth Jordan (Beth)

My passion for hibiscus started in 1966 and is still bright and breezy. Every day I wake up full of excitement and anticipation, wondering what new colors I will discover in the hybrid seedlings today. And hibiscus never fail to surprise me with new shapes, details and color combinations..



But let me tell how it all started.

Maybe all comes from my childhood when I still lived with my parents, in a big farm near Rio de Janeiro full of fruit trees and flowers.

When I got married to Chico Leite, we moved to a penthouse in Rio das Ostras. We had always many different blooming plants in an 80 square meters terrace. I was fascinated with all those pretty blooms under the sky. But hibiscus attracted me more than any other plant, and at the time I had only the common garden varieties.

So I finally decided to travel to Florida USA and try to get some of the new varieties through Mr. Raul Smandeck (Brazilian Consul in Bahamas). He was a well known friend of us and he knew about hibiscus. The first person we met was Mr. Luc and Carol from Florida Colors in Homestead. After that I met Gordon Howard, Joe Ludick, Pete Conrad and his daughter, Winn Soldani, Elaine Scobey and many other people in various shows, like Bob Carran, Garry Schneider, Larry & Sylvia Johnson, Dale Dubin, Curt Sinclair in the period 1980-1988, when I still was married to Chico Leite and travelled with him. Later when I married Toti, I continued to travel and in this way expanded my knowledge and collection.

I have many stories to tell, some very funny and all real challenges as when I went to the States in one of my first trips. Chico Leite and I knew very little English but we managed to communicate as we took every opportunity we could to learn all the details of hibiscus growing, even grafting. One day Mr Luc gave me a pair of pruning shears so that I could cut some wood to learn to make grafts through the method he was using. Suddenly, he asked me: "Are you sure that you will be able to do the grafts?". "Why?" I asked with eyes wide open and taken by surprise. "because with those delicate hands..., and not even knowing how to grasp the pruning shears to cut the wood,... I don't imagine how you are going to do all this?" But I was eager and happy I could learn, and so some time later I was glad to tell Mr. Luc. "You see?... There. I can do it!" and he saw how I was able to do it all in the way he had taught me. After this, we spent the rest of January sitting in his garden enjoying all his beautiful blooms and eating a lot of strawberries from California. We laughed a lot and had a wonderful time.

In fact, Chico Leite and I began to hybridize basically for two reasons. Mr Gordon, Joe Ludick and Mr. Luc continually told us to engage in creating new blooms, and the other reason was that the continuous trips to the USA were too expensive. Besides, I was set on getting our first seedling in Brazil.

At this point, I should mention that the first time I went to the USA back in 1966 was to accompany my twin sister Ana Cristina who took part in a World Beauty Contest. So it was all beauty around me, hibiscus being part of it. I suddenly decided that hibiscus would always be beautiful and it would be a great idea to create what I call "my bit of heaven on earth". This was the beginning of Florida's Garden a nursery I founded in 1982, to spread the love for hibiscus growing throughout Brazil, South America and the world.



From the very beginning the creation of new beauties attracted me, and I began to pollinate, thus creating a lot of "babies" I call "my daughters". In fact, I began to hybridize as early as 1981 when I lived in Rio das Ostras, and my first seedling was Halloween (Tyleno x Bessie), that I used a lot to create Enterprise, Fifth Generation, Drafner, Illusion, etc. and later Guetha (Harvest Moon x Pro Legato), becoming in this way the first woman engaged in hybridizing in South America.



Enterprise



Fifth Generation



Guetha



Drafner

Among my other first creations Key West is maybe the most well known cv worldwide, as well as Blue Moon and Mr. Zimbelli



Key West



Blue Moon



Mr. Zimbelli

After that first period of hybridizing I introduced some other cvs in my hybridizing plan. I have always loved purples, blues and browns but also big pinks, so I started to use Muriel, Janys and Pro Legato in my hybridizing plan. Muriel especially attracted me because its blooms were always magnificent, with a lot of pollen and the pods always took. I have created lots that have it in its parentage.

At present, I have already registered 129 seedlings and have many more under evaluation. You can find them in the following link:

<http://www.internationalhibiscussociety.org/SEArchive/SEindex1.php>

My enthusiasm for hibiscus grew even more when in 2003 I was contacted by Constantino García who by that time was looking forward to getting from me many old cvs , especially those from Mr. Joe Ludick and some of mine. Gradually, he convinced me to join the IHS-Latina forum list in 2004, and later to join the IHS forum list, so gradually I got involved more and more in sharing my hybrids worldwide and even participating in the TPC, where I won the 2007 TPC Gran Champion Contest with **Mango Chutney (Herm Geller x It's Show)**



MANGO CHUTNEY—2007 TPC GRAND CHAMPION

In July 2006 I was elected South American Representative in the IHS BOD, and re-elected in July 2008 for the 2008-2010 period. I've got 2 grown up sons Alexandre e Marcus, a grandson and expecting another one. I live with my husband Totila Jordan Filho (Toti) whom I married 19 years ago.

Two years ago we moved to Petropolis to a wonderful 3800 square meters place, surrounded by the Atlantic vegetation.

Here I've rebuilt another beautiful paradise where I can enjoy hibiscus as I did before in Maricá, Rio de Janeiro, for so many years. If you ever visit me you'll probably find me working on the everyday tasks involved with hibiscus, i.e., checking the greenhouses and delivery of plants, or grafting or just pollinating.

My enthusiasm for hibiscus keeps on high as ever before, and I feel really so full of joy that I want to share this happiness with everyone... especially with my family during the weekends.



Beth Checking Plants in Greenhouse for delivery



Beth grafting and dreaming of new plants



Photos above are of Beth & Toti's house and garden at Petropolis



Beth with her son Alexandre & his wife Sheila



Beth with her older son Marcus, wife Flavia and grandson Joao Pedro

SEEDLING 2009-2 WINNERS



Tah. Arcturus King



Tah. Lavender Dragon



Tah. Andree



Tah. Purple Lady



Tah. Brown Star

These seedling winners of 2009-2 will now be entered in the final vote at the end of the year, together with the winners from 2009-1 and 2009-3 to find a Seedling of the Year {SOTY} winner. The top 10 seedlings will then go into the Hibiscus of the Year [HOTY] competition and be grown by the Trialing Stations for 3 years