



# Hibiscus International

Apr. May. Jun. 2011

Vol.11 No2- Issue 47



Tah. Princess  
2003 HOTY



KES WINWOOD



Tah. Trop. Splendor  
2004 HOTY

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST :

- > **Presidents Message**  
Page 1
- >
- > **Editors Report** Page 2

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE :

<b>Inside Story</b> <b>HOTY 2005</b> Page 3 <b>Ladies of India</b> Page 7
<b>Inside Story</b> <b>Pushpa's Story</b> Page 7
<b>Inside Story</b> <b>Shyamala's Story</b> Page 11
<b>Inside Story</b> <b>Obtaining Cultivars in</b> <b>Canada</b> Page 15
<b>Inside Story</b> <b>A Bloom Within A Pod</b> Page 18
<b>Inside Story</b> <b>Pushpa's Photo Gallery</b> <b>Page 21-22</b>
<b>Inside Story</b> <b>Shyamala's Photo Gallery</b> <b>Page 23-24</b>

It was just about one year ago that the IHS elections had wrapped up and we had a new Board of Directors in place to take over the operations of the society.. For me, I knew it was going to be a challenge but being new on the scene and perhaps more than a little naive, I was ill prepared for the challenges ahead.

Now a year later perhaps it is time to take stock of where we are and where we are heading in the future. It was clear that the IHS was clearly different from the national societies like the AuHS and the AHS in that we had the only major web presence. Added to that, our on line registration for new cultivars was unique among the hibiscus societies. On the surface, at first glance, all seemed to be in order and in good shape.

But when you took a closer look and considered where the IHS might be, even five years from now, it became increasing clear that the website was beginning to show its age and that if we wanted to continue to be meaningful to the online hibiscus community, we needed to begin to plan for the future immediately or be left behind.

A complete upgrade of the website was beyond our capabilities (or so we thought), so the BOD authorized the outlay of a considerable amount of money to have the website reimaged by a company with professional programmers. What looked like a perfect solution at first glance within six months and after months of hard work by the website committee had ended in what felt like failure as the professional company made it clear that our vision was something that they could not deliver.

During this same time period one of our most dedicated and hardest working volunteers decided to retire after many years of creativity of being the editor of our newsletter, Hibiscus International, as well as running the TPC (photo competition) and the SOTY (Seedling of the Year). Both of these situations seemed like major setbacks that we might have difficulty overcoming.

At the same time, our committees were dealing with other issues quietly in the background. One of the results was the creation of a yearly SOTY award which was presented to Pushpa Suresh (see the article on page 6 of this newsletter). As well, the committee also finalized the Joseph Dimino Award (more on this award at a later date).

Now our current webmaster has stepped forward and with BOD support is undertaking the enormous task of creating a second generation website to bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a modern looking web presence that is built on all the work that has gone before. This of course will be a task that won't be finished for a least a year but from what little I have seen so far, hopefully you will find worth the wait.

So after a year that had its fair share of missteps and successes where we took two steps forward and fell one step back, we are poised to roll up our sleeves and start the hard work ahead BUT the current volunteers can't do all the work - WE NEED YOU to help us make the IHS a vibrant, exciting society that reflects the needs of the members. Please volunteer and help us!



---

## EDITORS REPORT

With this issue of Hibiscus International, once again the position of editor has changed hands. Ian Rabenda has turned over the position to me so that he can devote his full attention to the creation of our 2nd generation website which is a major draw on his time. As well, Ian is also the nomenclature officer for the IHS which can also demand much of his time.

This is your newsletter, so if you have any ideas for content that you might wish to see or if have pictures and/or an article that you might wish to contribute, please submit them to me at the following email address: [hibiscus@wightman.ca](mailto:hibiscus@wightman.ca).

I would also like to hear your comments about the newsletter both negative and positive. Use the email above to express your opinions. We need your input to help make this newsletter reflect the needs and interests of our membership, so please help us make the newsletter the best it can be.

I already have some ideas for a series of continuing articles reflecting different aspects of our favourite flower and its cultivation but there is always plenty of room for more—both articles and pictures.

---

## ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

### OFFICE BEARERS

**President—** Kes Winwood : **Vice-President** : Ian Rabenda : **Sec./Treasurer** : Clay McGee :

**Past President** : Richard Johnson :

### Board Members

**European** : Nina Bjelovucic : **Asian** : Alan James de la Torre : **Oceania** : Charles Atiu

:

**N. American** : Sonny Stollings : **S. American** : Elizabeth Jordan : **Australia** : Jim Purdie :

**S. African** : Gail Cahi :

**Editor** : Kes Winwood :

**Web Master** : Ian Rabenda :

**Web Address—** [www.internationalhibiscussociety.org](http://www.internationalhibiscussociety.org)

**E-mail Address—** [InternationalHibiscusSociety@yahoogroups.com](mailto:InternationalHibiscusSociety@yahoogroups.com)

**I.H.S. PATRON— DAVID FRANZMAN**

# HOTY 2005 Finalized



**T**ahitian Baby Bonfire was awarded the IHS HOTY, Hibiscus of the Year, for 2005 with 329.74 points awarded. It was bred and entered by Richard Johnson, from Tahiti. Here we provide you some of the photos and supplemental data submitted to the HPOJ, HOTY Panel Of Judges, upon which they based their votes to select the eventual winner.

Our congratulations go to Richard for winning this IHS HOTY competition. We thank the hybridizers who entered candidates in this program, in this case at their own expense. We thank the evaluators who grew the plants and provided the photos and data. We especially would like to extend our thanks to Nina Bjelovucic, the IHS HOTY coordinator, for her tireless efforts in collecting this information from the trialing stations and passing it to the HPOJ. We of course thank the judges and most of all we thank the membership for participating in the initial SOTY selections, which form the core of the IHS HOTY Program. In this respect the IHS is unique in that the membership and affiliates are able to vote on what they consider to be the most beautiful of the candidates presented, after which the HPOJ narrows the field based upon their expert evaluation of the candidates chosen by the membership.



**Hybridizer's Comment:**

I'm honored once again that one of my seedlings has been selected as an IHS HOTY winner, in this case for the year 2005. This one would not have been my choice as it is smallish and a bit too much a look alike of one of its parents – Rosalind. Nevertheless, it does have appeal in that it is quite floriferous and has a nice bush. It also has won an award at one of the American Hibiscus Society shows, attesting to its attractiveness. I do believe that the trialing results have shown it to be the best of the bunch.



**Tahitian Tau**

**HOTY 2005 2nd place with  
309.76 points**





**Tahitian Fireball**

**HOTY 2005 3rd place  
with 300.74 points**



**Tahitian Orange  
Garnet**

**HOTY 2005 4th place  
with 300.50 points**



IHS HOTY Voting Template 2005 Candidates										
Total Vote	#1- T.Rainbow Queen	#2 -Tah. Baby Bon- fire	#3 -Tah. Tau	#4 -Tah. Sable Star	#5 - Tah.Fireball	#6 - Metallica	#7 - Tah. Or- ange.Garne t	#8 -5thDim X Lora	#9 - Tah.Blushin g Star	#10 -Tah. Solar Fire
Candidates >										
Judges										
Antonio Ramau	48.75	55.04	46.71	25.08	47.79	46.04	47.75	38.71	40.67	43.50
Beth Jordan	49.00	56.04	51.21	25.08	50.79	49.04	48.75	44.21	38.67	44.50
Ursula Lengdabler	52.75	50.54	55.21	34.08	41.29	38.04	39.75	38.71	35.67	49.50
Carmelo Donato	43.75	57.54	51.21	48.08	56.29	48.04	56.75	49.71	48.67	56.50
Francesco	43.25	58.04	53.21	47.58	55.29	52.04	56.75	42.71	48.67	53.50
Don Mixon	50.75	52.54	52.21	44.08	49.29	50.04	50.75	42.71	42.67	50.50
Sub Total	288.25	329.74	309.76	223.98	300.74	283.24	300.50	256.76	255.02	298.00
No Of Judges Voting	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
TOTAL VOTE	57.65	65.95	61.95	74.76*	60.15	56.65	60.10	51.35	51.00	59.60

\* #4 is disqualified as it is extinct resulting in voting irregularities. Some judges voted on what the bloom and bush was before it expired while other did not do a complete vote for lack of info.



# HIBISCUS LADIES OF INDIA



Introduction by Clay McGee

**I** imagine living in a place where the summers rarely exceed 100 degrees and the winters rarely go lower than 60 degrees in a land as old as time. Then imagine living next door to your best friend who is also a hibiscus lover and successful hybridizer. Then, imagine that you both have a mate who is extremely supportive and a small family with one spectacular child. You would be thinking about my friends Shyamala Madappa and Pushpa Suresh. How often I think of what fun it would be to live like this in a tropical paradise.

One of the amazing things that has only happened in recent times is that, thanks largely to the internet, we can have wonderful friendships literally half-way around the globe and experience them like we lived nearby. What a wonderful time we live in and how salient the International Hibiscus Society has become. Ever since I have met these ladies, I have wished that the whole world could enjoy their CVs. Now, with hibiscus Bob Carran by Pushpa Suresh, this is quickly coming to fruition. I think these ladies have some help from the nature spirits because so many of their seedlings have a breath-taking beauty. I hope you will enjoy this little excursion to Bangalore, India as much as I have enjoyed these friends.



## Pushpa Suresh

**I** am Pushpa Suresh from India, an avid hibiscus enthusiast and a small-size hybridizer. I entered this beautiful hibiscus-world around six years ago and never turned back.

The place where I reside (Bangalore, India) is perfectly fine for growing hibiscus throughout the year and they need no special care in winter. My front garden is very small and I planted around 40 hibiscus plants to enjoy the blooms and to cross pollinate. I prune once in a year prior to monsoon months (our rainy season). The rest of the plants are in pots spread in the ground, balcony and terrace.



## Indian Culture and hibiscus

Hibiscus has its own significance in our culture. It is in use to decorate the idols of God and Goddesses for ages. It is also used in ayurveda - traditional practice of medicine - and home remedies.

## Hybridization

Some Indians tried to hybridize hibiscus and produced interesting varieties such as Sudarshanachakra. A few nurseries tried to do this as it is very difficult to acquire good cvs from abroad. But hybridizing requires great involvement and attention. I was passionate about hibiscus even when I was a kid so it did not take much time for me to be deeply involved in this field. I read a lot of books and got in touch with people at nurseries. Finally, a nursery staff showed me exactly how to cross pollinate. He is my first 'hibiscus teacher', whom I always remember here with gratitude. At first, I requested seeds from the AmHS seed bank and thankfully, the seed bank officer Bob Carran sent them to me. I am blessed to have the seeds from great hibiscus hybridizers like Barry Schlueter, Sonny, Dick and many others. I worked with their seedlings and am now getting some interesting varieties.

Here are a few varieties from others' seeds I have grown.



**Purple Pashmina  
(Barry Schlueter)**



**Spellbinding  
(Bob Carran)**



**Monsoon  
(Barry Schlueter)**

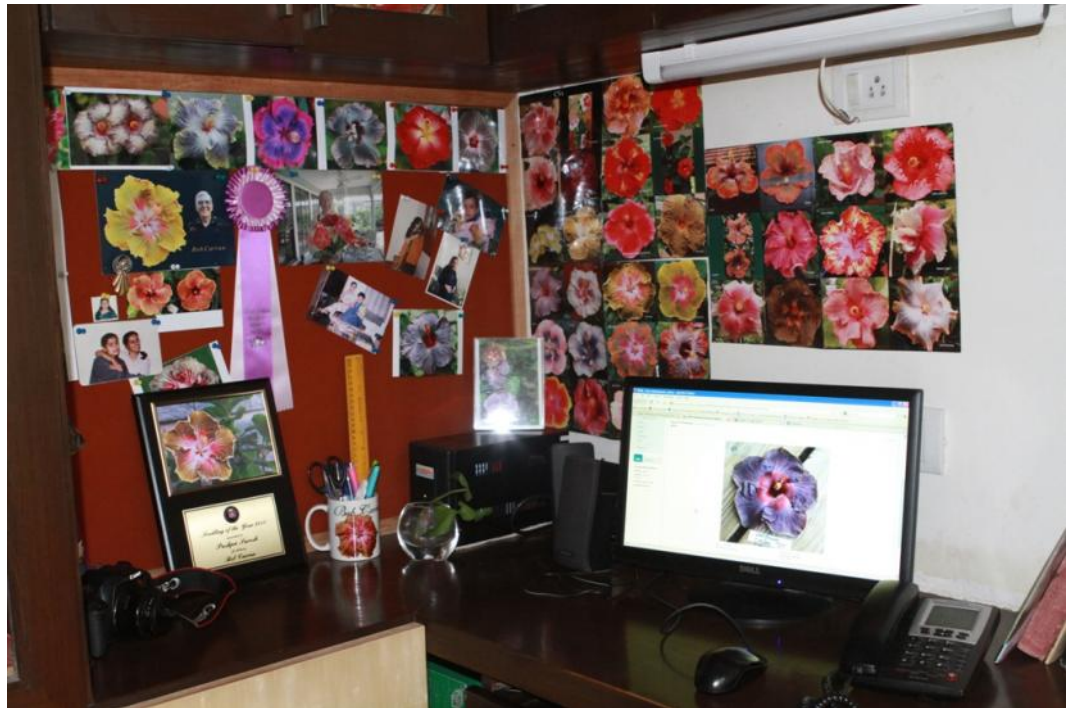


**Mr. Poof  
(Pushpa Suresh)**





**Seedlings**



**My Desk**

**Awards and recognition**



My seedling Bob Carran seedling won the IHS SOTY photo competition. I was too excited to receive the Trophy sent by IHS. I am thankful to all those who work hard for it behind the scene. The same seedling won in a BOSS category in the AmHS Central Florida Chapter's Annual Show in 10th April 2010. When your work is recognized and gets appreciated, the feeling is overwhelming and pushes us to do work even harder.



**Bob Carran by Pushpa Suresh**

### **Acknowledgements**



My heartfelt thanks to my husband Suresh who works as a creative designer, artist and a photographer and my son Dhruva for supporting my passion from the beginning. My thanks to Shyamala, a good friend and neighbor with whom I share all things hibiscus. I would also like to thank my friend Barry Schlueter, who shared his hundreds of seeds with me and guided me in many ways in growing hibiscus. There are so many friends who shared their precious hibiscus seeds, including Charles Atiu, Dick, Sonny, Mark. Here I fondly remember my dear friend, guru and a very kind person Bob Carran for all his support and help. I am proud to tell you all that his name-sake bloom entered for HOTY both in IHS and AmHS and that itself is a honor for me. My sincere thanks to all those who helped me in many ways: sharing wood, suggestions, etc.

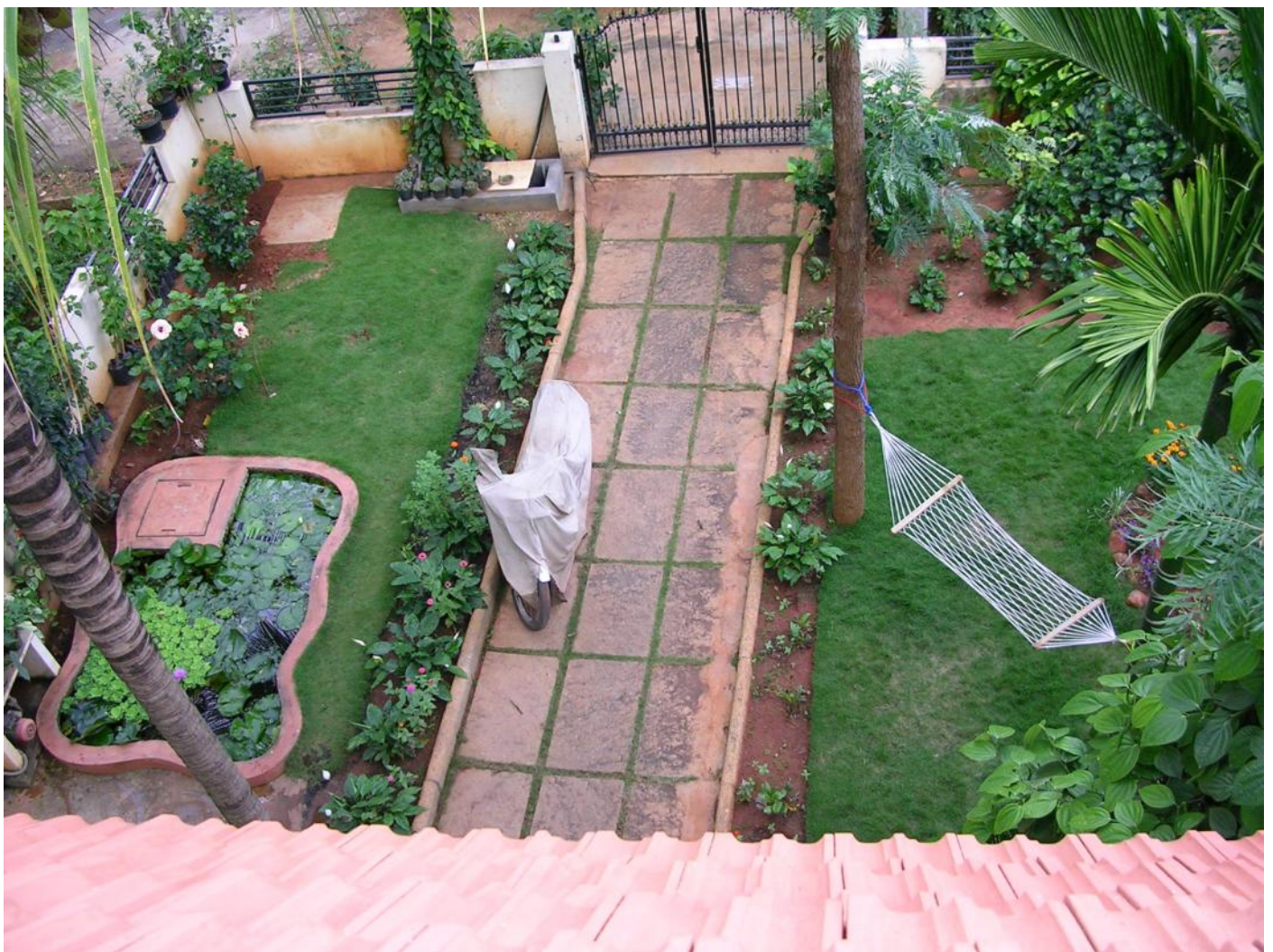


## Shyamala Madappa

**H**i everybody. As an 'absolute beginner' with Hibiscus, I hope that as I move steadily and continue learning bits and move up and down along the way, I will eventually have a lovely array of blooming Hibiscus. I was born in a Kodava community in Coorg in Karnataka, India. As a child I have grown up amidst the coffee estate, lush green rain-forest, waterfalls, streams and rivulets and above all the magnificent river Kaveri. As any typical Kodava home I grew up around and tended-to garden and flowers (lovely anthurium, Gerbera, etc..), fruit bearing trees and birds and reptiles.

After moving to Bangalore, I dreamt of having a little Coorg in my sweet home. In summer the maximum temperature goes up to 36°C and minimum temperature drops to about 20°C. In winter the maximum temperature rises up to 27°C and falls to less than 17°C. Despite a maximum temperature of 36°C, Bangalore is considered to be one of the coolest cities of India, also referred to as *Green city*, *a/c city*, *Silicon city*, *pub city* among others.

This bird's eye view is of my garden



A few flowers in my Garden and Terrace



I have been buying, collecting, breeding and hybridizing Hibiscus plants for about 8 years now. But I still feel 'amateur' to this wonderful breed of flower. Now I have own my group of "named" plants! Before, I had many Varieties and didn't even know they had names - only knew them by color. But my dear friend Pushpa insisted that I call each bloom by their names. Initially it was very difficult for me to remember them by their names but it is no more difficult now. It was during my motherhood; I came across my first Hibiscus seedling grown by Pushpa from her hibiscus seeds, and was enthralled and motivated by it. So began my great Hibiscus adventure!

Being a member of IHS and THML, now my main interest with hibiscus is in the area of hybridizing. I have registered a few of my cultivars like Classical Dancer, India's Pride, Vocal Coach, Gypsy's soul, Peaceful Time and Season's Surprise. I have grown many seedlings from the seeds by Pushpa Suresh, Barry Schlueter, Charles Atiu and others. I have got from them some exceptional beauties; to name a few, Night Symphony from Pushpa Suresh, Black Pearl from Barry S and Moorea Roaring Tiger from Charles. Last year I acquired a number of good cultivars and hope this addition to my genetic material pool will increase my success rate. At present I have some hibiscus plants in pots, rest planted in-ground in my 1200sq.ft. Garden. I have a long Wish List for few more Hibiscuses, but space is limited right now, so it will take few more years to have all that I love to have. Hopefully, within the next few years we will find the right piece of land to have the space needed for all my plants, and many more!!! (By then I know my Wish List will be much longer!) Although I do not have much experience like some of the list members, I am happy to share what knowledge I do have with you all, and am very keen to learn from others who are much more experienced.

#### My methods of growing seedlingsU



Other than hibiscus I love activities like jewelry design, interior decoration, cooking, traveling and, of course, taking care of my family. I am married to Ramesh, who works for Metal Closures, as Senior General Manager-Marketing. Without his support I would have not continued with my passion. I have a small, but much loved garden in which I try to grow plants that appeal to me, other plants/trees are lotus, water lilies, anthuriums, hibiscus, orchids, plantain, curry leaves, avocado, chikku etc.

I have worked with some reputable companies for about 14 years, quit working 6 years ago to stay with my daughter, Shreeya Cauvery, who is 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  years now. She keeps me quite busy; I have very little spare time of my own. I am a freelance Human resource Consultant. I owe my success and deep gratitude to many people I

travel along with. These include my husband and my family (including my parents who cultivated this passion in me) Pushpa, my friend, neighbor (we spend hours together over phone discussing on hibiscus), IHS and THML hibiscus enthusiast and hibiscus hybridizers'. I do not want to mention any one by name but I have great regards for each one of you who helped me to grow to this level and I am also deeply indebted to each and every people who directly or indirectly supported me for making my dream and passion come true.



**Night Symphony By Pushpa Suresh**



**Moorea Roaring Tiger by Charles Atiu**



**Black Pearl By Barry Schlueter**

**My aim is to learn from others. I'm enjoying being a part of your List, and getting to know each of you a little better each day.**

**Shyamala - Passionate hibiscus lover from India**



# HOW (SOME) CANADIANS OBTAIN NEW CULTIVARS

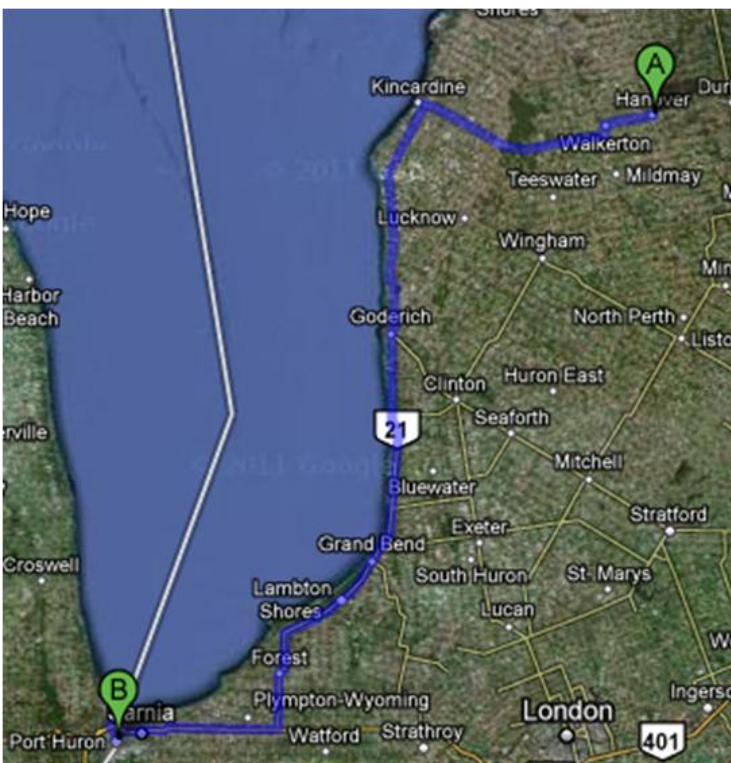
By Kes Winwood

**F**or those of us who live in Canada and attempt to grow and hybridize tropical hibiscus, there are many challenges that we have to face. Weather is of course a major consideration as our growing season (at least in eastern Canada) is at the most six months long. For the other six months, the plants survive indoors under many different conditions. For some of us that means storing them in the basement of our homes which is a story for another time.

Our other major concern is obtaining new cultivars to our collections. Having a number of well known growers of hibiscus in Florida is to our advantage as they are close enough to ship new varieties, again when the weather permits. This usually means either the spring or fall when the temperatures are not extremely warm at either end of the journey.

The main problem in shipping live plants to Canada is the fact that they must cross an international border and pass through customs. It is at this point that disasters can occur. Firstly shipments of plants normally would require a phytosanitary certificate to clear customs. The second hurdle to overcome is that plants in soil are not allowed into Canada if they are to be planted in the ground to avoid introducing either soil borne pathogens or insect pests. The last hurdle that must be faced is the amount of time that is required for Canada Customs to make a decision on the shipment. In the past, this delay has cost the whole shipment as they were delayed long enough for the plants to rot in the boxes.

However, there is a simple solution to the problem as the import regulations state that *"house plants, for personal use and not for resale"* are permitted as long as the plants are *"accompanying the importer at time of entry into Canada"*. Since tropical hibiscus would perish in a Canadian winter, they are considered house plants. So to avoid all the problems and delays, I have my plants shipped to an American address (a UPS store) just over the border and then I go to the US, pick up the order and bring them back to Canada personally with very few issues.



In the map I show the route I take from my home to go to Port Huron, Michigan. Fortunately, the UPS store is just across the border, less than 5 minutes drive. I could cross the border, pick up my plants and be back in Canada in less than a half hour if I wanted to. On the map, the large body of water is Lake Huron, one of the great lakes with the international boundary line (white line) between the United States and Canada running through the centre of the lake. The drive is about a 2 1/2 - 3 hour trip (one way), not counting the wait to clear the border.



Approaching the bridge to the US



US border check point where you wait and wait and .... Get your passport ready!





Destination - time to get your order and return home



Canadian border - time to talk to Customs and pay your tax



**Editors Note:**

The [Canada – United States border](#), officially known as the **International Boundary**, is the longest border in the world. The terrestrial boundary (including small portions of maritime boundaries on the [Atlantic](#), [Pacific](#), and [Arctic](#) coasts, as well as the [Great Lakes](#)) is 8,891 kilometres (5,525 mi) long, including 2,475 kilometres (1,538 mi) shared with [Alaska](#). It is Canada's only [land border](#), and Canada is by far the [largest nation](#) having a land border with only one country.

## A BLOOM WITHIN A POD

Alan & Vera De La Torre

**A**lthough I go home to the Philippines twice a year: summer and Christmas, it is only in Christmas that I could pollinate as much as I can. I enjoy dusting pods with an early morning cup of coffee on one hand, away from the stress of work and enjoying the serenity of blooms and dark green foliage. I had two remarkable successes last Christmas although the other resulted from a genetic anomaly.



Rough Red by Allan & Elaine Little

I informed Allan Little about my first success. One morning while scouting for new blooms, I saw Allan's Rough Red (Pro Legato x Sun Shower). It was tempting to dust it off with the only pollen I had, Byron Metts. But I knew it does not set seed, not at all, so it would just be a waste of time and pollen. But I couldn't resist its dark beauty. I owe to Allan the many things I learned about hibiscus so wasting one day's pollen is nothing. Voila! I gave it all.

Every morning thereafter I watched it, waiting for the capsule to fall off. My attitude was negative at the onset so I would not have to feel disappointed. I don't know how many times Allan tried dusting this bloom and how many people tried it too. This is my third attempt. As days turned weeks, it was still there. This time though I was hoping it would not fall off. The longer it stayed, the more I hoped that it would hang in there for a little while.

Soon I had to leave to go back to Santo Domingo. So Vera watched it for me. Each day I asked if it was still there and she said 'yes'. "Is the calyx still green?" "Yes," she said. One morning she told me it was no longer there. I really thought it had fallen off. She actually harvested the seed capsule. I was so happy and proud that we have the first 14 seeds of Rough Red and immediately informed Allan. Only time can tell if Rough Red x Byron Metts is worth keeping. But no matter what the outcome, it is always a pleasure to see something out of the ordinary.



On a different morning cup of coffee, I remember crossing Rosalind with pollens I collected from City Slicker the day prior. I wanted Rosalind to produce something that does not look like it, yet something that has its characteristics. So there she was, dusted with the pollens of City Slicker, fresh from the refrigerator. Then one morning Cate, who helps us in our garden, told me that the seed pod cracked. I could not imagine what it meant. When I saw it I thought it was bleeding. With my poor vision, I looked for my



glasses but still could not see much. I took Vera's camera and mounted a 100 mm. micro lens, but still not enough. I mounted a 10x close-up lens on top of the macro lens and focused closely. Then, I called Vera to ask for her opinion. She said it is a flower. How could it be? The flower fell off after I dusted the bloom; and clearly, this is a seed capsule, not a flower bud.

We watched the seed pod every week. The crack grew as the seed pod grew, and each time it grew I could see more red than before. I knew it was strange but I had to ask myself if I actually dusted it off or is it a new bud after all. I was sure I dusted it off; otherwise, the label would not be there.

A week later we saw a petal struggling to come out. This time we were sure it was a petal. I did not need a camera to tell me what it was. I was drawn aback. I wondered if we would still harvest some seeds. Strange. How will the bloom look like? Will it look like Rosalind or will it be something else? How could a flower develop from within a seed capsule? The former flower fell off after pollination then a new flower followed, all from the same calyx. Did this bloom come from one of the seeds? I thought that if all seeds pods show off a bloom that will be the exact appearance of the bloom the seeds will grow, we don't have to wait for a year to grow from seed. No disappointments and no need to grow so many throwaways. What do you say to that? If Hugh Grant understood hibiscus, he'd probably say: "Surreal, but nice." But what is hibiscus without throwaways? It may not be as fun and fulfilling. No failures but no triumph as well.



A few more weeks and a small bloom came out.



In case you wonder, we harvested one seed. Surreal, but nice.



**Editor's Note:**

*The Philippines (officially known as the Republic of the Philippines), is an archipelagic country located in Southeast Asia with Manila as its capital city. The country is comprised of over 7,000 islands in the western Pacific Ocean, sharing maritime borders with Indonesia, Malaysia, Palau, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and Vietnam. The Philippines is the world's 12th most populous country with a population of over 90 million people.*



# FLORAL ALBUM



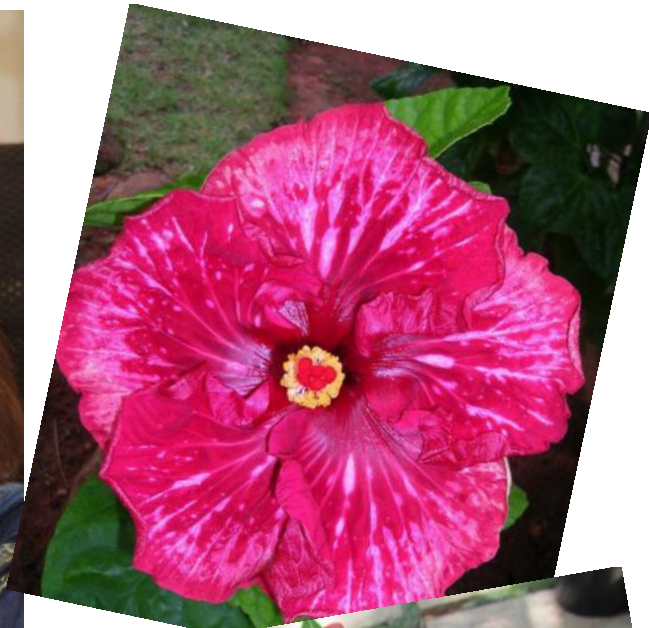
# FLORAL ALBUM



# FLORAL ALBUM



Shyamala



# FLORAL ALBUM

