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Grand Slam 2006 HOTY

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello fellow hibiscus fans,

Since our last issue there has been our biyearly election for the executive and regional representatives on the BOD (Board of Directors). When the election was over, we were left with 3 very exceptional candidates that had not been elected. After some consideration, the former BOD made the decision to expand the number of positions on the board to include these candidates.

This change would be a one time situation unless the current board presents a change in the statutes to the membership that is eventually approved. This change allows us to take full advantage of the skills and expertise of all the members of the board.

The full list of the BOD members and the positions they hold on the board appears at the bottom of page 3 of this publication as well as on the new website (http://www.delatorre.ph/index.php? option=com_content&view=article&id=155&Itemid=146) where email addresses are provided for all BOD members.

If you have any concerns, suggestions or any other matter that you feel should be discussed by the board, please feel free to contact any member of the board and the it will be presented to the board for discussion and action if necessary.

Efforts are continuing, albeit slowly, to address the concerns of hibiscus nomenclature and some progress has been achieved. The backlog of nearly 3000 cultivars awaiting registration has been cleared with the assistance of the ISHS (International Society of Horticultural Science).

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Inside Story
Air Layering—Traditional
Method Pages 3-5

Inside Story Air Layering—Modern Method Pages 6-7

Inside Story How to register a new cultivar Pages 8-12

Inside Story
Using check lists Page 8

Inside Story Submitting pictures Pages 10-11

inside Story How to do mass registrations Page 12

Inside Story Topaz Glory Page 13 While we waited for a resolution to this problem, most of the pending registration were taken offline in order to prevent the website from becoming unusable as it attempted to display this large number of images.

The ISHS recently discussed the nomenclature issue at their Board of Directors meeting and are aware of not only the problem but our concerns. As of the moment no permanent solution to the issue has been taken as the final outcome also involves the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society).

When a final resolution to this issue has been formulated and we are made aware of it, the membership will be advised of the decision and how it will impact on the IHS.



EDITORS REPORT

In this issue we review a method of propagating hibiscus that is perhaps not commonly practiced as much as it was in the past. We present the traditional method of marcotting as well as an overview of a modern approach to this method of propagation.

Our nomenclature program is at the heart of our online presence and this issue presents an overview of some of the major problems encountered by the nomenclature officer when registrants either enter insufficient data or make careless mistakes.

We would ask all registrants pay particular attention to the correct method of submitting images to the database in order to minimize the extra work on the part of the nomenclature officer and his committee.

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Marcotting (Air Layering) Traditional Method

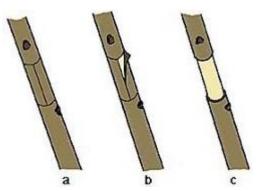


Figure 1. Method of wounding woody plants such as magnolia, gardenia, rose, fig and similar plants. With a sharp knife, make two parallel cuts about 1 1/2 inches apart around the stem and through the bark and cambium layer. Connect the two parallel cuts with one long cut (a) and remove the ring of bark (b), leaving the inner woody tissue exposed (c).

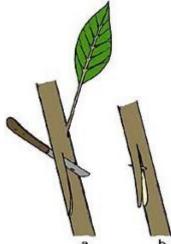


Figure 2. Method of wounding plants having less woody stems in preparation for air layering. This method usually is used on foliage plants such as the rubber plant, (Ficus benjamini and Ficus elastica) and the dieffenbachia.

- (a) With a sharp knife, make a long upward cut from 1 1/2 to 2 inches long, almost to the center of the stem.
- (b) Insert a wood sliver, toothpick or twisted piece of sphagnum moss into the wound to hold it open and prevent cut tissue from reuniting. At this point, the wounded area may be dusted with one of the commercial rooting compounds to speed up the rooting process. Such compounds, however, do not insure root production on difficult-to-root varieties.



Figure 3. Apply a handful of damp sphagnum moss so that it envelopes the wounded portion of the stem. Tying the moss in place with string helps keep it in position while completing the process. The sphagnum moss should be soaked several hours to insure that it is thoroughly moist. Squeeze out surplus water before using, since excessive moisture will result in decay and deterioration of the plant tissue.



Figure 4. Using a sheet of polyethylene film approximately 6" X 12" or 8" X 12", depending upon the size of the plant stem, wrap the ball of sphagnum moss using the butchers fold (see insert) to secure a tight seal where the two ends of the sheet are joined.



Figure 5. Draw the upper end of the film snugly around stem making sure that none of the moss is exposed. Fasten securely with electricians tape, taking care that the tape extends beyond the film and adheres to the stem. Repeat the procedure on the lower end, again making sure there is a snug fit. Moisture must not escape and excess moisture must not enter when watering or syringing the plants. Support the plant with stake or splint to prevent breakage at the wounded area.



Figure 6. After the new roots have penetrated the moss ball and are visible on all sides, the rooted branch may be removed from the parent plant. The rooting time will vary with plant variety as well as the season in which it is performed.

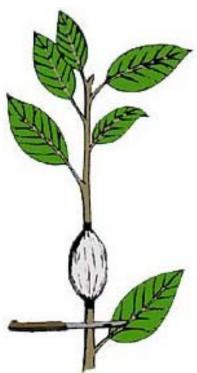


Figure 7. Remove the newly rooted plant from the parent plant with a sharp knife or pruning shears, making the cut just below the ball of moss and roots. (Not illustrated) Carefully remove the polyethylene film. Without disturbing the roots or removing the ball of moss, plant in a container using a good potting mixture or plant in a well-prepared soil bed.



Figure 8. Placing a polyethylene tent over the newly potted plant for 4 to 8 days until the root system is well established is helpful as it will aid in preventing excessive loss of moisture. Keep the plant under a light shade and avoid direct sunlight until the new root system is well developed.

Marcotting (Air Layering) Modern Method Or Everything Old is New Again

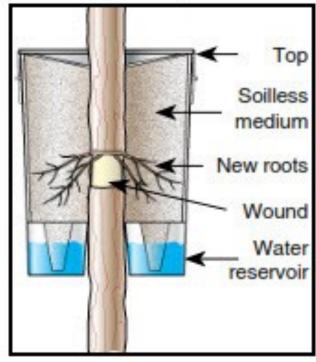


In this modern version of Marcotting one uses a molded plastic container which is hinged to open and fit around the branch of the plant. The bottom of the container has a reservoir for water and a lid to prevent moisture loss.

All the elements of this new method are shown on the right including the black label which are applied to block sunlight from damaging the developing roots.

The illustration (left) shows a cutaway view of the various components of the system and the photographs (below) depict how this system should work under ideal conditions.

The end results should be the same as the older method of marcotting—a new copy of the plant ready for potting.













These two photos show my use of this system to attempt to use this method of Marcotting or air layering.

The photo (left) shows the device attached to a branch of a plant in early June. The medium being used was a mixture of peat with 15% perlite along with an addition of worm castings.

This photo (right) shows a close-up of the same device some two months later. As you can see, the plant is growing normally with no ill effects. In fact, a bud is clearly visible about 6 inches above the pot.

However, I must admit that after eight weeks there was absolutely no sign of roots although there were indicates of white nodules that eventually might have developed into roots.

Next summer, I will repeat the experiment by starting earlier in the spring and extending the length of time the device is left on the plant. Hopefully next time the process will be successful.



HOW TO REGISTER A NEW CULTIVAR & WHAT NOT TO DO

You have a new seedling that you have grown and after some months of evaluation have decided to submit a registration for your new seedling. Of course the most important decision you will make is the name of your new seedling. Giving your seedling a name is not easy and there are many things to consider.

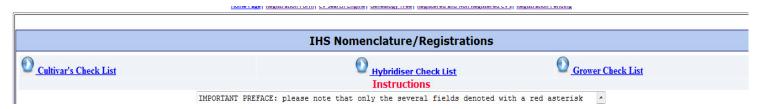
In fact, there are so many things to consider that a set of guidelines has been developed by the ISHS (International Society of Horticultural Science) that lay out the rules of what is and is not acceptable. These guidelines were published on page 11 of the last issue of Hibiscus International and are also available on our website here - http://www.delatorre.ph/index.php? option=com_content&view=article&id=148&Itemid=176. Please refer to this guideline when you register a new cultivar.

When you "register" a new cultivar please remember that you are only submitting a registration request that must ultimately be approved or denied by the ICRAR (International Cultivar Registration Authority Registrar). Up until that happens, the process is handled by a computer which has no reasoning ability to make decisions on the submitted name. If the name is not found in the database with the exact spelling then the registration process will be allowed and an email confirming receipt of the pending registration will be sent.

When choosing a name you must remember that the IHS database is not the only database that needs to be consulted. The AmHS (American Hibiscus Society) maintains a separate database that contains a great number of cultivars that are NOT necessarily in the IHS database. This database can be found online here—www.hibiscusdb.org.

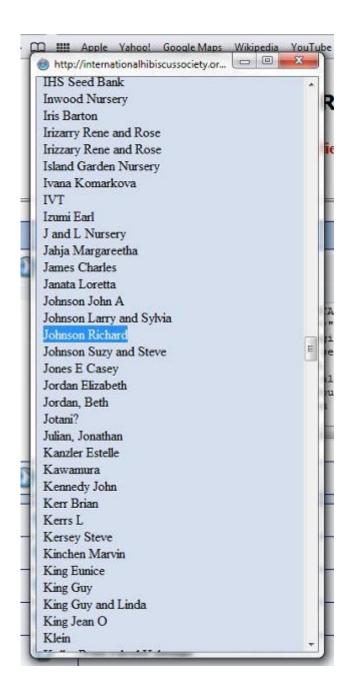
All of the following names would be allowed to be submitted - Dragons Breath, I Spy, Amber Dolls - but eventually they all would be denied registration. In each case they are in conflict with the established guidelines and will automatically be denied by the ICRAR. For example; Dragons Breath is too similar to the registered Dragon's Breath and would be too confusing; I Spy sounds exactly the same as Eye Spy which is already registered, so it would also be denied; plural forms (or singular forms) of previously registered cultivars are not allowed so Amber Dolls would be denied as Amber Doll is already registered.

Perhaps the major problem we face with pending registrations is due to carelessness. One must remember that the process is handled by a computer and that all entries MUST be EXACT. Many times the names of pod or pollen parents are misspelled which creates major problems. The same applies to the names of hybridizers, country origins - in fact, all submitted information. If it is not spelled EXACTLY the way it is currently in the database then the computer treats it as new information and creates problems.

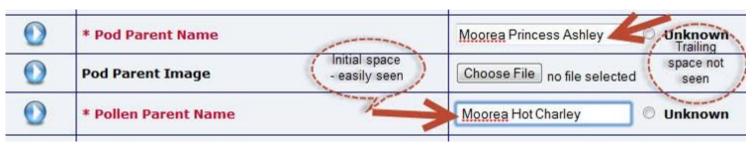


The easiest way to avoid these problems is to use the check lists which are provided (shown above) which are updated as new data is processed for inclusion in the database and are always

up to date with the correct spelling of cultivar names and the format for hybridizer names. All you need do is find the information, highlight it, select copy (Ctrl-C) and then paste (Ctrl-V) the selected information into the correct field of the registration form.



When inputting data this way it is extremely important that you DO NOT accidently include a space either at the beginning or the end of any data being input. You might not see the space but the computer does and these spaces can cause a host of problems from duplicate entries, pictures not displaying, alphabetical lists not sorting properly, etc.



For instance, all pictures should have the same spelling as the cultivar or hybridizer. All cultivar picture names are stored in this fashion - the cultivar Rosalind has a picture file Rosalind.jpg associated with it which allows the correct picture to be displayed in a record. This also applies to hybridizer's names. If a name is misspelled and does not match EXACTLY then the correct picture will not be displayed. Enter Johnson Richard and the correct picture displays in the record. Entering the name in any other format (Richard Johnson, Johnson, Richard or Johnson Dick) and no picture will be displayed.

SUBMITTING PICTURES

All pictures submitted to the database should be in a square format, preferably 250 x 250 pixels or larger. There are many image programs available that will allow you to modify your pictures so that they are in the correct format. If you submit a picture from your digital camera without modifying it to the correct format, when your picture is displayed in a database record it will be distorted as the database only displays images in a square format. This applies to all images submitted—cultivars and hybridizers.

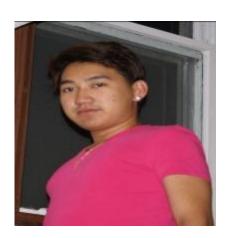






Pictures above will display distorted as shown below. The database only displays images in a square format.









EXAMPLE

The two pictures to the left are taken at random from the current IHS database. It is clear to see that the second picture is slightly distorted which probably indicates that the original image was not submitted in a square format.

Although the resulting image shows most of the characteristics of the cultivar, it makes it difficult to see an accurate representation of the form of the bloom. Even slight distortions make this assessment difficult.



Picture submitted in correct square format of at least 250 x 250 pixels.

All searches are done alphabetically which means that a hybridizer's name MUST be entered with the surname first so that a proper search can be performed. Since a comma has a special meaning in a database they are not allowed as part of a hybridizers name - Johnson Richard is correct but Johnson, Richard is not. Also remember that hybridizer's names MUST take the same form for every entry - for example Doe John and Jane should NOT be written Doe Jane and John the next time. To the computer these are different entries - it has no way of knowing they are the same people's names but in a different order.

All these mistakes require someone to manually repair them which is a very time consuming task. You can make the nomenclature officers task easier by being as accurate as possible and double checking all entries before submitting your registration form.

If you are a commercial grower or a hybridizer that has a great many cultivars to register all at the same time we realize just how time consuming the registration process can be. In order to assist you in registering many cultivars at once, we have developed a method to facilitate the registration process.

All that you need do is submit your information in a spreadsheet format and we are able to easily make a "data dump" into our database. A sample excel spreadsheet that can be used as a template in which to enter your data is available here—www.internationalhibiscussociety.org/SEArchive/massregtemplate.xls. Enter your data in the correct fields using the record that is

provided as a guide (which you can delete when finished) and send the final spreadsheet to our nomenclature officer Ian Rabenda using this email address—cactusman003@yahoo.com. All relevant pictures should also be sent at the same time; without them the entries can not be processed. Please ensure that the picture name matches the cultivar name exactly.

Please note that the fields in this template are considered the most important and should be filled out in a complete a manner as possible to provide as much information to future users of the database. Records with incomplete information are of little use to future researchers when the original submitter did not take the time to make the information as complete and useful as possible. It can be exceedingly frustrating when even the simplest of information such as bloom size or color group are not provided.

As a final note, if the pod or pollen parent are already registered or are in the database as not registered, there is no need to submit a new picture of the cultivar which will only create further problems. The rule of thumb should always be to check all the information to be submitted before you fill out the registration form to avoid errors, omissions and mistakes that should not happen.

Below is a picture of a registration form showing some of the more common errors that are encountered. Most of these can be eliminated by taking the time to be accurate and proof reading your entry.



Topaz Glory



Parents: Grey Lady x Black Beauty **Hybridizer:** Joe & Roberta Ludick, U.S. (Florida)

Number of registered offspring with 'Topaz Glory' as pod parent: 165, as pollen parent: 120 (as of June 16, 2012).

Some Topaz Glory Offspring

