



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

of the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com **MAY 2022**

In order to succeed in life, you need a backbone and a funny bone.

SHOWTIME!

TO GET TO THE 69TH ANNUAL SHOW/SALE AND SET-UP DAY

Directions to First Assembly of God; 4701 Summerlin Road, Fort Myers: for April 30, 2022

From I-75, take the Colonial exit...going towards Fort Myers. Stay on Colonial taking the overpass over US41/Cleveland...this will keep you on Colonial. Make a left at Summerlin Road, take the next left @ Barkley Circle/Royal Palm Square. Make an IMMEDIATE left, take the second right and go towards the back of the church....GYM is on the right. Questions: Call Wanda at 239-848-7090

From Cape Coral go over Veteran's Memorial Bridge to Fort Myers. First light, Summerlin Road, turn right. Take the next left @ Barkley Circle/Royal Palm Square. Make an IMMEDIATE left, take the second right and go towards the back of the church....GYM is on the right. questions call Wanda (239) 848-7090.

BARB YEKEL IS IN CHARGE OF SCHEDULING. Please be at Church at 10:00 on Friday for the show set-up. After set-up comes a pizza lunch and an opportunity to buy plants @ \$12 member price. Cashier will take cash or any charge card.

Any questions, call BARB YEKEL (239) 887-3088.

For show day, see Barb for your starting time and then come early enough to enter whatever blooms you may have.

A recent show in New Orleans sold out in minutes. Be sure to buy the plants you want on Friday AFTER the show is set up so you get first choice. We have gotten a remarkable amount of publicity so plants will not last long.

WHAT TO DO WITH MY NEW PLANTS IN POTS

By BUDDY SHORT from THML

Remember that each new plant is coming out of a protected greenhouse environment and new plants need to be gradually exposed to the outdoor elements. That means no full sun for several days getting only morning sun.

Gradual exposure is the first step.

Step two is to remove the plant from the pot to determine if they can remain in the original pot for the time being or need to be moved up slightly to a bigger pot. If the roots are plentiful and circular then gently move the roots around and move them up to the next size pot (normally a 2 gallon) If they are to remain in the original pot then that requires something else. Many nursery plants are actually watered and fed from the bottom up. If your plants look OK but not great it is possible that there is no water getting to the bottom of the roots. At this point they should be submerged them in a 5 gallon bucket to get out all of the air pockets. You'll see little bubbles coming up until it is completely soaked. Regardless of routine, these plants need to be placed in the shade until they are ready for more sun.

Step 3: if a new plant starts to lose leaves do **SOMETHING**. Recently I had several that didn't look that great to me so, even though they were new, I bare rooted each plant and started over again. Remember that was on a new acquisition. I noticed this morning that they are all doing great now and sprouting new leaves. I believe that their displeasure was caused by "how they got started" at my house.

I now pay close attention to new plants to make certain they get started right. I truly believe that is a key point.....works for me...hope it helps you.....good blooming...Buddy

Disinfecting Your Garden Tools



Disinfecting and sterilizing your horticultural tools is a good way to prevent the spread of disease-causing pathogens in your landscape. There are a number of products that can be used to disinfect tools and gardening surfaces, and each has advantages and disadvantages.

Cleaning and disinfecting are two distinct steps. Cleaning involves physically removing soil and debris and is the first step *prior* to disinfecting your tools. Soil and other organic residues reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. Before disinfecting, always remove dirt, debris, or sap by wiping your tools with a damp cloth or paper towel.

Chlorine Bleach

Chlorine bleach is inexpensive, effective, and easy to find. However, it is corrosive, can produce harmful fumes, and isn't as effective against viruses as some other products. To use chlorine bleach to disinfect horticultural tools, mix up a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water) and do a 30-minute soak. The solution has a short lifespan—effectiveness is cut in half after two hours—so fresh batches should be made for each round of cleaning. Rinse tools with clean water after soaking to prevent corrosion.

Ethanol or Isopropyl Alcohol

The advantages of alcohol (ethanol or isopropyl) to sanitize your gardening tools is that it can be used as a wipe (no soaking necessary), you don't have to rinse the product off, and it's immediately effective. The disadvantage of alcohols? They're very flammable. To disinfect your tools with alcohol you can either wipe or dip them in a solution that is 70–100% alcohol. Ethanol and isopropyl alcohol are widely available at a variety of stores.

Other Products

Trisodium Phosphates (TSPs) very corrosive.

Pine oil products are not as corrosive as some other disinfecting products on the market, but they're also not as effective.

Commercial agriculture products typically available only through horticulture-supply vendors include Green-Shield® and KleenGrow™. There are also hydrogen dioxides, which are labeled as a disinfectant for use on greenhouse surfaces, equipment, tools, and for use on plants. Products included ZeroTol® 2.0 and Oxidate® 2.0.

Keep It Clean

Regardless of which product you choose, being diligent about keeping your tools clean is very important to keeping your plants healthy. A longer soaking may be needed for pruning surfaces that are not smooth. Ideally tools should be disinfected after working on every plant; however, this is usually not practical. If possible, rotate between several tools while working in the garden. That way, one tool can be disinfected while you work with another. After dipping your pruning tools, be sure to wipe away excess disinfectant to avoid injuring the next plant.

Whether you have one tool for the whole garden or many you rotate between, it is important to sterilize as frequently as possible. Remember, clean garden tools are an important part of garden sanitation, and can prevent the spread of disease-causing pathogens. For more information on sterilizing your garden tools or dealing with disease in your landscape, contact your local county Extension office.

UF/IFAS Publications

The preferred product seems to be ALCOHOL-but only if you don't smoke!

“When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.” - Cherokee Proverb

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Micki, Valerie and Beth visited Carl Powell for a lesson in grafting. The ladies drove to Carl's nursery in Punta Gorda several times and got invaluable lessons in grafting from master grafter, Carl Powell. He was most gracious with his time and knowledge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY CELEBRATORS

PAUL ZINSZER	MAY 2
FRANK HEFFERNAN	MAY 5
DON BALAS	MAY 5
JULIETA BRUNI	MAY 13



IF YOU ARE A MAY BIRTHDAY AND ARE NOT LISTED, SEND BIRTHDAY TO barbaramo@earthlink.net LOOKING FOR JUNE MEMBERS- SEND

HY'S WAY FOR MAY

FERTILIZER FOR HIBISCUS

Florida requires a tag on the fertilizer bag listing percentage by weight of the major elements: nitrogen, phosphate and potassium. Fertilizer with a tag showing 8-2-12 means that the fertilizer has 8% by weight of NITROGEN (N), 2% by weight of PHOSPHATE (P) and 12% by weight of POTASSIUM (K). In a 100 pound bag of 8-2-12 fertilizer there are 8 pounds of N, 2 pounds of P and 12 pounds of K.

There are also secondary elements in the bag. These are Sulfur (S), Magnesium (Mg), Calcium (Ca), Chlorine (CL), Manganese (Mn), Boron (B), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Iron (Fe), and Molybdenum. The secondary elements are present in smaller percentages than the primary ones but play important roles in plant growth. All but Magnesium (Mg) are known as “trace elements”. Magnesium (Mg) is a very important element for plant growth and is a secondary major element.

NITROGEN (N) is the growth element. It is essential for formation of protein and chlorophyll and is required for leaf and stem development.

PHOSPHORUS (P) is important for root formation. However, phosphorus does not leach out of the soil and remains available for long period. Too much phosphorus, especially in alkaline soil, will tie up or render unavailable some minor elements, especially iron. For this reason a fertilizer formula relatively low in phosphorus such as 8-2-12 is desirable.

POTASSIUM (K) is especially important in the production of good root systems and big blooms. [Muriate of potash (KCL) is the least expensive source of potassium but should be avoided because of the high chloride level which hibiscus does not tolerate].

In Florida a “complete fertilizer” is one that contains N, P and K. It is not really complete as it does not contain magnesium or any of the other essential minor elements. Also, a “balanced



fertilizer” is one which has the same percentages of N and K but can have any percentage of P (6-6-6. 7,2,7).

Potassium should be present in larger amounts than nitrogen to obtain more and larger **hibiscus blooms**. **Slow Release Fertilizers**: it is essential that 100% on the N, K, and Mg be in slow release form. Florida’s soils have low capabilities to retain these elements in the root zone during periods of heavy rainfall or irrigation. The only efficient way to keep these elements readily available to plants during intervals between fertilizer applications **is to use slow release sources**. A water-soluble source applied one day could be completely leached out of the root zone the next day by a heavy rainfall or irrigation and the hibiscus would receive no benefit from the fertilizer application (big waste of money). Controlled release fertilizers are not greatly affected by rainfall or irrigation. Since they release more slowly than soluble fertilizers, they are also less likely to burn plant roots during periods of drought. If your fertilizer has slow release N but water-soluble release K, you will have a large green plant with little or no blooms because you will have a large plant starved of K which is needed for blooms. Therefore, you need slow release for N, K, and Mg.

Use on the Entire Landscape: The fertilizer developed for use on palms (8-2-12 slow release) can be used on **HIBISCUS**, lawns, trees, shrubs, fruit trees and herbaceous ornamentals besides palm trees.

April 10, 2022 JEH Chapter Meeting



- President JACK BERNATZ reminded visitors and members to sign in, visit the snack and drink table, vote for favorite blooms in the Mini Show, participate in the 50/50 raffle, and find a good seat.
- 1) President Jack called the meeting to order. CAROLYN ESTEP introduced her guests, Neil and Linda; members BOB & ANITA BATTAGLIA were present; former member Marsha Crawford was back in the area visiting; Connie Posl is a new member.
 - 2) The Pledge was completed.
 - 3) The Secretary’s Report can be found in the Newsletter.
 - 4) The Treasurer reported that the Nominating Committee met. Nominees are: President: Jack Bernatz, Vice-President, Barbara Oster; Secretary: Joyce Yates, Treasurer: Barb Yekel, Board Members: Micki Daugherty, Carolyn Estep, Cathy Dunn, Beth Meehan, Emilia Maitz
 - 5) Beth Meehan, Valerie Kopp, and Micki Daugherty traveled to a Hibiscus Show on Saturday. There were 18 awards available and our ladies left with 14 of them!
 - 6) Micki and Valerie gave a presentation on Bloom Prep and Transporting Blooms to Shows.
 - a. It’s important to prepare ahead of time. When filling out necessary cards use address labels. Get blank cards to fill out for the next show.
 - b. Use “cone” cups to put blooms in with name of bloom on a slip of paper.
 - c. Don’t touch the petals.
 - 7) Micki told us how to make an economical spray using Fels Naptha, found in the laundry soap aisle of Publix. Grate one bar of soap into one gallon of boiling hot water. Mix, cool, and use in the early morning.
 - 8) Cathy Dunn gave us information on using Facebook as a method of advertising our Hibiscus Sale to a large group for \$50.
 - 9) Barb Yekel reminded us of the Show and many areas to be manned at the Sale.
 - 10) Wanda Schmoyer provided information on the day of the Sale and some of the things to expect. Since this is a new venue for us she wants everyone to have needed information. Friday plants arrive about 10:00. We have asked for every available table to be in the gym for the Show and Sale. Friday noon and Saturday breakfast and lunch will have food for members working.
 - 11) Terry Martin gave results of the Mini Show:
 - a. Best Double: Tie; Red Snapper, Nancy Kopp and Moonlight Madness, Terry Martin
 - b. Best Single: Frosted Lipstick: Richard Walter
 - c. Best Mini Double: Gold Ring: Nancy Kopp
 - d. Best Mini Single: Erin Rachel: Nancy Kopp
 - e. Seedling: Fancy Francie: Valerie Costa, Unnamed: Gabriel X President
Respectively Submitted, JOYCE YATES, SECRETARY

PLANTS CAN BE INVASIVE! by CATHY DUNN

If you lived in a northern climate prior to moving to Southwest Florida as I did, you no doubt have an appreciation for how quickly plants grow in our sub-tropical conditions! While it is quite rewarding to see your gardening efforts prosper so easily, the ease with which some plants grow can be indicative of their invasive nature. Almost one-third of the more than 4,000 plant species that grow on their own without cultivation in Florida are non-native. These plants were either introduced as ornamental plants in residential gardens or as agricultural crops, often without any hint of the problems they would cause. The Florida environment was so advantageous to these plants that they naturalized or spread on their own. Non-native plants are labeled as invasive when they spread extensively into natural areas and displace native plants and disturb naturally occurring native plant communities.

Florida native plants are defined as plants whose native range included Florida around 1500 AD, or at the time of European contact. You might be thinking that plants continue to evolve and improve, and it seems difficult to imagine that native plants would remain static over the course of more than 500 years. To help understand the impact of invasive plants, it may be easier to consider the introduction of non-native animals to our environment, specifically Burmese pythons and boa constrictors which are frequently in the news. These non-native snakes were introduced to Southern Florida almost 40 years ago, and as non-native species they have no natural predators. According to multiple studies they have virtually wiped out raccoons, marsh rabbits, opossums and other once-common mammals in the Everglades National Park; the loss of these species has produced significant repercussions on the food web in the Everglades. The introduction of non-native plants that become invasive has the same potential for reducing biodiversity in our environment, which can negatively impact wildlife and other natural occurrences such as fire frequency and water flow.

With an understanding of the potential impact of invasive plants, you may wonder how these invasive plants can be identified, and what you can do to help stop their spread. The UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) was established to “develop and disseminate strategies to address the impact of invasive plants through increased public awareness.” The CAIP maintains an online Plant Directory of more than 400 plants that have been identified as either invasive or potentially invasive. You can access the directory at: <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/>. Each plant listing has photos and detailed information on the plant’s characteristics, its impacts on the environment and recommended preventive control methods. The Florida Invasive Species Council, or FISC, determines which non-native plants are invasive. The mission of the FISC is “to reduce the impacts of invasive plants in Florida through the exchange of scientific, educational, and technical information.” The FISC maintains invasive species lists that are revised every two years: <https://newfleppc.bugwoodcloud.org/index.cfm>. The invasive plant list includes plants that are commonly seen in our Southwest Florida landscapes: Mexican Petunia, Asparagus Fern, Lantana, Brazilian Pepper, Heavenly Bamboo, Carrotwood, Mimosa Tree, and Water Hyacinth.

As a homeowner, how can you take action to prevent the spread of invasive plants? First, you can educate yourself about the plants in our area that are considered invasive and ensure that you do not introduce these plants into your landscape. The Lee County Extension Office is an excellent resource for questions about plants in Lee County and can assist you in identifying invasive plants. The Extension Office is located at 3410 Palm Beach Boulevard in Ft. Myers, and you can access their web site at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lee/>. You can contact the office at 239-533-4312 or by email at: lee@ifas.ufl.edu In addition the Lee County Master Garden Volunteers maintain a help desk at the Extension Office Monday – Friday from 10 AM – 2 PM; you can stop in with samples of your plants and receive knowledgeable assistance and recommendations from local Master Gardeners.

What if you find that these plants are already present in your landscape? The recommended approach is removal of an invasive plant or its fruits. This is not generally an issue for smaller plants or shrubs, however, the removal and replacement of large trees may require advice from an arborist. You should also never empty your aquarium into a lake or river because this can introduce invasive water plants into the local environment.

Invasive plants represent a threat to our environment by displacing native plants and disrupting the ecological balance. We can all help minimize this threat through increased awareness of the presence of invasive plants in our landscape, and by working to remove these plants and protect our beautiful Southwest Florida native environment!

CATHY DUNN, Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer Garden Club of Cape Coral Member James E Hendry Member



To the left, CARROTWOOD TREE; to the right, ASPARAGUS FERN. Picture Credits: UF/IFAS



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JACK BERNATZ

Hello all,

We are poised and as ready as we will ever be to continue our Annual Show and Plant Sale. This is the 69th time and looks like it may be our best yet. Do you all feel the enthusiasm growing in our Chapter? There is a group of traveling JEH Hibiscus Show participants that have been visiting our brother and sister chapters around the state. They participate with "GUSTO". I have this picture of other chapters members putting on their show and plant sale, then along comes the "Orange Shirt Gang" with Huge Gorgeous Blooms, that were carefully picked and prepared for transit. They present them to the Judges and walk away with numerous prizes! It is bound to ignite the enthusiasm, and hopefully rekindle some sparks in the used to be willing and ready participants. We will have to nickname them "The Shock & Awe Orange Shirt Hibiscus Gang"! Just with their reporting of their involvement has given our Chapter a momentum that is contagious and an enthusiasm one can feel. I really appreciate their eagerness to share their experiences and to invite everyone to participate. Some key players in this posse of Show Participants, Wanda, Nancy, Beth, Valarie, Micki, Jill. I sure hope that the "Orange Shirt Gang" continues their participation in other Chapters Shows, and that they are joined by others that feel the enthusiasm when they share their visits and accomplishments.

Hope all had a Happy Easter!

And our 69th Annual Show & Plant Sale was a success.

Hope to see You all soon, JACK

PICNIC

MAY 14th is the ANNUAL JEH PICNIC

This year's annual picnic will be held at Lakes Park in **Shelter B2**

NOTE: This is a **NEW** shelter-different from our previous one.

JEH will supply the HAM, beverages and tableware. Members are asked to bring a side to go with the ham. Salads, desserts, appetizers and such are welcome. Doesn't need to be homemade.

Mrs. Publix whips up some great cookies and potato salad!

We will gather starting at 11:00 and will eat @ 12. There will be a few surprises and great company! Please plan to join us!



