



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

of the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

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

This is a busy month!

NOVEMBER 13, 1:30, CHAPTER MEETING -interesting **SPEAKER**

meeting held at Garden Center, 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers

November 6 Daylight savings time ends. **FALL BACK 1 hour**

November 8 **VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE!**

November 11 Veterans Day

November 24 **THANKSGIVING**

December 3 **HOLIDAY PARTY!** **Sign up NOW!**



IAN -September 28, 2022

There is a name we wish to never hear again.

Every time I walk in my yard, I cry. Gone is years of landscape beauty. BUT I am one of the fortunate ones. Not too much house damage. The cities of Cape Coral and Fort Myers and surrounding areas are devastated. As I look down my canal, I see three boats up in yards, not the boat owners' yards, God knows where they came from.

Hibiscus right now is the last thing on my mind but we will come back. It might take years but we are strong and going to survive.

Matt Martingdale was going to speak at our October meeting that was cancelled. We were going to join a plant sale that the city of Cape Coral was hosting at one of the city's parks on October 22 but we had to cancel our plant order from Big Bad Flower who were very understanding. The City of Cape Coral Parks are all closed at this writing. 10/13/2022
barbara oster

MESSAGE FROM MY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT (my son CLINT OSTER)

Have no regrets about your lost landscaping. I always try to follow the 70% Native Plants / 20% Edible Plants / 10% Flowering Aromatic Non-Native Plants and I am happy to report that I believe your yard will make a good comeback despite being undulated with brackish water.

When your water pressure returns it would help those non-native plants (and all plants) to flood the root zone. This will help carry some of the built up salts away.

I remember landscaping your home originally then Hurricane Charlie visited and took down the big Sapodilla tree in the front yard which was central to the design. Back to the drawing board. Hurricane Ian left all the major pieces intact. We planned for it! love, Clint

RECOVERING FROM IAN

SW Florida is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Ian. As a community, we suffered tremendously; lives were lost, homes and dreams destroyed, jobs eradicated. The beautiful landscapes, open spaces, and landmarks that we all love were disfigured and ravaged. This unimaginable loss is disorienting and stressful, and as we all struggle to file insurance claims, move into temporary quarters, or make repairs to our homes, we all long for a sense of 'normalcy' and a return to the way things were before Ian devastated our area.



Most of the gardens and landscapes that I have observed have been decimated. Amid all this destruction we are offered an opportunity to reevaluate our outside areas, and perhaps correct some of the missteps we made when originally planting our landscapes. Like me, you may find that areas of your garden that were once shady are now flooded with light due to missing trees, shrubs, or palm fronds. As you begin to address your landscape, I have some suggestions that may be helpful in your efforts.

You should first evaluate the trees and shrubs that you feel can potentially be salvaged. Large trees should be assessed by professionals who have the equipment and knowledge to safely address any damage. Trees without cracks in major limbs or trunk are good candidates for restoration; many trees with even significant leaf loss will leaf out either now or in the spring. Stake any small trees or shrubs that are leaning, filling in any areas where the soil has been blown away. You should also prune back broken or twisted branches on small trees and shrubs as these areas provide an entry point for pests and disease. Dead fronds (entirely brown) on palms should be removed, however any bent, green, or partially green fronds should NOT be removed unless they are covering the meristem (bud). These fronds will continue to provide energy to the palm and should only be removed once they are totally brown.

Annuals in your garden are generally not worth salvaging if they are badly damaged, but perennials can recover even if their foliage was shredded in the storm. Badly damaged growth should be pruned off, and with time your plants will probably recover. Likewise, the foliage on thin leaved shrubs and trees may look burned or desiccated by the high winds, but most of these plants are still alive and will usually recover. I have noted green shoots and leaves emerging on many of the trees and shrubs in my garden that initially appeared to be dried out or dead; I have pruned away any dead stems above these areas with new growth. Since plants are already damaged by the storm, it is not advisable to perform a 'hard' prune on shrubs or plants in your landscape as this will further stress them.

Finally, look around your garden and your neighborhood to note the trees, shrubs and plants that seemed to survive Ian. You'll probably note that Florida natives are survivors; over the years these plants have adapted to the cycle of our seasonal variations and storms. Some palms are hardier in hurricanes than others; cabbage palms, sabal palms and date palms, with their 'circular' arrangement of fronds seem to be much better adapted to high winds. Queen palms, Royal palms and Washington palms appear to have sustained major damage in my neighborhood, as have most hardwood trees such as Black Olive (shady Lady), oaks and bauhinia (orchid tree). I have also noted that crepe myrtles fared very well in the storm; I have seen rows of these trees standing undamaged in parking lots where other trees were badly battered, and the crepe myrtles in my garden have already fully leafed out in 2 weeks! The hardiest shrubs that I have observed are dwarf Ixora, cocoplum and arboricola; clusia appear to have been too flexible to remain upright in the high winds. Bromeliads and low, shrubby palms also fared very well in the storm, probably because their surface area was not elevated enough to allow them to be twisted in the winds.

The damage and trauma we have suffered as a community are almost debilitating, but I hope that our landscapes, given time, can once again provide us with a sense of beauty and tranquility. The best advice I can provide in this difficult time is to remain hopeful, resilient and patient. As Ralph Waldo Emerson stated: "Adopt the pace of Nature. Her secret is patience."

Cathy Dunn is a Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer and a member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral AND **The James E. Hendry Chapter of the AHS** .



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - JACK BERNATZ

Here it is 2 weeks after the Good Lord engineered operation clean sweep in the form of Hurricane Ian. Most of us are still wondering about purpose of such a dramatic implementation of the event. Seems that regardless of the plan one chose to ride out the event, we question what did this event do to enlighten each individual, how will this first hand information be put to good use. I look around my footprint in the small segment of Cape Coral, that I spend the majority of my time. I see damaged things, landscape and flower beds blown over stripped of leaves, boat canopy gone, pilons that were pulled out of their place and moved with the boat across the canal. One view would be, what a waste of our endeavor to make a pleasant trimming and decor of my little piece of Paradise.

Yet looking at what took place, looking at the event with a completely unbiased view. Think of the process similar to a lightning strike in the middle of an old forest, creating a fire that completely destroys a huge area of pristine forest. Then once again view the area later and remarkably, the forest returns with new vibrant and beautiful trees.

Have we had the privilege of witnessing a renewal that will ultimately be better than the area we first moved to?

We have been slowed in our efforts to spread good cheer with our wonderful and gorgeous plants, yet remain ready and willing to begin again.

Happy Gardening in this harvest time of the year!

Keep an eye on our website for events as we return to "normal".

Stay Safe, stay healthy, Jack

COOLER WEATHER IS HERE!

A WORD ON HYBRIDIZING

Hybridizers never know what they will get in any given cross. Even by studying all the background traits of the different blooms involved, it is still a guess. I think this is one of the great joys of hybridizing - creating something entirely new with a surprise factor built in. **DAMON VEACH**

p.s. Keeping accurate records when hybridizing is important. Knowing parentage of plants can help in determining what you are seeking in future crosses. It is a simple task but very necessary. Damon

FRANK HEFFERNAN, our member/hybridizer, has emphasized the importance of keeping records because he has hybridized for not only beautiful blooms but worthy plants.

FRANK has more or less retired from hybridizing but his work lives on.



STEPS IN HYBRIDIZING by **SANDRA THEALL**, an outstanding hybridizer from the Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter in Louisiana

- 1. Rub pollen on stigma pads**
- 2. Tag cross and date of pollination on plastic strip**
- 3. If cross "takes", bag the green pod while still on plant**
- 4. When pod is dark brown and "ripe", remove from plant and remove seeds.**

Decide if you will plant immediately or store for future planting. You decide

- 1. Storing seeds...place in envelope with cross information and refrigerate**
- 2. Planting seeds**
 - a) "nick" seed and place it in a small cup (with cross written on cup) and pour small amount of warm water into the cup with a drop or two of Clorox or Hydrogen Peroxide in the pan of warm water)**

- b) Put cotton pad on top of seed; cotton pad will keep seed under water. Let sit for an hour or more
- c) Prepare pot with your choice of mix
- d) Soak mix in pot and write name of cross on plastic stick
- e) Use pencil eraser to measure depth of seed (suggested 1/4 inch) and drop seed in pot. Cover seeds with small amount of mix.
- f) Sift small amount of sand on top of pot
- g) Put appropriate stick in each pot and.....**WAIT**



RUTH WATSON

Another of our famous hybridizers is DALE DUBIN. His beauties are famous in the hibiscus world. DALE lives in the Fort Myers area and is still a member of our society along with his wife Kathleen.



BYRON METTS

HY'S WAY for NOVEMBER

November is a good time to plant hibiscus. They will have a chance to develop good root systems before cold weather arrives. Remember that the two biggest reasons for failure in planting hibiscus are:

- 1) **PLANTING TOO DEEP.** The plants should be planted at the same level as they were when in the pot.
- 2) **THE PLANT IS "POT BOUND" IN THE POT.** When you remove the plant from the pot make a deep cut in the four quadrants of the roots and loosen the roots so that the roots spread out. This gives the plant room to spread out its roots.

It is also important to modify the soil by adding peat moss or manure so the plant is placed in a mixture of **ONE PART MODIFIER TO TWO PARTS SOIL.** Be sure to water the planted hibiscus well at the time of planting to remove any air around the plant...plants need soil, not air to survive. I water newly planted hibiscus daily for at least a week after planting.

CHECK YOUR PLANTS ONCE A WEEK FOR BUGS AND START TREATMENT BEFORE THE PROBLEM GETS OUT OF HAND.

SIGNS OF PEST INFESTATION and TREATMENT

Whiteflies – White mess on leaves. White-colored flies on or near plant. Shake the hibiscus plant and there will be a cloud of visible white flying insects.

Aphids – Brown, white, green or black small insects on buds, flowers or leaves. They attract ants. **CURE** - Horticultural soap or oil

Spider Mites – Mottled increasing number of yellow leaves. Using a magnifying lens, find fine webbing at end of yellow leaves. In bright light you can see them with magnifying lens.

CURE - Heavy stream of water. Repeat 3 – 5 days apart. Bayer Rose Garden Insect Killer (**Imidacloprid**) or **Ortho Rose Pride Orthonex (hexkis miticide)**

Thrips – Buds discolor and fall off before blooming. (be it 1 or 100, the name of this bug is thrips just as you have a hibiscus or you have 75 hibiscus).

& **Midges** – Buds turn bright yellow and are small and fall off.

CURE - Bayer Systemic and Bayer Rose and Garden Insect Killer spray, Neem oil, Conserve

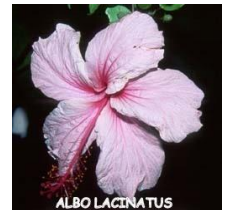
Mealybugs – Small white cottony spots on leaves and stems or anywhere on the plant.

CURE - Prune all parts of plant involved. Dispose in sealed bag. Bayer Systemic and Bayer Rose and Garden Insect Killer, Ultrafine Oil, Neem Oil, Orthene

Sooty Mold – Sucking pests (**APHIDS, MEALYBUGS, WHITE FLIES AND SCALES**) suck sap from leaves and then excrete plant sugars on the leaves. This excretion ("honeydew") is food for black mold which grows in it and discolors the leaves. Sooty mold is not a disease. It is indicative of sucking pest invasion.

CURE - Get rid of the pest and wash off leaves with strong stream of water.

All plants should be treated with BAYER ADVANCED TREE AND SHRUB INSECT CONTROL SYSTEMIC at least every 6 month as a preventative against pests and should be repeated as indicated above for an infestation.



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE GARDEN...Did you ever notice that nature is a reflection of our lives in so many ways? There's much that we can learn from planting, nurturing, and harvesting our gardens. Through the years, people have said some pretty profound things about gardening that apply deeply to life. Below are a few of our favorites. We hope that they cause you to ponder the gift of life. Enjoy!

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. (Abraham Lincoln)

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul. (Alfred Austin)

An addiction to gardening is not all bad when you consider all the other choices in life. (Cora Lee Bell)
A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. (Gertrude Jekyll)

Planting seeds in your garden is like planting thoughts in your mind. Nourish the good ones and pull out the weeds. (GardensAll.com)

Money can't buy happiness. Except at the garden center. (The Garden Stud)

I am more myself in the garden than anywhere else on earth. (Doug Green)

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get. (H. Jackson Brown, Jr.)

Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later. (Og Mandino)

OUR NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS (if you haven't sent me your birthday-do so!)

JONI MELVIN	NOVEMBER 4
BARB YEKEL	NOVEMBER 13
WANDA SCHMOYER	NOVEMBER 21



NOVEMBER

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Create a display of fall colors with cool-season plants. Some examples include impatiens, strawflower, cape daisy, and pansy.

Bulbs: Many bulbs like to get their start in cool weather. Bulbs to plant this month include amaryllis, crinum, and the many varieties of elephant's ear.

Herbs: Continue planting herbs from seeds or plants. A wide variety of herbs like cooler, dryer weather, including cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, sage, and thyme.

Vegetables: Lots of choices exist for November including beans, broccoli, kale, snow/English peas, and strawberries. *Florida:*

What to Do

Perennials: Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so that they establish before the coolest weather arrives. **THAT IS IF YOU HAVE ANY LEFT TO DIVIDE**

Lawns: Watch for brown patch and large patch until May. These fungal diseases cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key.

Scale insects: Take advantage of lower temperatures to apply horticultural oil sprays to control scale insects.

Irrigation: Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather.

Poinsettias: Watch for hornworms on poinsettias planted in the landscape. This pest can quickly defoliate a plant. Handpick or treat only the infested area.



THE JEH CHAPTER MEETING **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2022**

TO BE HELD AT **Berne Davis Garden Council Building 1:30 2166 Virginia Avenue**

WHY SIZE MATTERS



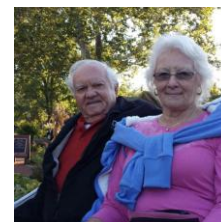
Hopefully we got your attention and invite all to meet our November 13 guest speakers, the AUSTIN's. Eddie and his lovely wife, Susan are associate members of our chapter and live in Okeechobee, Florida and are the owners of GCI Exotics. The Austin's also have a farm in Cannelton, Indiana.

At the age of five (5) Ed Austin started growing hibiscus at the family home located on the County Rock Pit in Boynton Beach, Florida. Ed discovered that planting hibiscus around the water's edge caused root rot and they all died when the water rose. Eddie learned from his experience and was not discouraged. Next time around Eddie planted the hibiscus in a more sustainable soil.

Some years went by and at the age of 19 Eddie developed a passion for flying. Sue started flying in 1960 while working for Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach, Fl. The couple later met at Lantana Airport where Sue was a flight instructor. Ed would bring Sue roses every day to win Sue over and later hired Sue to fly his planes. After a two year courtship the couple married and moved to Okeechobee, Fl. where they grew rare exotic fruits which Ed grafted. Ed also grew plants for Disney. Disaster struck when Ed's plants froze three years in a row. The palms were sprayed with Benelate which had atrazine in it that killed all the palms. This contamination resulted in the land not being able to be used for 5 years and the couple went to Indiana.

In Indiana Ed & Sue started growing Rose of Sharon in the summer. Since Indiana had a short growing season and cold winters the couple moved back to Florida and joined the Conrad Sunrise Chapter where Ed developed an interest in growing and grafting exotic hibiscus. Initially Ed was using Pride of Hankins root stock and then became interested in the root stock of El Capitola. Members of the Conrad Sunrise Chapter were very generous sharing their cuttings with Ed and Sue, which Ed grafted at every opportunity. Ed's specialty is doing top grafts with much precision and this is where size matters.

Due to local interest they decided to sell their plants at the Trading Post Flea Market in Okeechobee, choosing as the name of their business **GCI Exotics**, which stands for "**God Conquers the Impossible**". Ed prays over every graft saying, "Lord, I've done all I can do, only you can make it grow." Eddie Austin also has other talents and worked as a ship's Captain, Boat Captain, Diver, Home Builder, Pilot and Master Jeweler. Let's all give the Austin's a very warm Southern welcome as we learn something new on November 13th from this fascinating couple



Submitted by: Micki Dougherty, Program Chairwoman

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 3 - 5:30 - Whiskey Creek Country Club

Our annual holiday party will be exciting this year. To be held in FORT MYERS at the Whiskey Creek Country Club, 1449 Whiskey Creek Road. \$20 per person and also \$20 for each guest. Send check to BARB YEKEL, 5541 Hamlet Lane, Fort Myers, 33919 or bring to November meeting. Cut-off date is November 26th. Gift exchange limit \$20. Great fun! More details when you send in your check!

barbara oster, editor



TERRY & ELAINE MARTIN MAILERS