



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

of the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

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



~~OCTOBER 9, JEH GENERAL
MEETING - MARTINDALE SPEAKER~~
OCTOBER 9, COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 31, HALLOWEEN



Gardening is a life pursuit.

When Thomas Jefferson wrote, "But though an old man, I am but a young gardener," he knew that gardening had continuous lessons to impart in every stage of life.

Whether you grow houseplants in your home, tend a small veggie garden, fill containers on your porch with colorful blooms, or plant masses of flowers to feed and attract pollinators in your yard, you are part of a worldwide trend of living with, raising, and loving plants. You are in good company. **You can never start too early. Or too late.**

Gardening is something that is joyous at all stages of life.

Quoted from Costa Farms Newsletter

SOTY

SOTY - American Hibiscus Society

Seedling of the Year

CAJUN HEART OF DARKNESS -Dupont/Gerlich

1 Heart of Darkness. Dupont/Gerlich; 2.Old Fashion Romance. Dupont/Gerlich; 3.Texas Storm The Hibiscus Place/MartindaleL; 4 Grande Dame Dupont/Gerlich

Back in August, we reported the 2022 SOTY (Seedling of the Year). The name given was incorrect. Proper name is CAJUN HEART OF DARKNESS.

How is this Seedling of the Year chosen?

Paul Zinszer, a judge for the AHS SOTY from our chapter gives this explanation.

"There are 4 equal criteria - plant vigor, plant appearance, bloom features and bloom frequency. All 4 require 'family time' to make judgments about these features (the 3 year evaluation period). Many people see a beautiful bloom and think that single bloom should/might represent it's standing in the SOTY without considering the 3 remaining criteria."



**Shown is a contender for the 2025 SOTY hybridized by FRANK HEFFERNAN and grown by VALERIE COSTA
NEWS FROM HYBRIDIZER VALERIE COSTA**

Happy Friday!
Blooming today:

Frank's Last Hurrah from sort of a side view. The bloom is heavy compared to the stem. So far, I have 5 rooted for the SOTY competition for next year's convention (Including this one that I started a year ago.) Beth told me she has two more rooted for me. I have at least 8 more started and will start more in a week or two. Thank goodness I have a year to get them ready! I also hope to get some rooted to give to others.



Bob's Golden Angel x Imperial Dragon hybridized by Frank Heffernan

HERE IS WHAT A GOOD AND COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM LOOKS LIKE

CVname: Frank's Last Hurrah	Origin: USA Florida
Mother: Bob's Golden Angel	Color Group: Yellow
Father: Imperial Dragon [Not Registered]	Sgl/Dbf: Full Double
Hybridizer: Heffernan Frank	Reg/Mini: Regular
Grower: Costa Valerie	Date Registered: 2022-04-05
Size Range: Medium 6-7 inches or 15-18 cms	Set Seed: Seeder: Reluctant, Pollen: Normal, Ability to Root: Excellent (more than 90% takes), Performance: Own Root Recommended
Color: Color of Veining: Red, Color of Spots and Splashes: None, Eye Zone Color: Burgundy, Number of Colors: Three, Number of Rings of Color: None, Color of Stamen Pads: Yellow	
Bloom: Form of Bloom: Recurved, Bloom Features: Ruffled, Petal Overlap: Less than 1/4, Veining: Mild, Substance: Average, Duration: One Day, Presentation: Downward, Eye Zone Size: Small	
Leaf: Leaf Size: Medium 2-5 inches or 5-13 cm long, Leaf Appearance: Semi Glossy	
Bush: Bush Development: Slow Growing, Bush Size: Medium 3-6 ft 90-180 cm, Bush Width: 1/2 as wide as high, Bush Form: Open	
Photo Credit: Valerie Costa	

This information can be found at <https://internationalhibiscussociety.org/>
Click on NOMENCLATURE then on REGISTERED & NON-REGISTERED CVs.

This is a fabulous bloom! Anyone who receives one of Valerie's plants will be most fortunate.

**LET'S IMAGINE YOU HAVE HYBRIDIZED AND HAVE A GORGEOUS BLOOM!
TIME TO REGISTER IT. INFORMATION FROM MARTI GRAVES ON HOW TO:**

AHS no longer registers new varieties. You must do so via the International Hibiscus Society.
Here is what you need to do:

HOW TO ACCESS THE IHS DATABASE

Before you can begin to register new varieties you will need to login to the registration form. To obtain your own personal username and password, contact the administrator. Send your request stating your desired username and password to: cactusman003@yahoo.com. Once you have your login info you can reenter the registration form as many times as you wish.

Simply enter your username and password to access the automated registration form.

When you have accessed the form, please read the INSTRUCTIONS before proceeding.

The direct link to this after approval of your username and password is

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

Sorry for the confusion, I have been trying for years to get someone in the AHS to change the forms, and publish this process. Continue to make crosses and use this method to register your new "babies". **MARTI GRAVES,**

Therefore, when you want to register new hybrids, you must use this process. Save this info in case you ever have a plant to register.

BUDDY'S HYBRIDIZING with BARRY SCHLUETER - An excerpt from the interview

Q. Any advice you wish to give to new hybridizers?

A. Before you begin you need to understand the basics of the process and the timetable involved. Patience will ultimately be the key. Are you willing to wait, in many cases, 18 months or longer before you see a bloom? If so, identify a few individuals out there you can ask a few questions. Learn your blooms and those that could give you the best chances for success. Learn from other hybridizers what hibiscus varieties have worked best for them. Not all varieties are good parents. If you create something special, propagate it IMMEDIATELY. Don't wait! This has been my worst nightmare but I'm getting better. My closing comment would be, "Understand the process and then, Try it!" Remember that every flower you admire today started exactly this way. You never know when you might create the next "Seedling of the Year."

The Dreaded Hibiscus Pest ~ Scale!

In the last month we have had several hibiscus lovers send us photos asking us what, if anything, is wrong with their hibiscus. Both photos showed raised spots on the bark of the hibiscus plant. In one case, the spots were brown and the grower told him the spots were part of the bark.

Hibiscus bark is rough, but it almost never has large round bumps on it. It has shallow, vertical cracks and crevices. But round bumps are rarely part of the bark. If you see one bump on your hibiscus wood, you may not need to worry. But a few days or a week later if it is 2, 3 or 4 bumps, then you have a pest. This is brown scale, a pest that will slowly but surely take over your whole plant.

At the first sign of a round bump or white spot, grab a Q-tip and **Horticultural Oil**. In a pinch when you only have a few bugs, cooking oil will work, although it will stain the bark. Move the plant into the shade, dip the Q-tip in undiluted oil, and cover each bump with oil. The oil smothers the scale, kills it, and it drops off the plant. Check your plant at least once a week and treat every bump until they all disappear.

Snow scale is bright white and easy to see. White flies have a similar look though. To tell the difference, shake the plant. If the white bugs fly away, they are white flies. If they don't fly away, they are snow scale. Snow scale starts on stalks, and prefers bark. White flies start on leaves and prefer leaves. With bad infestations, both bugs will cover the entire plant, so always use the shaking test to be sure.

If your plant has too many scale bugs to treat one at a time, you will need to buy **Horticultural Oil**. Take your plants to a shady spot, or wait until evening, when there will be no sun on them for many hours. Use undiluted, or barely diluted hort oil, and paint or spray it only where the scale is. Avoid spraying or painting leaves if possible, since undiluted hort oil is hard on leaves.

Check your plants at least once a week, and keep treating until you don't find a single scale bug anywhere! When you get down to a few bugs, switch to the Q-tip method so you don't stress the plant.

Scale thrives in tropical locations, so if you live in a tropical place like Florida or Hawaii, or if you buy hibiscus plants from a tropical place, check your plants frequently for scale. Treating a few scale bugs is easy. But treating a severe infestation is very, very difficult. Knowing what to look for is the key!

INFORMATION FROM HIDDEN VALLEY HIBISCUS

news@hiddenvalleyhibiscus.ccsend.com

PLANNING YOUR FALL GARDEN by CATHY DUNN



If you are a transplant to SW Florida, you probably intuitively feel that now is the time to give your garden a final clean up and store your tools until spring. The good news is that the fun is just beginning! As our days shorten and temperatures start to inch down fall is the ideal time to head outside to enhance your established beds, nurture your trees and palms, and plant herbs and vegetables.

If your summer beds look a little bedraggled it is easy to brighten them up quickly with new bursts of color. Perennials such as crossandra, gerbera daisies and milkweed will provide color all year long and will also attract butterflies to your outdoor spaces. Annuals welcome cooler temperatures and will refresh your existing planters and beds; nasturtium, celosia, wax begonias, impatiens, alyssum, dianthus, and scarlet sage are excellent choices for incorporating annuals into your plantings. If you miss the traditional fall plants you have enjoyed in the past, you can add marigolds, mums or ornamental peppers; these plants are available at all local garden centers.

Fall is an excellent time to experiment with bulbs in the garden; September is the ideal month to plant gladiolus every 2 weeks to stagger blooming. You can also divide existing bulbs that need rejuvenation or to give away to friends! In October bulbs such as agapanthus, rain lily and Clivia Lily can be planted for blooms next spring or summer. Make sure you plant bulbs in a well-drained area and incorporate organic matter to our sandy Florida soil for best results; since we don't experience cold winters here you won't need to plant your bulbs deeply as you did in northern climates.

Since September temperatures remain warm, it is a perfect time to plant most of your favorite "summer" vegetables such as carrots, eggplants, summer squash, tomatoes, watermelon and peppers. Herbs that tolerate warmer temperatures (tarragon, mint, rosemary and basil) can be grown in beds or pots and will be a welcome addition to your fall cooking! In October, you can plant vegetables that thrive in shorter days and cooler temperatures, such as beans, broccoli, lettuce, spinach and green onions. A wide range of herbs can be planted now from either seeds or transplants; dill, fennel, parsley and cilantro are popular herbs for fall plantings. I always feel a bit smug when I post pictures of my fall vegetable and herb plantings while my friends up north are tuning up the snow blowers and getting the snow shovels ready!

The fall months also offer a great opportunity to incorporate new native shrubs in your landscape. Firebush, Dahoon Holly, Marberry and Beautyberry are selections that will provide berries for the birds and other wildlife. October is the last month of the year that fertilizer is recommended for trees and shrubs; a controlled release fertilizer is your best choice for maintaining nutrients over the next several months.

If you would like additional details and information on gardening schedules in SW Florida, there are two excellent resources available from the University of Florida: The **Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide** (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/VH/VH02100.pdf>) provides a detailed guide to recommended varieties, yield, spacing, and planting times, as well as guidelines for soil preparation, fertilizer, irrigation requirements, and pest control. The **South Florida Gardening Calendar** (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep452#SECTION_8) provides a month by month guide to "what to plant" and "what to do" to keep your gardens and lawn at their very best.

Enjoying time outside year 'round is one of the many benefits of living in SW Florida. With cooler temperatures and lower humidity, fall is the perfect time to improve your established plantings, incorporate new shrubs and plants, and perhaps start your first vegetable and herb garden. Take advantage of this beautiful season to venture outside and expand your gardening skills. As the famous American Botanist Luther Burbank stated: "Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

Cathy Dunn, Master Gardener Volunteer, Garden Club of Cape Coral Member, JEH Member

Cathy, who is a fairly new member, has gotten in to growing and showing. At the September meeting, she entered several blooms and won two categories; single and mini double!



BETH MEEHAN called the Chapter Meeting to order. The Pledge was completed, a moment of silence for 9-11 was observed. There were 30 people in attendance including new members, the **GOVES** and **TOM VEAL** who were acknowledged.

The May Minutes were approved.

BARB YEKEL gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance is healthy. The report was accepted.

The Member of the Year Plaque was presented to **KAY JANSSEN**. She has been a former president of the JEH Hibiscus Society and is our oldest member. She was presented with a gift certificate.

It was announced that the Garden Club of Cape Coral will be having a plant sale on October 22, 2022 from 9:00-2:00 at Rotary Park. Our chapter will have 350 hibiscus plants for sale. Set up will be at 7:30 so everything will be ready by 9:00. There will be two shifts, 9-11:30/11:30-2:30. Plants will be \$15 to members and \$20 to non-members. This will be our only sale this year (October-December).

Our Program was given by our knowledgeable members **MICKI DAUGHERTY, NANCY KOPP** and **BETH MEEHAN**. **BETH** talked about one pest hibiscus owners don't like: snow scale. It's a soft scale that armors itself. It can be on anything tropical. Wind and animals can carry this insect. It's difficult to get rid of:

- *isolate the plant from other plants
- *normal pesticides don't get through the tough covering
- *horticulture oil is the only thing that works

You can buy horticulture oil at Lowes, Home Depot, and similar stores. The affected plant(s) need to be removed to the shade as sun will burn it. Use a brush to cover ALL affected parts. Plants too far gone need to be bagged and thrown away. Mealy bugs are a form of scale.

MICKI and **NANCY** had a large variety of fertilizers they use with their hibiscus. It was explained what the numbers on fertilizer mean: Nitrogen/Phosphorous/Potassium. Hibisgain Fertilizer contains minor elements. **MICKI** uses granular and foliar products. She uses Super Nova , ½ teaspoon in 2 gallons of water in a sprayer, every day year round. One of her "recipes" is mixed in a 2 gallon sprayer: miracle grow, bloom booster, super nova, super thrive, calmag. She also uses fish emulsion to bring out the color.

TERRY MARTIN announced the winners of the Mini Show:

Double:	Red Snapper	NANCY KOPP
Single	T. Ultra Bright	CATHY DUNN;
Mini Double:	Pink Pride of Hankins	CATHY DUNN;
Mini Single	Dainty White	NANCY KOPP
Seedling:	- VALERIE COSTA ; Voo Doo- MICKI DAUGHERTY ; White Hot-	

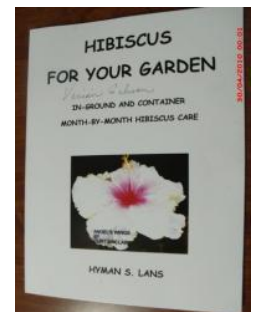
Respectfully submitted. **JOYCE YATES**, Secretary



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HY'S WAY FOR OCTOBER

- (1) Check plants at least weekly for pests/disease
- (2) Examine both sides of leaves
- (3) Determine what pest is present -a 10 power-magnifying lens helps
- (4) Use a systemic control as preventative.
- (5) Sooty Mold is not a disease. It is an indication of pest. Get rid of pest, wash leaves with stream of water.
- (6) **Correctly fertilized plants resist pests better**
- (7) Prune dead blooms and branches



OCTOBER MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

CATHY DUNN October 2
JOSEPH CHURNEY October 2
JACK BERNATZ October 5
PAUL YEKEL October 20
BARBARA OSTER October 25



CLUSIA as a Hedge Plant By **CLINT OSTER ASLA**

When I first started my Landscape Design Build company in 1988 it was very common to plant a Ficus hedge. But the Ficus was too popular for it's own good and eventually a host of deceases caught up with it. For those of us fortunate (or unfortunate) to still have a Ficus Benjamina hedge we now realize that it takes a lot of chemicals and insecticides on a regular basis just to keep it alive never mind it's appearance. Now one of my company's common requests is what to replace my dying Ficus hedge with?

I never have been a fan of hedges because they are boring green walls and take a lot of work to maintain. Why not plant a 'natural barrier' consisting of about 4 or 5 different types of plants that are encouraged to grow naturally instead of clipped into a hedge? These could be native plants that will attract butterflies & birds such as Florida Privet, Cocoplum, Simpson Stopper, Saw Palmetto, White Indigo berry, Beauty Berry, Firebush, etc. Of course feel free to add in an additional flowering plant such as Hibiscus or Ixora or even a fruiting plant such as a Barbados Cherry, Star fruit or a Papaya. Have Fun!

We get a lot of requests from customers to replace Ficus hedges with Clusia. If you are considering using Clusia you need to keep a few things in mind. Clusia (Clusia fluminensis) likes to grow very WIDE. This variety of plant is native to Brazil and in my opinion has not yet proven itself and should be used more sparsely. The wood is very flexible (which explains why they get roots sprouting from the trunk) so if we were to have a hurricane I fear they will not fare well. Clusia grows very fast so pruning regularly will be necessary. However, if you have the width to spare, the time to trim and you don't want to create a more varied and natural look, go for it. But please plant them at least two feet off the sidewalk, THANKS! CLINT

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JACK BERNATZ

October 2022,

Congratulations to all of you, it is so much fun watching the growth of our chapter and the increased level of activity both on the local and national level.

This month we've celebrated our Member of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, Kay Jansen, congratulations Kay! We have solidified our Saturday 10-22-2022 plant sale at Rotary Park. We will have 350 exotic hibiscus plants 35 varieties, 10 of each variety. This is a new venue for a sale, we know that our chapter is very flexible and resourceful, that will assure us a successful sale. Thank you all in advance for your help and support.

Our Holiday Party will be a new venue we will meet at the Whiskey Creek Country Club, once again we as a group are flexible and resourceful, we just know this will be a joyous occasion for all.

We are working on our sharing and caring for our community and our society, looking into donations to a food shelf on the local level, and helping another Florida Chapter of the AHS on a state level. Our monthly meetings are to include specific subjects of growing and caring for our Exotic Hibiscus, be sure and attend to gather many, in house tips on successful growing and care.

Hope to see you all soon,

Be sure and watch the website for additional information.

Stay Safe, stay healthy, JACK



