



# HENDRY HERALD

**JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER**  
**the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

**WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW** [hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://hendrychapterhibiscus.com) **APRIL 2023**

**SHOW TIME - APRIL 29!**

**OUR 70th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE**

**650 EXOTIC HIBISCUS FOR SALE - OVER 50 VARIETIES**

**ALL CURRENT PAID MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A \$5 PER PLANT DISCOUNT**

**BRING YOUR BLOOMS TO ENTER - MONETARY PRIZES FOR WINNERS**

Help the Chapter set up the show on April 28th and be eligible to buy plants that day

**AFTER** set-up is completed.

Beat the crowd - get first choice!

**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH; Sherrick Hall: 4701 SUMMERLIN ROAD, FORT MYERS**  
**BETH MEEHAN, Show Chairman**

## **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BETH MEEHAN**



Our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale is coming up April 28 and 29.

Marsha Crawford (marshacrawford@embarqmail.com) is scheduling volunteers. We need everyone's help!

Important announcements regarding plant sales:

Only CURRENT members will be allowed to purchase plants at the member discount. We will not sell memberships at the show and then allow people to immediately purchase plants at a discount.

Friday night volunteers may purchase their plants after set up.

Saturday volunteers may purchase their plants before the doors open to the public. There will be a hold table to keep your plants.

Members who are not volunteering for the show, may shop for plants Saturday morning between 10:00 and 11:00 AM. Please have your purchase complete and depart before 11:00 AM. If you'd like to stay to see the winners of the show, please plan on staying until 1:00. We do not want people who are standing in line to see plants going out the door.

Doors will be closed 12:00 – 1:00

### **APRIL MEETING**

This year Easter will fall on our normal meeting day of the second Sunday of the month. The only day that Garden Council was available as an alternate is Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Since our show will be the following Saturday, April 29, this meeting will be entirely about the show. There will not be any speaker or mini show. All volunteers should plan to attend. We will go over work assignments and answer any last minute questions.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2:00 PM Garden Council Headquarters.

*This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.*

Don't let this be our story!

We need help with the monthly meetings! We want the meetings to be full of fun, friendship, and maybe educational in the process. Here are the jobs that need help each month. If you would like more information on what is involved with these tasks or to sign up, please contact me at [bethmq2020@gmail.com](mailto:bethmq2020@gmail.com). It's your chapter, get involved and make us the best chapter in the world

Refreshment Committee   Plant door prizes   Program committee   Greeters at door   Photographer   sell 50/50 tickets  
Sell products at meetings (fertilizer, how-to books, clippers, etc)   Chapter shirt sales

**BETH MEEHAN, PRESIDENT**

DR MARY-MARGARET SHOAF	APRIL 3
BETH MEEHAN	APRIL 6
ELAINE MARTIN	APRIL 13
BILL BRYAN	APRIL 18
MARILYN MOORE	APRIL 20
LINDA FEWELL	APRIL 22
SANDRA GOVE	APRIL 23



**BUDDY SHORT - Grower and Hybridizer from Lafayette LA is listening to his new plants!**

**Here are a few helpful hints to keep me smiling throughout this summer....**

1...when I get to my new home, put me in a location that is not in direct sun. I was recently in a greenhouse environment so gradually expose me to direct sunlight. Putting greenhouse plants immediately into direct sun will cause leaf burn with your leaves turning partially white. The key word is gradually.

2...examine the bottom of my pot. For best results, my pot should always have plenty of drainage holes. The bottom of a 1 gallon Dupont pot has 16 holes. That, in itself, should tell you maximum drainage is necessary for best results. Do not put me in a saucer as I do not like "wet feet". Flip the saucer upside down, drill a few holes in the saucer, place the plant on top of the saucer, and use it as a way to get good air circulation under your pot.

3...I am a hungry plant so feed me in small doses but frequently. Use a balanced fertilizer or one that has a higher potassium reading (last number) I do not like a bloom booster or fertilizers that are high in phosphorous. **Try HIBISCUSGAIN, the fertilizer the James E Hendry Chapter sells.**

4...in South Louisiana (**southwest FLORIDA**) summers, I will probably need to be watered every day with even a possible cool spray in mid afternoon. Or look for some shaded areas to give your plants some temporary relief. As the temperatures start to cool off you should also taper off my watering. Too much moisture in cooler temperatures exposes your root systems to possible root rot or fungus. In South Louisiana (**FLORIDA**) we lose more plants to moisture than we do to colder temperatures.

5...for best bloom results I like to be slightly root bound. You can move me up to the next pot size however avoid putting me in a much larger pot if my size and root formation does not support that move. Pull your plant out of the pot, examine the roots, and then determine which next size pot would work best. Typically it's 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc. Gradually move up.

6...if I should become stressed I tend to show my displeasure by pushing out yellow leaves. I am either: too hot or too cold; too wet or too dry; getting too much light or too little; too much fertilizer or too little. Try doing just the opposite of whatever procedure you were trying. Again pull your plant out of the pot and examine the roots. Normally that will lead you to your next move.

7...I can stand a light freeze but if it is really windy and cold, I need to be brought inside where it is nice and warm. A greenhouse, garage, or inside room, are best so long as I can still have some light. Once the temperature gets consistently below 55 degrees then my blooms will be much smaller and less frequent. Even if it is not freezing outside a consistent cold North wind can suck the moisture from your branches and ultimately kill your plant. Block the wind if possible. (**REMEMBER THIS NEXT WINTER**)

## MORE OF BUDDY'S MUSINGS

I even got out my slow release granular and my water-soluble fertilizer and gave every plant a good application. I then watered it in. It's as though they were saying, "Thank you!" I even see a few leaves and buds forming. It won't be long.

As we wait for more buds to form and even some flowers to show up, there are still a few maintenance issues to deal with.

1..Check your name tags to make certain you can still identify the name of your plants. Just this morning, I relabeled about 20 plants. I was lucky as I got to them just before they were completely washed out. It's really no fun to not know what a plant is. Leave it to me to buy a replacement plant only to have an "unnamed" plant bloom and it's the original plant I thought I had lost. No wonder I have so many plants!!! That happens to me way too often.

2..Your second big issue is repotting plants and putting in some fresh mix and fertilizer for your root tips to grow in. I want to get them off to a fast start as I prepare for the upcoming show season. I have spent the last week repotting some of my existing collection and most of the recently acquired plants from the Dupont trip. (Mine, as well as the chapter plants) That takes time so get in a habit of doing this yearly before you have too many plants. Eventually as your collection grows that one task alone becomes overwhelming. Trust me.....that will happen.

Remember, Blooms are on the way.....**BUDDY SHORT from LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA (EDITOR'S REMARKS IN RED)**

## MULCH

In Florida melaleuca is a pest, especially in the Everglades and wetlands where the trees grow into immense forests. The problem with this is our native plants are being virtually eliminated. Melaleuca grows in upland area (drier) as well as in completely aquatic locations. The Everglades, the mostly treeless "river of grass," in some places has become the "river of trees," a completely alien habitat to the plants and animals that have evolved to live in the glades. During the 50 years since its introduction into the state, melaleuca has taken over hundreds of thousands of acres of Everglades, threatening the very existence of this internationally known eco-treasure.

**"Weed control is a year round battle in Florida landscapes.** Common methods for the removal of weeds are manual removal, spraying with herbicides and maintaining a sufficient layer of mulch. Maintaining a 3- to 4-inch layer of mulch helps to prevent weeds in the landscape by depriving the weed seeds of the sunlight they need to germinate.

Additional benefits of mulching are:

1. It helps retain moisture in the soil and reduces the need for irrigation.
2. It insulates the soil by keeping it warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
3. Mulching around trees under the drip line is beneficial for tree roots and reduces the likelihood to tree damage from weed whackers and lawn mowers. **Do not pile mulch up against tree trunks or plant stems.**
4. As much decomposes, it adds nutrients to the soil. Because mulch decomposes over time, it needs to be replenished yearly.
5. Mulching landscaped areas is aesthetically pleasing and gives the plant beds a uniform, well cared for look."

## GREEN TIPS provided by LCEC

Turn it off and save more! Turn off lights when leaving a room for 15 minutes or more. Turn off ceiling fans when not in the room and save an average of \$85 per year per fan.

Use cold water. Save up to 80% of the energy required to wash clothes. Only use hot water when necessary since it uses more energy.

Line-dry laundry when possible. Tumble-drying clothes uses large amounts of electricity, so use a clothes line or drying rack to dry laundry more naturally.

**A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.**

**A day without sunshine is like, well, night.**

**"A bell is no bell 'til you ring it, a song is no song 'til you sing it. And love in your heart wasn't put there to stay. Love isn't love 'til you give it away."** Oscar Hammerstein

**Old friends like old wines don't lose their flavor**

**A REPORT FROM GARDEN COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 10, 2023 from JOYCE YATES**  
Donna McGinnis, from The Naples Botanical Gardens, was our guest speaker.

\*Garden Clubs are more than growing pretty flowers.

\*They are scientific research, conservation, display and education.

\*After Ian there was lots of help from all over clearing debris and replanting appropriate storm resistant plants that minimize erosion and withstand winds.

\*Plantings were introduced to swales that don't have to be mowed and withstand storm surge.

\*Following Donna's talk, it was announced that yearly dues to member clubs will increase from \$35 to \$40. The Flower Show opens at 1:00 March 31, and all day April 1. Bring specimens Thursday 9-4 and Friday 7:00 A.M.-9.\*Garden Council received a \$5000 Grant after Ian.

## **JEH CHAPTER MEETING**

**March 12, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Meehan at 2:00. The Pledge was completed. Kay Janssen's niece, Ivy Ronan was visiting. She is from Chicago. Denise Helfrich's mother, Virginia Lawson, was also present. Patricia Myers, past JEH President, was present and rejoined our chapter.

\*Motions from the Board Meeting were read.

\*Barb Y gave the Treasurer's Report.

\*Micki Dougherty introduced our speaker, Heather Cook Gonzales. Her talk was "Secrets of a Flower Eater". She cautioned us to only eat flowers that we had grown or we were sure were safe to eat. Her associate, her mother, passed samples for us to try. Some flowers could be made into jam or could be sprinkled on salads. Using pansies on top of a decorated cake made a plain cake into a "WOW".

\*Beth asked anyone wanting door prize to take a ticket and place half of it in her basket.

\*This month's "Pests in the Yard" was on "Thrips". If hibiscus buds drop before blooming, check for these invasive insects. If buds are little it's gall midge, which is bright yellow. If the buds are big, it's thrips which are tiny winged insects. You need to collect/pick up ALL dropped buds, seal them in a baggie, and put in the garbage. Spinosad (Home Depot/Lowes) sprayed 3 times, 5-7 days apart will take care of them. Captain Jack's (Amazon) also works.

\*Under Old Business Beth reminded us of a need to modify our By Laws with the departure of former president Jack Bernatz. She reread the proposed change:

Terry Martin ran the flower show:

Amateur Single:  
Amateur Double  
Regular Single:  
Regular Double:  
Mini Single:  
Mini Double:  
Seedling Mini:  
Seedling Mini Double

**CATHY DUNN -**  
**DENISE HELFRICH**  
**MARSHA CRAWFORD**  
**TERRY MARTIN**  
**CATHY DUNN**  
**CATHY DUNN**  
none

Evanna's Joy  
Unknown  
Loyalty  
Untamed Heart  
Caribbean Pearl  
El Capitolio Sport

Seedling Regular:  
Seedling Double:

**MICKI DOUGHERTY**  
**DENISE HELFRICH**

Janelle's Autumn Topaz  
(Todd Alvis, hybridizer)  
Unnamed  
Unnamed



\*The meeting was adjourned, the 50/50 was completed. \$62 was divided between the treasury and the winner.

Respectfully submitted, **JOYCE YATES**, Secretary

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23 - SHOW PREP MEETING**  
**No speaker - no mini show - Meeting at 2:00**

## IDEAL HOUSEPLANTS by CATHY DUNN



Once you put away your holiday decorations do you feel that your house looks a little 'bare'? Have you found yourself longing for a diversion to the daily news? If you answered yes to either question, I have a rewarding suggestion – try your hand at houseplants! Growing plants indoors not only provides variety and beauty to your home, but studies have shown that caring for houseplants has a calming effect and reduces blood pressure. Houseplants not only look good, but they can also help clean the air and reduce dust.

The two primary considerations for successfully growing plants in your home are temperature and light. Most houseplants will thrive in temperatures between 65 and 75 degrees and should be located away from areas in your home that are warmer (television or heating vents) or cooler (air conditioning vents). Plants also require varying degrees of light to grow properly; there are plants that will grow in very low light such as philodendron, Chinese evergreen, Peace Lily or spider plants, and plants that require medium to bright light, such as African Violets, Boston ferns, or succulents.

When you purchase plants, you will probably notice light designations such as “bright”, “indirect”, “Medium”, “High” or “Direct Sunlight.” How do you use these somewhat vague descriptions to identify the appropriate spot for your houseplants? One of the best ways is to identify the direction of your windows; this will help you decide the ideal light situation for your plants. South-facing windows receive the most sunlight and are the hottest; these locations are ideal for blooming plants, cactus and succulents. North-facing windows receive the least amount of sunlight and are the coolest; plants such as ferns, begonias and Dieffenbachia do best in these cooler, shadier spots. East-facing windows receive direct light only in the morning and are cool with slightly more light than north-facing windows; lower-light plants such as peace lily, Chinese evergreen or spider plants will perform well in these locations. Finally, West-facing windows receive light in the afternoon and tend to be warmer and brighter. The same types of plants that thrive in South-facing windows will do well in West-facing windows.

There are many options to choose from when considering a new houseplant. The easiest, most adaptable houseplants are considered ‘old faithful’ plants that your grandmother probably had and that will easily survive neglect. Plants such as Pothos, Dieffenbachia, Moses-in-the Cradle, Snake Plant, and Clivia fall into this category and are widely available at garden centers. Then there are quirky, less common houseplants like cactus, unusual begonias such as the lily pad or angel wing, and prayer plants, that exhibit unique habits and colors but do not necessarily require extensive attention. And what could be more tropical than beautiful orchids or bromeliads? These plants can add color and texture to your décor and then happily thrive outside once they have bloomed.

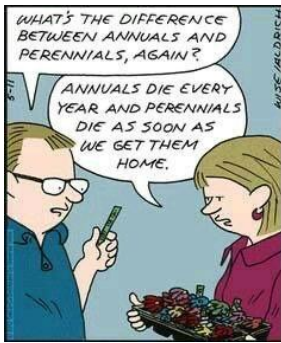
Houseplants need not be confined to the standard terracotta pot; decorative containers or even hanging planters can be used to enhance your houseplants. It is best to use well-draining soil/potting medium and water your plants sparingly. Make sure that all pots have drainage holes and use plant saucers to protect furniture from any overflow when you water.

The University of Florida website has a vast amount of information on the selection and care of houseplants. Check out all the details and suggestions at:  
<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/houseplants/>

No matter which plants you decide to try in your home, you will be rewarded with natural beauty and perhaps even blossoms and fragrance! Just remember the familiar adage: “The right plant in the right place” and you’ll have success with growing interesting and attractive houseplants. Luckily, you always have the option of relocating your houseplants outside in our SW FL subtropical environment without fear of frost – another great benefit of living in paradise!

**CATHY DUNN**, Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer, Garden Club of Cape Coral Member, JEH MEMBER

**70th ANNUAL SHOW - APRIL 29th - 650 HISBISCUS**



## HY'S WAY FOR APRIL

As spring arrives the harmful insects (aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and scales) also arrive. Check all your hibiscus plants at least **once a week** on both top and under surface of the leaves.

Use Bayer systemic protection. Use it now and again in six months. The reason to use it now before you find any insect infestation, is that it takes time for the systemic insecticide to reach the upper portions of the plant. You want the insecticide in the plant's leaves **prior to the insect's arrival**. The sucking insects (aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and scales) suck the plant's sap and ingest the insecticide which is fatal for the insect. Avoid using insecticide sprays which can kill useful insects such as bees

and lady bugs-the systemic fertilizer is safe for these useful insects as they are not sucking insects. If you want to spray, use horticultural soap or oil on the top and under surfaces of the leaves.

## Your Monthly Grow-zine

INTERESTING ON-LINE GARDENING GUIDE FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA.

[www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/grow-zine-march-2023.htm](http://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/grow-zine-march-2023.htm)

**Cut things back.** Normally it's best to wait till mid-March or later to do hard pruning of plants, but it looks like warm weather is here to stay. You can, of course, do a minor shaping trim any time of year.

You **MUST** water before doing any kind of hard pruning. I've killed plants in the past by forgetting this. Water at least an hour before cutting - or run your irrigation today and cut things back tomorrow.

**Feed your plants.** Our soil has no real nutrients so plants need fertilization now that the weather is consistently warm.

**Water once a week** if it hasn't rained. It's been very dry lately and people are writing to me that their plants aren't looking good, dropping leaves, yada yada...my first question is, "How often are they getting watered?"

**Look for bugs.** Take cuttings in sealed plastic bags to your local nursery for diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

**Moving plants?** Be sure to dig up as much of the rootball as you can. Because you usually can't get it all, the top of the plant will suffer unless you cut it back. It doesn't have as much root system as it did to support the rest of the plant. Cut before or after moving. I usually cut before to make the plant easier to handle. (Water at least an hour before cutting.)

Don't move a plant into a very different light situation right away. I often place dug-up plants in pots in a part sun or part shade spot even if they were in full sun to lessen stress. Once they've overcome the shock of being dug up, you can move the pot gradually into a sunnier location if that's where you're going to plant it. After it's adapted to the sunlight, plant with soil amendments and the same TLC you'd give a new plant.

**Keep it or not?** Some things just don't work anymore...or haven't looked their best in a long time. Don't feel guilty about throwing a plant away if it's not what you want.

And if you're re-designing, there will be existing plants that are out of place in your new plan. If you're going crazy trying to work it into your design, remove it. It could be potted up (following instructions above) and either moved to a different location or given to a friend



barbara oster, editor

TERRY & ELAINE MARTIN, MAILERS

**SHOW PREP MEETING-APRIL 23, SUNDAY, 1:00, GARDEN COUNCIL BLDG, NO MINI SHOW**