



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com JUNE 2023

JAMES E. HENDRY'S 70th ANNUAL SHOW WAS FABULOUS

Best of show

Single: Fantasy Charm - **VALERIE COSTA**

Double: Sweet Pink - **TERRY MARTIN**

Miniature: Bayou Rose - **TERRY MARTIN**

Seedling: Beth - **VALERIE COSTA**

Collector single: Polar Vortex - **MARSHA CRAWFORD**

Collector double: Marianne Charlton - **NANCY KOPP**

Open Collector single: Chi's Garden Roses of Palms -
MADELEINE DOUGHERTY

Open Collector double: Red Snapper - **MADELEINE DOUGHERTY**

Commercial single: Rum Runner - Frank and Karen Sullivan -
Green Acres

Commercial double: Crown Jellyfish - Frank and Karen Sullivan
Green Acres

Miniature single: Angel's Caress - Carl Powell - Punta Gorda

Miniature double: Pink Pride of Hankins - Krista Mathews - Cocoa

Regular single seedling - see best of show

Regular double seedling - Roslyn - **DENISE HELFRICH**

Miniature single seedling - Bonita Sunset - **VALERIE COSTA**

Miniature double seedling - Great Ball of Fire - **MADELEINE DOUGHERTY**

Sweepstakes:

Amateur: **LLOYD SIEGENDORF**

Collector: **VALERIE COSTA**

Open Collector - **MADELEINE DOUGHERTY**

Commercial - Frank and Karen Sullivan

James E. Hendry Award: Untamed Heart - **TERRY MARTIN**

Where no address was given, the member in bold print was from JAMES E.

HENDRY CHAPTER entries: 174 gold seals: 66%



TOP 4 BEST OF SHOW



TERRY MARTIN WINS THE COVETED JAMES E. HENDRY AWARD



BEST OF SHOW SEEDLING "BETH"

hybridized by VALERIE COSTA (BETH'S SISTER)



MARSHA - CATHY



JILL



MICKI



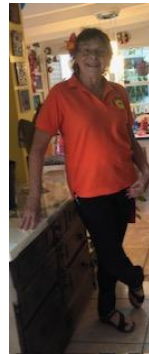
JOYCE - AMY - BETH



JUDGES AND CLERKS



LLOYD DENISE MICKI



KATHI



JIM



VALERIE



TERRY - ELAINE- NANCY



SALES TABLE READY FOR CUSTOMERS

THESE ARE JUST A FEW PICTURES FROM OUR 70th ANNUAL SHOW and PLANT SALE. GO TO www.hendrychapterhibiscus.com FOR THE COMPLETE PACKAGE OUR WEBMASTER, CATHY DUNN, HAS DONE A SPECTACULAR JOB MAKING OUR WEBSITE THE BEST IN THE HIBISCUS WORLD! VISIT OFTEN!

A NOTE ABOUT SHOWING BLOOMS - AMATEUR STANDING

from TODD ALVIS, PRESIDENT AHS

Just so you know, if you compete in any shows this year you will have this year as one of your two years as amateur. It goes by show seasons, not years. I did the same thing. I skipped my first show then was told during the show that it goes by years. Todd



Member and Landscape Architect CLINT OSTER has his 4 1/2 year old grandson drawing hibiscus! Little Clint Oster is taking after his Opa with the flower drawings.

MUCH REQUESTED SALAD RECIPE FROM PICNIC

Cathy Dunn brought to the picnic as her dish to share, a **5 INGREDIENT SUMMER SALAD** and was asked to share her recipe. Here it is!

- 1 Bag Shredded Cole Slaw (cabbage with carrots)
- 1 bunch scallions
- ½ bag frozen peas, thawed (NOT cooked)
- Honey Roasted Peanuts
- Poppy Seed Salad Dressing (I like Briannas)



Thinly slice white portion of scallions; combine with cole slaw mix and peas. Dress with poppy seed dressing and sprinkle honey roasted peanuts on top. CATHY DUNN

HY'S WAY FOR JUNE



Lubber Grasshopper (*Romalea guttata*) As June approaches so does the adult Lubber Grasshopper. It is important to hibiscus growers as an adult can eat an entire hibiscus plant within several days. It is easy to recognize due to its large size and unique coloration.

The Lubber Grasshopper can reach 3 inches in size and is bright orange with red and black markings.. It is native to Florida. It goes through several stages. In the nymph stage it is smaller than the adult, wingless and is black with yellow stripes. This coloration warns birds that it is poisonous. Since the adult's wings are short they do not fly but jump short distances. In both the adult and nymph stages, they eat plants and can be devastating to hibiscus. Look for them in your garden. They can easily be seen due to their bright distinctive red, yellow and black coloring. They should be destroyed. Poisons are of little use and the insect needs to be beheaded or crushed. The adults mate and eggs are deposited in the ground to arise as nymphs in the following April or May. Their presence can be detected by leaves eaten along their edges.

DR. HY LANS, author and Master Gardener



JAMES E. HENDRY ANNUAL PICNIC ATTENDEES!

Great food and informative and interesting demos. Good time! Valerie, Marsha and Micki did a short program. Micki talked about nicking seeds, setting up a plant matrix, using a dome to keep seeds and baby plants warm. Valerie showed some plants at various ages, her favorite potting medium, and gave away some plants, Last Hurrah, through a raffle and Marsha showed rooting.

The 2023-2024 election of officers was held. Nominating committee presented the years slate, no further candidates came forth, the officers and board were elected and installed. Your officers and board for 2023-2024 year are BETH MEEHAN, President; CATHY DUNN, Vice President; JOYCE YATES, Secretary; BARB YEKEL, Treasurer; CAROLYN ESTEP, DENISE HELFRICH, NANCY KOPP, BARBARA OSTER, WANDA SCHMOYER, Board Members.

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

CATHY DUNN



Growing up in Southern Virginia, I remember hearing my grandmother and mother talk about a magical plant – the Night Blooming Cereus. The plant took on a mysterious aura for me, especially since I never saw one either at a friend's home or for sale in a garden center. But recently a friend acquired a cutting from a fellow garden club member, and when she was giving away plants before moving back North, she asked if I wanted any of her plants. I excitedly said "I'd love a piece of the night blooming cereus!" I inherited the entire plant, which I promptly put into a very large pot to keep on my lanai. Then I added a trellis to the pot because the plant seemed to be growing overnight and it appeared intent on climbing. I knew the plants usually flower after several years in a pot, so I somewhat ignored my new treasure, other than watering it regularly.

Imagine my surprise when 5 buds appeared! The buds were tiny at first, then seemed to grow exponentially. Three buds didn't progress very well and dropped off, so I was left with 2 buds to observe. Each day I was amazed at how much the buds grew overnight; pale pink 'tendrils' embraced the growing white inner flower. After about 3 weeks, the buds were 6 inches long and one morning I noted a slight 'opening' of the buds. I wasn't sure how long it would take the buds to fully open, but I suspected that it would be within a day or two. During the day I marked the progress of the buds and decided that they would open that night. At dusk, the flowers were beginning to swell and open, and by 9 PM they had opened. The scent was intoxicating! By midnight the flowers were fully opened, and when I walked through the sliding door to the lanai the sweet scent from those two blooms was overwhelming. The next morning, the flowers were closed and over the following days they slowly wilted and fell off the plant. (I have since learned that you can pick the flower at night and store it in the refrigerator so you can admire it the next morning!) Since I had seen the beautiful 'show', which I believed was an annual event, I decided that I would place the rapidly growing plant in the garden so it could expand at will. Then I noticed more emerging buds! I now have 3 buds that should probably flower in the next 10 days and I'm looking forward to another spectacular evening performance.

The Night Blooming Cereus is a type of orchid cactus native to rain forests, where it grows high in the trees. As it grows in a riot of tangled 'leaves' the plant can reach 10 feet, which is why a trellis is often recommended. As a member of the cactus family, the cereus plant does not have true leaves. The plant produces pencil shaped stems that allow the plant to climb, and flattened stems that resemble and function as leaves. 'Leaves' that have been on the plant for 2 active seasons produce the flower buds, which form on the indentations of the notched 'leaves.' In most areas the cereus is a houseplant that enjoys summers outside, but here in SW FL it thrives year-round in our subtropical climate. The plant requires bright light, preferably morning sun as the stronger afternoon rays can burn the 'leaves'. The cereus should be planted in well-draining soil and allowed to dry between regular watering. A water-soluble fertilizer is recommended during the spring, although I have never applied fertilizer and my plant is growing at warp speed. The cereus is a classic 'pass-a-long plant' and can be propagated by easy to root cuttings.

The Night Blooming Cereus has proven to be a highlight of my gardening adventures here in SW FL. After hearing of this mystical plant for my entire life, I am elated to have finally acquired a cereus plant and to be rewarded with blooms so quickly. I hope that you will ask for a cutting if you know of a fellow gardener with a Night Blooming Cereus; you will undoubtedly be as fascinated as I have been watching the progression of this magical plant!

Cathy Dunn is a member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral and a Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer and James E. Hendry Vice-President

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of MARGARET KRATT IMPERATORE on May 18th. In 1998, MARGARET was the President of our James E. Hendry Chapter. She was an avid gardener and a good friend.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT, BETH MEEHAN

Wow! Our 70th Annual Show and Sale was AWESOME! Many thanks to the 30 volunteers who made it happen!

Now that show season is over, it's time for summer fun and relaxation. I hope everyone takes some time to be with family and friends to enjoy summer.

I hope, however, that you will save some time to spend with your hibiscus family. I have reserved our Garden Council headquarters for June 11, July 9, and August 13 for us to get together and talk about our favorite flower. Summer is a tough time for our plants and I think it would be great to have a chance to talk to each other about what is going on in our gardens. These meetings will be informal ... no office reports, no mini shows, no votes on any business issues.

However, there will be a topic for discussion and you are welcome to participate or just sit back and listen. See additional information about the June topic below. I hope to see you in June. If not, I hope you are enjoying whatever you are doing.

JEH CHAPTER GET TOGETHER!

June 9th – Cuttings Swap

Time: 2:00 PM at the Garden Council Headquarters. Bring a snack to share.

Our first summer meeting will be a cuttings swap. At the picnic, Marsha Crawford demonstrated a couple of procedures that she uses to root cuttings. We will continue our conversation about rooting cuttings. Beth Meehan will give a grafting demonstration for those varieties that are difficult to root on their own.

Cuttings you bring to share should be labeled. Use a piece of masking tape or painters tape and write the name of the variety using a sharpie, pen, or pencil. Place the tape around the cutting, and have the tape adhere to itself. Wrap a damp paper towel around the cut end and put it in a zip lock bag. Each cutting should be labeled with its own piece of tape, but more than one cutting can be placed in the same zip lock. Place the cuttings in your refrigerator. Cuttings are better if they are fresh, so the closer to the meeting that you cut them, the better. If you cut them several days prior to the meeting, make sure the paper towel stays damp.



As an aside, Beth is very interested in propagating older varieties of plants. If you have a plant in your yard that is more than 10 years old, or one that you haven't seen in a long time, she would love to have a cutting. Remember, every variety is a unique hybrid.

Once the last plant dies, that variety is extinct. Let's not let that happen!

There will be get-togethers in July and August also on different subjects.

This cuttings swap will be fun for anyone who wants to start their own plants. Get expert advice at each of these meetings. JOIN US JUNE 9th. Don't forget to pay your dues!

SCOTT DOWNING	JUNE 1
THOMAS VEAL	JUNE 2
CHERYL COOK	JUNE 11
JACK LURIE	JUNE 14
KATHI LURIE	JUNE 23
JANE SURDI	JUNE 23
DIANNE ZINSZER	JUNE 25
CATHY BALAS	JUNE 25



DEALING WITH THIS 90* WEATHER

TODD ALVIS ADVICE

Water every day and sometimes twice in full sun hot day. Try some in afternoon shade. It helps with heat stress.. I released 6000 lady bugs in my back yard last year over a month time. I got them from Amazon in 1500 count packs. Since then, I have had three visits from aphids and each time the ladybugs came in and wiped them out. FYI.

BUDDY SHORT ADVICE

Make sure you water the original root ball when you add water and make sure you get water out of the bottom of the pot. Even if the pot looks moist, the root ball will be dry if sun has hit the plant for a day. I have shifted 4" pots to 5 gallon grow bags and successfully grown them to very big plants. The more roots a plant has, the bigger it will grow. Realize that you are growing roots at first, so be patient. Try afternoon shade. I have seen it help.

I cover my grow bags in a white/black poly grow bag to help the bag stay cooler and hold the moisture in. I use a 10 gallon plastic bag for a 7 gallon grow bag.

The plastic grow bags are on Amazon.

ANOTHER METHOD OF ROOTING YOUR CUTTINGS by Yvonne Forsling

Sooner or later comes the day when you look at your hibiscus and say: "I wonder if I can get more plants of this particular hybrid myself?" and sometimes you can. Here's how I do it:

1. I root new, also called green, wood cuttings in water. That means the bark is still smooth and green in color (or reddish for varieties with red bark such as Pride of Hankins). Semiwoody cuttings work too but really old wood does better rooted directly in dirt. It seems keeping it in water makes the mature bark start to rot and thus damages the new roots.

2. Cut the plant material in pieces of 4-6" (10-15 cm) in length but no shorter than 3" (7.5 cm) and preferably no longer than 10" (25 cm).

3. Remove most of the leaves but save 2-3 for oxygen uptake. If the remaining leaves are large cut them in half across.

4. Pour 1-2" of warm (body temperature) water into a container. Add a few drops of hydrogen peroxide to discourage microbes from multiplying in it.

5. Place the cuttings in the water.

6. If desired place a sprig of willow (*salix* spp.) in the water together with the cuttings. It releases a natural rooting hormone that will aid root development

7. Situate container in a light place but not in direct sun as that will dry out your cuttings.

8. Change the water about once a week and continue adding the hydrogen peroxide each time. Also remove any fallen leaves or other debris from the water as it will start to decay and make the water unsuitable. If at any time the water becomes murky replace it and rinse the cuttings thoroughly.

9. Callus (white little bumps on the stems) will begin to appear in a week or so. The amount of callus formation does not indicate the amount of roots. Sometimes roots form with very little callus, sometimes you get excess callus and little or no roots.

10. Real roots are discernible from four weeks and onward depending on the season and variety. These will come from the callus and the bottom edge of the cutting

11. Leave the plant in water until the roots have started to change from white to a light tan. This occurs about 2 months after "sticking" but can take up to 3-4 months, again depending on variety and time of year. The roots are now hard enough to plant in dirt without breaking.

12. Plant in your regular hibiscus soil, if possible one containing coco coir rather than peat, as coco doesn't have the unhappy tendency of peat to shrink when dry. Avoid planting your cuttings in pure peat - always mix in humus rich material with it.

Since I'm in Europe my potting soil for hibiscus is a ready bought mix that contains peat, composted manure and composted bark. I blend these in rations of 2/5 soil, 2/5 bark and 1/5 manure. If your mix seems to hold too much water add some perlite and/or vermiculite to the final potting mix. My plants seems to like it anyway. I don't use a bag over the newly planted cuttings, have not found that it's needed. However, do not put the new pots in direct sun until the plant has firmly established itself which takes 2-4 weeks usually. Success rate depends on variety. For Double Red, Pride of Hankins and Brilliant the success is close to 100%. For some other varieties much lower. Please note that some exotic varieties won't root at all but have to be grafted.



DUES ARE DUE

TIME TO REJOIN!

Please send your 2023-2024 dues of \$40 to

BARB YEKEL

5541 HAMLET LANE

FORT MYERS FL 33919

PLEASE PRINT

NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

Birthday (date & month) _____

Your membership includes such benefits as advice from some of the best growers and hybridizers in the USA at our monthly meetings; the quarterly hibiscus society magazine "SEED POD"; the monthly house newsletter; Hibiscus fertilizer at discounted prices; an annual Holiday Party and an annual picnic. When you joined this past year, you wanted to grow bigger, more beautiful hibiscus. Continue your journey. Come and learn with us!

PLEASE JOIN TODAY

MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO AHS (American Hibiscus Society)

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30

THANK YOU

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID, THANK YOU. IF YOU'RE NOT SURE CHECK WITH BARB byby1313@gmail.com
or BARBARA barbaramo@earthlink.net