



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com **JULY 2023**

HAPPY 4th



JULY GET TOGETHER – SUNDAY, JULY 9 – GARDEN COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, SEVERAL WISE MEN WROTE SOME BASIC INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW FOR HEALTHY HIBISCUS.

THANKS TO John Webster and Bernard Pages:

Hibiscus growth and care, give them;

Plenty of Sunlight

Good Soil - \$15.00 plant in a \$30.00 hole

Moisture - Good soaking once a week for an established plant

Mulch to conserve moisture and cool the soil

Fertilization - Give a balanced diet

Prune - Shape and encourage new growth

Be watchful of any pests.

Plant some Garden Varieties in your yard for wonderful color and easier care. A few are:

Albo Lacinatus, Brilliant, El Capitolio, Fort Myers Yellow, Hawaiian Salmon, Jim Hendry, Painted Lady, Pride of Hankins, Psyche, Schizopetalus, Sylvia Goodman, White Versicolor, Anderson Double Yellow Red, Cynthia, Elephant Ear, Jane Cowl, Dainty Pink, Mary Morgan, President, Seminole Pink, Snow Queen.
(EDITOR'S NOTE: Add Neela's Orange to the list. Easy to grow-BEAUTIFUL BLOOM)



JANE COWL



PAINTED LADY



FORT MYERS YELLOW



SEMINOLE PINK



SNOW QUEEN

These are but a few of the wonderful garden varieties.

RIGHT IS STILL RIGHT EVEN IF NOBODY'S DOING IT. AND WRONG IS STILL WRONG EVEN IF EVERYBODY'S DOING IT.

TEXAS RANGER CREDO



CLINT OSTER JULY 7
JIM YATES JULY 19
TERRY MARTIN JULY 24
DEBBIE SOWARD JULY 25

LIFE IS GREAT.

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car.

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

When I was a child I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it".

I don't have gray hair... I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

At my age "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

HY'S WAY FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

In this hot weather hibiscus need at least an inch of water twice a week. To determine if your sprinkler is delivering that amount place several cups in the garden area and run the sprinkler for 15 minutes. If there is now 1/2 inch of water in the cup you need to run the sprinkler for a half of an hour to deliver one inch of water to the area. Also to determine if you are getting water to the plant take an 18 inch stick (like a plant stake or dowel rod) and stick into the ground to see how deep you are watering by the wetness on the stick.

With hot weather, it is important to have at least 3 inches of mulch to keep roots cool and the garden area watered. Do not fertilize until you have watered the plants and water again after fertilizing to avoid burning the roots.

If you have leaves that are chewed, use snail bait (from Lowes, Home Depot or local hardware). Remember if there are ants on your plants, you may have aphids. If so, treat with horticultural oil or horticultural soap and repeat twice, one week apart to kill the new generations.

Most important, after all your work on your garden, sit and enjoy your garden with a cool drink and relax.



A garden shows that you have faith in the future. HY LANS



DO YOU BELIEVE IT'S HURRICANE SEASON AGAIN?

Here are the names for this year's devils:

ARLENE; BRET; CINDY; DON; EMILY; FRANKLIN; GERT; HAROLD; IDALIA; JOSE; KATIA; LEE; MARGOT; NIGEL; OPHELIA; PHILIPPE; RINA; SEAN; TAMMY; VINCE; and WHITNEY

In the early days of meteorology, storms were named with a latitude/longitude designation. This was difficult to remember, and difficult to communicate, which caused errors. So, during the Second World War, military meteorologists began to use women's names for storms. The naming method was so productive that in 1953 it was adopted by the National Hurricane Center. INFO FROM LCEC

USING EGGSHELLS TO FERTILIZE SOIL

Eggshells are rich in calcium and also contain phosphorus and magnesium—all nutrients plants love. So next time you make scrambled eggs or carbonara, rinse out the shells to remove any membrane, then set them aside. Once they're fully dry, store them in an airtight container. When you've amassed a collection of about 18 eggs' worth, grind them into a fine powder in a blender, then sprinkle them on top of the soil around the base of your plant.

MARTHA STEWART in REAL SIMPLE

BUDDY SHORT on WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING NOW!

Buddy is the very knowledgeable hibiscus guru from the MIKE BERNARD ACADIANA CHAPTER in LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA. His knowledge of hibiscus is legendary.

Many of you are faced with maintaining new purchases throughout our brutally hot summer months. Most of you know that I have always felt trying to care for plants in one-gallon pots through our June, July, and August temperatures is practically impossible unless you have the time and desire to water your plants on a daily basis. Our current temperatures are once again validating my belief. I'm sure you are experiencing the same time. If you haven't already, **IT'S TIME TO REPOT.**

We all have some yellow leaves and maybe even some critters on our babies. Both are common occurrences right now, so be on the lookout for both of those and then as quickly as you can, do something about them. Remember that yellow leaves can be natural and nothing more than a leaf change. On the other hand, right now it's probably a sign of an extreme situation. It could be too much fertilizer or not enough. Too wet (I doubt it) or too dry (probably). Too hot (yes) or too cold (laughable), etc. It could also be a sign of an insect infestation. Examine your plants and look for little signs of what might be happening and then take action.

In the years past I've always tried to write this short article about "what's going on with your plants, right now!". Based on what I see happening in our yard, I'll examine two things that we will all be dealing with for the next several months, "proper watering and insect issues".

Proper watering is always an issue in our yard just because of the wide variety of plants in different sized pots and location in our yard. Our smaller pots cannot go without water for a single day, so around mid-afternoon I'm cranking up the hose for an afternoon cool down spray. I like to set the hose nozzle on "flat" and spray away. It should be noted that this does not take the place of watering my potted plants.

The best example of this technique is a short article from our friends at Hidden Valley Hibiscus, Charles and Cindy Black. They wrote:

SURVIVING SUMMER HEAT

Use water to cool your plants. A daily shower during the hot part of the day is one of the best ways to quickly cool your hibiscus plants. If you do a thorough showering job, spraying up under all the branches, leaves, stems and all around the trunks, you will also prevent most pests from ever getting started on your hibiscus. Hibiscus thrive in places like Hawaii where it rains every day, so providing a daily rain shower is optimum care. In extreme summer heat, though, this kind of shower is NOT the same as watering your plants. The water from the shower will evaporate very quickly, cooling the plants in the process, but it won't get down deep into the ground and water the roots!! A daily shower will never take the place of watering your plants. This needs to be in addition to deep watering your plants. Think of a shower for your plants like a shower for humans. It is necessary and healthy, but it does not replace all the water that we need to drink during hot summer days. A shower is no more a drink for a hibiscus than it is for humans.

Be sure whatever watering technique you use that you are getting down to the root tips. If you are not sure, then don't be afraid to remove your plant from the pot and examine the roots. You'll be amazed at what you find. It may be necessary to water again. Remember the saying, "lots of leaves, lots of water, few leaves, little water."

And if all else fails, get yourself a 5-gallon bucket, fill it with water, and submerge your plant until all air bubbles have gone away. Try it. It works too.

INSECT ISSUES

To me the number one insect issue for HIBISCUS is spider mites and how you control them. I contend that we never really get rid of spider mites 100%. We all continue to have spider mites to some degree. Where we differ is how we control them. To keep mine in check I do two things. First, I love to power wash my leaves by putting my hose nozzle on jet spray and blast away. This blasting gets under my leaves which I feel is very important. I do this often at this time of year. Second, I get out my Triazicide (my choice of product—there are others just as effective) for a hose attachment and spray away. Since I have a large hibiscus collection, spraying with a hose attachment for me is necessary and less time consuming. I don't wait to see evidence of spider mites. I spray primarily as a "preventative". I KNOW the mites are present, so I just spray away. One of the main reasons I use the hose attachment is I like the idea that the excess systemic spray is leaching down

into my potting mix and killing any egg larvae that are present in my mix. Why not kill it before it becomes completely active? That makes perfect sense to me. Maybe that's one reason why my mites seem to be under control. I like the sound of that.

We have other insect issues however I will only address mites. To find out about other critters in our area and what they look like go to our chapter website at www.acadianahibiscus.com and read up on Hibiscus Doctor on the Caring tab. This is one of the best articles with pictures I have ever seen. Do it now if you are serious about this hobby. It's that important.

Conclusion...during June, July, and August...1) do a better job of watering your plants and make sure you are getting water down to the plant roots. And if all else fails, submerge your entire root ball until the air bubbles are completely gone. 2) practice preventative maintenance and start power water blasting your leaves and spraying your collection before you see evidence of serious insect issues. Remember they are there. It's all about control.

Next month we're going to discuss feeding our babies during the summer and what the elements in our fertilizer are all about. Hint: Yes, I do fertilizer in the summer heat.

Good blooming everyone.....Buddy

www.hendrychapterhibiscus.com

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE LATELY?

Cathy Dunn, our web mistress has been updating our website to make it a better resource for our members and also to attract visitors. She has recently added a "Member's Blooms" section where our members can showcase their blooms; if you have a bloom you'd like featured, just email a picture to Cathy so your blooms can be recognized! Our monthly meetings and recent picnic at Lakes Park are featured with pictures under the 'Events' tab, and the 'Annual Show and Sale' tab features pictures of our show and sale and a video of the head table. All of the 2023 shows that our members attended have been highlighted under 'Events', along with pictures of our members and their winning blooms - we have really won many Best Blooms this show season! Cathy also plans to add a section on our Chapter's History under the 'About' tab. Are there other items that you would like to see featured on our website? We want our website to reflect our member's interests, so please send any suggestions or ideas and pictures of your blooms directly to Cathy. cathy.dunn53@gmail.com

Also, if you are on Facebook, don't forget to check out our JEH Chapter Facebook page. We are constantly adding new members to our page, and Todd Alvis regularly shares videos and tips to our Facebook page. This is a great way to attract new members and to publicize our show and sale. You'll find that if you post on our page that your Facebook friends will visit to see what's going on in the JEH Chapter - it's a wonderful, free way to spread the word about our Chapter!

THE BEAUTIFUL HIBISCUS by CATHY DUNN

The tropical hibiscus is one of the most recognizable and familiar of all tropical flowers. A member of the Malvaceae or mallow family, (the word hibiscus comes from the Greek word Hibiskos meaning mallow) the tropical hibiscus is related to the rose-of-sharon, the hardy hibiscus grown in northern areas, okra, cotton, and hollyhock. Tropical hibiscus originated in Asia and the Pacific islands and is the national flower of Malaysia; a native species of hibiscus is the state flower for Hawaii. Hibiscus varieties are available in thousands of colors and combinations of colors, and blossoms range from 2" in diameter to 10" or even 12"! Flowers are short-lived and symbolize youthful or delicate beauty or perfection; in China the hibiscus is associated with wealth, glory or fame.



We are fortunate to live in a semi-tropical climate which is perfect for cultivating hibiscus. Hibiscus are generally easy to grow in Southwest Florida, and reward the gardener with beautiful blooms virtually year round. There are, however, some basic guidelines that will help you attain success with hibiscus in your garden.

- Where should I plant hibiscus? You can grow hibiscus in your garden beds or in pots; wherever you decide to plant your hibiscus, well-drained soil with organic materials is essential.

- What factors affect hibiscus performance? To ensure optimal performance of your hibiscus plants, sun, heat and water need to be properly balanced.
 - Sun: Hibiscus can thrive in full sun and need at least 2 hours per day of direct sunlight to stimulate blooming. If you plant your hibiscus in pots, you can move them around in the garden to a less sunny location during the warmer weather, and back into more full sun when temperatures cool.
 - Heat: Heat will also influence blooming; during the hot summer months, flower production will diminish, and plants may drop buds before they can bloom. The balance of sun and heat will affect your hibiscus; during times of higher temperatures, your plants will need less sun. Since our climate is both hot and humid, a partly shaded location is often ideal for the hibiscus; one of the advantages of planting in pots is that you can experiment with locations in your garden to see where the plant is happiest.
 - Water: In hot weather, hibiscus require a steady and abundant supply of water; however, pots should never stand in saucers full of water. If hibiscus plants do not have enough water, they will develop droopy leaves; the solution is easy - just add water! During the cooler winter months overwatering can encourage the development of fungus diseases, so it is best to water less often.
- Feeding: Hibiscus need regular feeding to provide the nutrients necessary for beautiful blooms. Look for fertilizers with lots of potassium, small amounts of phosphorus and medium amounts of nitrogen: 17-5-24 is a good target. There are a number of fertilizers available that are specific to hibiscus plants – always remember to read and follow directions.
- Pest Control: Many pest problems can be solved by spraying your plants with a water hose. There are many safe treatments for specific pest problems and your local nursery can advise you on the best options available.
- Pruning: A hibiscus shrub can grow up to 15 feet, but regular pruning will stimulate branching and flower production since hibiscus form buds at the end of each branch. In Southwest Florida, fall is a great time to prune since it stimulates root development and will encourage strong blooms in spring and summer.

Adding hibiscus to your gardens will reward you with beautiful blossoms and give your home a vibrant tropical flair. Once you discover the many unique varieties available you just might find yourself addicted to these flashy beauties!

. Sometimes
I need expert advice.

CATHY DUNN, FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER, VICE PRESIDENT, JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER
Member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from BETH MEEHAN

We kicked off the summer meetings with a great cuttings exchange party. Thank you to everyone who participated. Hopefully, everyone learned something about propagating their hibiscus and are encouraged to give it a try themselves. It's the only way we are going to keep some of our older varieties alive. Remember, each variety is unique and once the last plant dies, it is extinct.

Along these lines, the Harry Goulding chapter has an award at their annual show for the best bloom of a plant that was hybridized by Harry Goulding. Does anyone have a variety that was originally hybridized by Jim Hendry?

I've researched the International Hibiscus Society data base and there are 52 cultivars that list Jim Hendry as the hybridizer. Unfortunately, most of them don't have pictures, but there are a few that we may be able to find.

So, here is the list of Jim Hendry hybrids. If you have one or know where there is one, please let me know.

Butterball – yellow, double mini
Delores del Rio – pink, double mini
Double psyche – pinkish red, double mini

Carnation – dark red, double mini
Double pompom white – white, double mini
Fort Myers yellow - yellow, single mini

Full Moon – yellow, regular double
Myrna Loy – purple, double mini

Mrs. James E. Hendry – yellow, regular double
Naples – red and white, single mini

Hope to see you in July at our next summer get together.

JULY GET TOGETHER – SUNDAY, JULY 9 – GARDEN COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS

It's summer time – that means BUGS are thriving!

Join us for a round table discussion about different pesticides and their uses. Valerie Costa, Micki Dougherty, Cathy Dunn, and Nancy Kopp will tell us what they use to keep their plants bug-free and healthy during the summer months.

Gather at 1:30, discussion begins at 2:00

Please bring a snack to share. Drinks will be provided. **BETH**

AHS CONVENTION 2023



This year's winner of the prestigious SEEDLING OF THE YEAR (SOTY) award of the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY is SACRED FIRE. SACRED FIRE was shown by Matt Martindale and hybridized and grown by PUSHPA SURESH of India. #2 is BAYOU GOULA from Dupont Nursery and Father Robert Gerlich. #3 is DeDe'S CHERRY BOUNCE from Todd and Janelle Alvis. #4 is PURPLE STARLIGHT from Todd and Janelle Alvis.

VALERIE COSTA has grown FRANK'S LAST HURRAH from seed that FRANK HEFFERNAN hybridized. It produces lovely double blooms and is in the running for a future SOTY. FRANK and BONNIE HALL have moved to Melbourne FL but continue their membership in JEH. They met up at convention and Valerie presented FRANK with a huge FRANK'S LAST HURRAH for his Melbourne garden.



A few pictures of convention goers receiving their awards and enjoying themselves.

barbara oster, editor TERRY & ELAINE, mailers

IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER FINAL CALL!

JULY GET-TOGETHER - SUNDAY JULY 9 - LEARN ABOUT BUGS! - GARDEN COUNCIL 2:00