



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com SEPTEMBER 2023

SALE ALERT!

WHERE: ROTARY PARK, 5505 ROSE GARDEN ROAD, CAPE CORAL

WHEN: OCTOBER 21, 9AM TO 2PM

WHAT: 180 BEAUTIFUL TROPICAL HIBISCUS PLANTS FOR SALE!

HOW MUCH: \$15 TO MEMBERS

A NICE COOL DRINK FOR THESE HOT DAYS!

FROZEN HIBISCUS MARGARITAS

1 cup sugar

1/2 cup dried HIBISCUS flowers (available from Amazon)

1 1/2 cups silver tequila

3/4 cup triple sec

3/4 cup fresh lime juice (about 8 limes)

Kosher salt

Combine the sugar, hibiscus and 1 cup water in **saucepan**.

Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and cook, stirring, until the sugar dissolves. Transfer to bowl and refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Combine the tequila, triple sec and lime juice in a pitcher. Strain the cooled hibiscus syrup into the pitcher. Stir and chill 30 minutes.

Run a lime wedge along the rims of 8 glasses and dip the rims in kosher salt. Blend half of the tequila mixture with 4 cups of ice until slushy. Transfer to a separate pitcher and repeat. Serve in the prepared glasses, garnish with lime wedges.

Call Barbara to drop by and sample your finished product!

RECIPE FROM HGTV Magazine



I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.

At age 20, we worry about what others think of us ... at age 40, we don't care what they think of us ... at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all. Ann Landers

As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of....it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Have you ever listened to someone for a minute and thought "Their cornbread isn't done in the middle."

Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time," isn't the correct response.

Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think "That can't be accurate."

CHAPTER GET-TOGETHER

On August 13, the James E. Hendry Chapter held the last of their summer informative get-togethers. 27 people gathered to hear **MARSHA CRAWFORD** give a hibiscus talk about sharing different products that will encourage root growth, eliminate deficiencies in hibiscus, and help planting in the heat..

September 10 will resume regular meetings.

MEMBER BOOK INFORMATION

CORRECTION: In the 2023-2024 member book, **ELLIOTT MASCOOP'S** phone number is incorrect. His cell is 239-298-1339 and there is no land line. **RIVKA MASCOOP'S** email should read rmascoop@gmail.com

COUMIER, BRYCE & BRENDA email is brendacourmier@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS & REJOINING MEMBERS:

AREY, CHARLES & GINETTE, 3827 Sugarelli Ave, Cape Coral, 239-772-5228
ginettearey@yahoo.com

LOTT, DAN & HOLLY, 14800 Johns Lake Road, Clermont, FL 34711
Dan dlott1960@msn.com Holly hollyhills0712@yahoo.com

Sorry for the typos. IF you find an error in your member yearbook, PLEASE let me know. barbara oster, editor of member book barbaramo@earthlink.net

READY FOR THAT NEXT HURRICANE? FROM RIVERLAND NURSERY

Plan Ahead to Protect Plants!

Hello friends! There is a need to ensure your landscape is protected from strong storms. During Hurricane Ian, Riverland suffered serious damage despite our best efforts to prepare and plan for the worst. However, weaker storms may wreak less havoc assuming you have taken the necessary steps to help prevent major damage. Here are a few tips to help save your plants (and money) during and after a hurricane:

- Thin out dense canopies, remove cross branches, and remove dead wood from large trees
- Remove any staking material from trees before storm impact to avoid tree trunks snapping - allow the tree to blow over, and then stand up and re-dig after the storm
- Lay decorative/clay containers on their sides against the house to avoid breaking
- Small shrubs and flowers that sustain damage should be cut back and pruned to shape - spraying with a foliar fertilizer can help provide critical nutrients to plants that are flushing out
- After the storm, remove any dead plant material from the landscape - insect and fungal issues can develop if decaying plant material is left in your planting areas

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BETH MEEHAN



Greeting to all!

I hope everyone is staying cool! It's hard to believe the kids are back to school and summer is about over.

I hope everyone enjoyed our summer get togethers. This is the first year in recent times that we have met during the summer. I would love to get feedback from you. Should we do this next year? Should we do something different? Please let me know.

My email address is bethmg2020@gmail.com

It's time for us to begin our regular schedule of meetings. So, in September, bring your blooms as we will be having a Mini Show. This is a place for all of us to share what's blooming in our yards. I'm

always in awe when I see all the blooms we have. Especially the variety! Every show has blooms that I haven't seen before and want to have – if I only had more room!

We will also begin our 50/50 fund raiser. This money goes to pay for the newsletter. Postage, paper and ink have gone up just like everything else, so bring a few dollars to support the chapter. Who knows, you may be the person who takes home the winning pot!

Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Beth

YOU'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE!

by CATHY DUNN

SW Florida is a rapidly growing region of our wonderful state, and it is estimated that 6 out of 10 new Florida residents move here from other states. The Cape Coral/Ft. Myers Metro Area has the fifth highest growth rate in the nation according to Census figures, so we are welcoming many new residents from outside Florida every day. The physical beauty of our area is no doubt one of the major factors influencing people to relocate here, but it can be challenging to adapt our former gardening practices to the requirements of a year-round growing season in our subtropical paradise!



While many residents may long for the evergreens, spring bulbs and wildflowers they enjoyed in their previous homes, I invite you to experience the abundance of subtropical plants and native species that will flourish here in SW Florida. It is not difficult to create a beautiful landscape that doesn't require a great deal of maintenance if you just consider the governing principles of successful gardening in our unique climate.

In Florida your garden can experience vastly different conditions depending on the season. Florida is not called "The Sunshine State" purely for marketing purposes - most of our days are bright and sunny. As the angle of the sun changes, areas that are shaded in winter can be in full sun during the summer months. The seasonality of our rainfall can also affect your landscape; the dryer winter months give way to abundant rain in the summer that can cause soggy areas. And our soils are sandy, which allows rapid drainage during summer rains but also discourages water retention in the winter months. Because sandy soils also dissipate nutrients more readily, fertilizer requirements may be different.

So how can you best adapt to the new Florida environment that you may feel is so alien to your previous gardening endeavors? The most important consideration for gardening anywhere is to select the right plant for the right place. Observe your garden at different times of the day throughout the year to determine which areas are shaded and which receive more sun. Since some areas may be in full sun in the summer and more shaded in the winter, look for plants that will tolerate a sun/shade mix. Your local garden center can help you identify these plants. If your sandy soil dries out quickly and produces plants that appear below par, your best option is to add organic matter, such as compost, to the soil. Compost not only helps retain moisture, but it also promotes the retention of nutrients and encourages the growth of beneficial microorganisms that are vital to your plants' health. Mulch is also an easy way to help cool the soil, preserve moisture and prevent weeds – and it makes your garden beds more attractive.

One of the best ways to learn more about gardening in SW Florida is to visit the University of Florida IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) Extension Website. www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu. You'll find a wealth of resources here, including various Lawn and Garden Topics, Handbooks, and FAQs. Extensive gardening information for Lee County can be found at: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lee/?topic=home-landscapes>

Compared to your previous home, the SW Florida environment may seem quite different and challenging, but don't be afraid to experiment with the beautiful exotic plants that thrive here. Rather than wishing for the familiar plants you grew before, you can cultivate an exciting landscape that has a 'sense of place.' After all, the graceful palms and vibrant tropical flowers that grace our area surely influenced your decision to make SW Florida your new home. Reflect your joy at being in SW Florida in your garden!

Cathy Dunn, Florida Master Gardener

Garden Club of Cape Coral Member and JEH VICE PRESIDENT

DAMON VEACH discusses various hibiscus colors

Hibiscus can be found in a number of colors - pink, red, yellow, orange, white, lavender/purple, and multicolor. I have an old list of varieties that can be classified in these color ranges. Of course, none of these are the newer varieties. Many here have been more or less forgotten because most growers tend to go for only the newer varieties. Today, I'd like to spotlight those in the lavender/purple range, and all of these are very old - Black Beauty, Marguerite, Myrna Loy, Sweet Violet, and Dolores (Dolores del Rio). Here today is Myrna Loy in the lavender/purple category. Enjoy.



There are a number of hibiscus varieties in the red category. Brilliant is probably the best known in this group which also includes Psyche, Molly Cummings, Schizopetalus, El Capitolio, John Paul Jones, Snow Queen, and Cooperii. Enjoy the wonderful Brilliant.

I have explained this week about two of the categories that hibiscus fall into - white and lavender.purple. Today I want to touch on the pink group. Probably the most commonly recognized of this group is Seminole Pink. There are many others including Amour (an old LSU variety), Mary Morgan, Texas Star (Pink Versicolor), Peachblow, and Cile Einney to name a few. One of the very best from Dupont Nursery is Sweet Pink. Have a great day. Think Pink.



Earlier I posted a picture from the Lavender/purple category. Today, I will introduce you to some major white blooms. To represent this group, here is White Wings. There is another bloom that is often called White Wings, but it is really White Versicolor. If you put the blooms side by side you can immediately see the difference. In this case, I really believe those individuals selling plants know that White Wings is more appealing than White Versicolor - or so that is my personal opinion. Others in this category are Bridal Veil, White

King Kalakaua (Elephant Ear), Lutea, Byron Metts and White Dainty (Shirley Temple). Enjoy White Wings, the very first hibiscus I purchased from the Hart's Nursery here in Baton Rouge.

The yellows are varied. The most famous one is FORT MYERS YELLOW hybridized by James E. Hendry. Saffron Moon and Saffron Sun, both hybridized by Dupont Nurseries are also great yellows.

Besides all these lovely single colored blooms, many have combinations of multi colors. You can pick the color of your hibiscus garden!



DON'T FORGET 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 you 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

EVEN THOUGH THIS ADVICE HAS BEEN PRINTED BEFORE, IT CAN'T BE SAID TOO OFTEN

THINGS TO REMEMBER AFTER BUYING PLANTS AT OUR OCTOBER PLANT SALE SAGE ADVICE FROM HIDDEN VALLEY HIBISCUS' WEBSITE

GREENHOUSE PLANTS WILL SUNBURN BADLY IF PUT DIRECTLY INTO SUN.

Greenhouses are intensely hot places in the summer, so hibiscus have to be protected from the kind of 120°F (49°C) temps that build up in them on summer days. This means, almost all greenhouses grow plants under shade to protect them from getting cooked in the high heat. So although hibiscus end up loving to be in the sun in typical summer temps in the more moderate or cooler parts of the world, they do have to gradually get used to the sun or they will burn. Sunburn is both ugly and stressful for the plant. The sun burns big white spots all over the leaves, making it hard for them to photosynthesize and produce food for the plant. **In order to prevent sunburn, hibiscus need to start in bright shade, then be inched slowly out into the sun, a little further each day, over the course of a couple of weeks.**

BABY PLANTS CAN STRUGGLE OR DIE IN THE GROUND.

Although some very experienced hibiscus gardeners can be successful with putting baby plants straight into the ground, we strongly caution novice growers that a high percentage of baby plants can die if put straight into the ground. Hazards that barely affect a tough, older plant with a large root system can kill a tender baby plant with a tiny root system. Sudden frosts, extreme heat, pouring rain, insect pests, gophers, and even cute little animals like deer and bunnies can destroy a young plant in minutes. **It is much safer to pot baby plants up to a pot that is one size larger and grow them outside in their pots for at least their first few months, and in many cases, for as long as their first year.** Then if anything goes wrong, you can scoop up the pots and move them to a safe location very quickly.

REMOVING SOIL FROM ROOTS IS A SURE WAY TO KILL HIBISCUS.

Some plants have very hard, tough roots and survive bare-rooting, although even for the toughest of plants, it is still at least somewhat stressful. But hibiscus have soft, tender roots. No matter how gently you try to remove the soil, the tiny, root hairs at the ends of the roots will be scraped off by the soil - and these are the living, functioning parts of the roots! Even soaking and swishing the roots in water very slowly and gently to remove the soil damages these tiny root hairs. Any disturbance breaks them off or makes little cuts and wounds in them. Once these root hairs are damaged in any way, the entire root system will slowly start to die. It may not happen fast. We've seen it take as long as 6 months or more to fully kill the plant, so people usually don't realize that removing and replacing the soil was what actually did kill the plant. Each tiny spot where a root hair was scraped off, broken, or damaged is a microscopic sore on the roots of the plant in the same way that small cuts on a human could kill him with infection in the days before antibiotics. Imagine if there were small cuts all over every part of the skin of a human! This is what we do to hibiscus when we remove the soil! It is an extreme assault on the plant. Each of these many tiny wounds leaves the plant open to germs that enter the roots, and these germs very slowly grow inside the roots, spreading slowly through the entire root system, until they eventually kill the plant. We cannot say this strongly enough: **NEVER remove soil from the roots of hibiscus! Disturb the roots as little as possible when you transplant. Transplant only when necessary and handle the root ball as gently and quickly as possible**

DROUGHT & FLOOD WATERING INCREASINGLY STRESSES HIBISCUS.

Hibiscus do best with a small, even amount of water every day. Drying out, even briefly, stresses the plant. Frequent cycles of drying out can actually damage the roots. Then when you flood the plant with water, the soil is suddenly very soggy, and the drought-damaged roots now experience a bit of drowning damage too. When you repeat this cycle over and over, the root damage increases to the point where microbes in the environment can easily enter the roots and slowly spread through them, eventually killing the plant. **Water a little bit every day or two so the soil always stays moist. For potted hibiscus, make sure any excess water trickles out the bottom of the pot and does not stand in saucers. For hibiscus in the ground, make sure the soil is moist, but not squishy or soggy. If a pool of water builds up in a well at the base of the plant, make sure it drains away in less THAN an hour.**

REPOTTING by AN EXPERT, BUDDY SHORT

I'm moving a 1 gallon plant to a 2 gallon pot.....I go through the same routine when I'm moving from a 2 gallon to a 3 gallon

1. I remove the plant from the pot and examine the bottom roots. I then gently unraveled or rough up the bottom roots.
2. I then place approximately 2 to 3 inches of potting mix in the bottom of my new pot and sprinkle in some of our chapter granular fertilizer.
3. Next I shake the pot until I no longer see any of the fertilizer.
4. I then place the plant in the new pot and fill in with my potting mix of choice and sprinkle in some more granular fertilizer over my top layer and shake in.
5. My final two steps are to cover the top of my mix with some pine bark mulch. Currently I'm using a very fine mulch (Soil Conditioner) put out under the trade name Gardenese. This keeps my plants looking nice and neat and in my opinion keeps them cooler throughout our summer.
6. My last step is to examine my labels to make certain I can still "easily" read my markings. If not then you know the next step.

Again this is my method to best maintain my plants during our extremely hot months of June, July, August, and even September. If your plants are struggling in our summer heat then either find them some shade or do something to help them maintain some moisture throughout these dreaded months. Topping them off with some mulch will help.

For any additional questions please contact me at any time....Buddy

Hurricane Pre-pruning

Hurricane season started in June, but as the summer progresses it starts to kick up more. Healthy trees are a key part of making sure your home and landscape are ready should a hurricane head your way. When in doubt, look for a certified arborist to prune your trees. As far as palms go, avoid anything called "hurricane pruning" as this will do more harm than help to your tree.



September What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall.

Bulbs: Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks to stagger blooming. Stake each plant.

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil.

Vegetables: September opens the door for more vegetables to plant. Cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli

Shrubs: Consider placing native shrubs, like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly, where you can view the birds that enjoy them.

What to Do

Lawns: Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month.

Fertilizer Bans: Numerous municipalities in southwest Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). Check to see if such an ordinance exists in your area

Vegetable gardens: Prepare the fall vegetable garden if not done in August. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose.

Perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to planting beds and monitor water needs during establishment.

Irrigation: Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off.

Citrus: Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen because rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly.



