



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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

OCTOBER is from the Latin OCTO, "eight" - the 8th month of the early Roman calendar.

OCTOBER 28th is the FULL HUNTER MOON! October's full Moon rises just before sunset and sets around sunrise, so this is the only night in the month when the Moon is in the sky all night long.
FARMER'S ALMANAC

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 \$20 TO NONMEMBERS

Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

-Anthony J. D'Angelo



CATHY DUNN, James E. Hendry's MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2023

Cathy was named as the 2023 Member of the Year at the September 10th chapter meeting. Cathy writes a monthly article for our newsletter, she is our webmaster, our Facebook administrator, chapter vice president and she volunteers for any job that needs done. She is a real asset to our chapter. Besides all she does for us, Cathy writes a monthly article for the local paper Cape Coral Breeze, she is a master gardener and the vice president of the Cape Coral Garden Club. She sometimes writes for the Fort Myers News-Press and works closely with Stephen Brown, a local extension agent. Cathy is one busy woman, always ready to lend a hand. She has begun hybridizing hibiscus and is learning to graft. She is well deserving of the 2023 Member of the Year.

**The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched.
They must be felt with the heart."**

There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor.
CHARLES DICKENS

JEH Hibiscus Society Chapter Meeting

September 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Meehan. The Pledge was completed. Members, new members, guests, and visitors were welcomed. There were 28 in attendance. Paige Laphan, Jenn Douglas, and Terry Young were introduced.

Our speaker, Sandy Salzman, is a Master Gardener, and spoke on "Butterflies". Her talk was accompanied with pictures of many beautiful Florida butterflies, their host plants, and the stages of a butterfly's life, egg, larva, chrysalis, BUTTERFLY. Monarch butterflies in our area can develop OE disease with deformities in their wings. From the end of October to mid November cut the stalks of milkweed to the ground as the disease is in the stem. The Zebra Longwing is our state butterfly and corkystem passionvine is the host plant. White penta and red penta are nectar plants for these butterflies.

The business meeting began: Cathy Dunn is our administrator of Facebook online. She also is our Web Master and vice president of the chapter. For her many hours devoted to JEH she has been awarded MEMBER OF THE YEAR!!

Changes in the Bylaws were shared with the members, questions were called for, and a vote to accept will be at October's meeting.

Nancy Kopp moved and Barb Yekel seconded the motion to change the annual Show and Sale to April 6, 2024 at Covenant Presbyterian at a cost of \$250 per day. Marian Hall will be cancelled. The Sale will open at 1:00.

October 21, 9 to 2 at Rotary Park is our next sale. 18 varieties of hibiscus will be available.

Pictures of the plants offered can be found online at hendrychapterhibiscus.com

We had a mini show organized by Terry Martin.

Amateur Single	Sonny's Passion	JULIA MURRAY
Amateur Double	Pride of Hankins	CHRISTINE PETERSON
Seedling	Jim Hendry x Chi's Garden Rose in Palm	VALERIE COSTA
Mini Single seedling	Rainbow River X Tahitian Ultra Bright	VALERIE COSTA
Mini Double seedling	Samba Dancer	VALERIE COSTA
Single	Into The Deep	MARSHA CRAWFORD
Double	Hawaiian Salmon	NANCY KOPP
Mini Single	Orange El Capitola Sport	CATHY DUNN
Mini Double	Fire Cracker	NANCY KOPP

Several donated plants were raffled: Respectfully submitted, **JOYCE YATES**, Secretary

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. Bayer Tree Garden Granule 1 time a year.
- (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

Invest a little money in high-quality garden tools; they do a much better job and will last longer than inexpensive tools.

Sharpening Hand Pruners

Sharpening hand pruners is very similar to sharpening shovels and hoes.

Loosen the pivot bolt and separate the blades. Don't forget to clean off any rust or dirt. Place cutting blade in the bench vise or clamp. Make sure the blade is positioned so that you can put the proper bevel on the cutting edge, and follow the steps above.

Find the appropriate angle for the bevel. Remember, it is best to follow the factory bevel that was on the blade initially.

Now, place the blunt blade in the bench vise. Make sure the blade is positioned so you can work on the inside of the curve. Using a round or half-round smooth file, file the edge of the curve perfectly flat. It is critical that you file this edge at 90° to the inside of the blade. Again, move the file in only one direction and avoid short, jerky strokes.

Use 300-grit sandpaper and oil afterwards.

A properly sharpened tool can make a job much easier. Sharp tools help save time and effort. If you are patient and have the right equipment, putting a sharp edge on your landscape and garden tools is not difficult. However, if you are not comfortable sharpening these tools yourself, professional sharpening services are available to put a keen edge on your tools.

BASIC HIBISCUS

Article from an old newsletter

With proper maintenance and routine care, hibiscus plants will reward with lush, tropical flowers and foliage. Here are some guidelines for caring for hibiscus:

- They should be planted at least four feet apart, preferably more. They do not perform well when maintained as a hedge and mechanically sheared.
- They should be maintained at the desired size by hand pruning one third of the tallest and thickest stems to about six inches off the ground. The remaining stems can be lightly pruned to shape the plants. By repeating this technique regularly, the plant will continually send up new stems from the bottom and there will be beautiful, new blooms on the stems that were not removed.
- Hibiscus require a minimum of a half day of sunshine for optimal health.
- They will require regular fertilization, ideally four times a year, with a controlled release fertilizer containing micro-nutrients.
- Hibiscus need well drained soil and require regular irrigation. They do not tolerate standing in saturated soil.
- Hibiscus are prone to chewing and sucking insects. They are also susceptible to several diseases. Homeowners should be prepared to address these issues if they arise.

My Hibiscus is Green and Healthy But it's Not Blooming

Hidden Valley Hibiscus [news@hiddenvalleyhibiscus.com]

Many times per week we get email from hibiscus lovers asking us how to get their hibiscus plants to bloom, so we thought it might be helpful for us to address this issue for everyone.

First, if your hibiscus is making buds, but the buds discolor and fall off before they open, this is a separate issue ~ a little bug called "*thrips*." If your hibiscus is green and healthy, growing just fine, but does not make buds, then read on. If a healthy, large, mature hibiscus is not blooming, it is almost always one of two problems:



- **Not enough sun**
- **Not enough potassium**

Frequently it is both these problems at the same time! Fortunately, both problems have simple solutions.

Increasing Sun

If your plant is in a pot, it's easy to move it into more sun. The difficulty comes if it is planted in the ground in a shady place. But even getting 1-2 extra hours per day of sun to your plant can make a difference in getting it to bloom. So get creative and see what you can do to make the sun hit your plants.

If your plant is near a shade tree that blocks the sun, you don't have to ruin the tree by severely cutting it back. Just trim the ends of a couple of branches to open up a window of sunlight that will hit the plant during the blooming season. If you have a longer blooming season, the window will need to be bigger to accommodate the shifting sun. But there's no need to cut back the whole tree canopy.

If your plant is on the north side of your house under an eave, it will naturally grow outward toward the sun and away from the house. If you can let it grow out far enough to get direct sunlight for at least a couple of hours every day, it will help it start blooming. Any sun is better than no sun, so let those branches stretch out to get what they need. In scorching hot places, a little bit of direct sun each day may be all the plant can take and enough to get it blooming, as long as it has plenty of potassium.

Avoid digging a plant out of the ground and transplanting into a sunnier spot. You run a very real risk of killing the plant if you do this. If none of these sun solutions will work for you, try using more potassium before you consider moving your plant.

KAY JANSSEN AUGUST 7
CONNIE POSL AUGUST 10

DENNIS DOWNING SEPTEMBER 8
DEBORA OSTER SEPTEMBER 13
CAROL PENIARD SEPTEMBER 19
PAIGE LAPPAN SEPTEMBER 22

CATHY DUNN OCTOBER 2
JACK BERNATZ OCTOBER 5
JILL BRESLIN OCTOBER 6
DAN LOTT OCTOBER 19
PAUL YEKEL OCTOBER 20
BARBARA OSTER OCTOBER 25



Your editor has been asleep at the wheel for the last several months. Sorry.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT **BETH MEEHAN**

Greetings!

Our first official meeting for 2024 was held on September 10. I hope that everyone who attended found the meeting fun and educational. We had time to spend looking at some of the beautiful blooms that were entered in the mini show. We also had time to socialize and enjoy the goodies that our members brought.

This fall, I would like to emphasize showing blooms in flower shows. The first show of the 2024 season will be in February. Each meeting we will be discussing some aspect of being an exhibitor at a show.

In our mini shows, we vote on the bloom we like best. However, the judges will be grading our blooms based on different standards. The "You be the Judge" activity let everyone judge the example blooms based on these standards. I hope to see you at our next meeting, October 8th. If you have any questions or comments about our meeting, I'd love to hear from you.

BETH



OCTOBER 8 - 1:30 - 2166 VIRGINIA AVENUE - CHAPTER MEETING - DRINKS FURNISHED - BRING A SNACK TO SHARE

Join us at our next meeting, October 8, 2023

The hibiscus we know and love, *hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, is not native to Florida. It's not even native to the United States! So how did it get here? How did the American Hibiscus Society begin? What about our own chapter? How did it get started?

Beth Meehan will try to answer these questions and more as she presents a brief history of *hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. Please join us.

YOU BE THE JUDGE

Judges look at the following STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE when judging blooms. Each standard is worth two points. A score of 9-10 receives a gold ribbon, 7-8 receives a blue ribbon and, 5-6 receives a red ribbon.

FORM: Refers to shape and symmetry of petals. A bloom that is asymmetrical may receive a Gold Seal award if such is typical of that variety.

SIZE: Refers to size of blooms from average garden-grown plants and not necessarily to oversized blooms.

COLOR: Refers to colors typical for normal warm-weather blooms, as that is when colors are the truest.

SUBSTANCE: Refers to the normal material of petals for that variety and includes freshness of texture. Thin or soft texture is not desirable if due to poor quality for that variety.

CONDITION: Refers to damage from:

W Weather

I Insects and Disease

S Spray

H Handling



CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF
THAT 'FRANK'S LAST

HURRAH' Hybridized by FRANK HEFFERNAN, Grown by VALERIE COSTA

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, "Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" Or, "This is a fine kettle of fish!" we discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

. Where have all those great phrases gone? Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! (Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!)

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth.

See ya later, alligator! After a while crocodile. Oki-Doki artichokey!

PLANNING YOUR FALL GARDEN

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, Marlberrry 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/pdffiles/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, and it seems especially important now as so many of our other activities are limited. 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 VP

