



# HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



## HY'S WAY for NOVEMBER

November is a good time to plant hibiscus. They will have a chance to develop good root systems before cold weather arrives. Remember that the two biggest reasons for failure in planting hibiscus are:

- 1) **PLANTING TOO DEEP.** The plants should be planted at the same level as they were when in the pot.
- 2) **THE PLANT IS "POT BOUND" IN THE POT.** When you remove the plant from the pot make a deep cut in the four quadrants of the roots and loosen the roots so that the roots spread out. This gives the plant room to spread out its roots. It is also important to modify the soil by adding peat moss or manure so the plant is placed in a mixture of **ONE PART MODIFIER TO TWO PARTS SOIL.** Be sure to water the planted hibiscus well at the time of planting to remove any air around the plant...plants need soil, not air to survive. I water newly planted hibiscus daily for at least a week after planting.

**CHECK YOUR PLANTS ONCE A WEEK FOR BUGS AND START TREATMENT BEFORE THE PROBLEM GETS OUT OF HAND.**

SIGNS OF PEST INFESTATION and TREATMENT

**Whiteflies** – White mess on leaves. White-colored flies on or near plant. Shake the hibiscus plant and there will be a cloud of visible white flying insects.

**Aphids** – Brown, white, green or black small insects on buds, flowers or leaves. They attract ants. **CURE -** Horticultural soap or oil

**Spider Mites** – Mottled increasing number of yellow leaves. Using a magnifying lens, find fine webbing at end of yellow leaves. In bright light you can see them with magnifying lens. **CURE -** Heavy stream of

water. Repeat 3 – 5 days apart. Bayer Rose Garden Insect Killer (**Imidacloprid**) or **Ortho Rose Pride**

**Orthonex (hexkis miticide)**

**Thrips** – Buds discolor and fall off before blooming. (be it 1 or 100, the name of this bug is thrips just as you have a hibiscus or you have 75 hibiscus).

**Midges** – Buds turn bright yellow and are small and fall off.

**CURE -** Bayer Systemic and Bayer Rose and Garden Insect Killer spray, Neem oil, Conserve

**Mealybugs** – Small white cottony spots on leaves and stems or anywhere on the plant.

**CURE -** Prune all parts of plant involved. Dispose in sealed bag. Bayer Systemic and Bayer Rose and Garden Insect Killer, Ultrafine Oil, Neem Oil, Orthene

**Sooty Mold** – Sucking pests (**APHIDS, MEALYBUGS, WHITE FLIES AND SCALES**) suck sap from leaves and then excrete plant sugars on the leaves. This excretion ("honeydew") is food for black mold which grows in it and discolors the leaves. Sooty mold is not a disease. It is indicative of sucking pest invasion.

**CURE -** Get rid of the pest and wash off leaves with strong stream of water.

**All plants should be treated with BAYER ADVANCED TREE AND SHRUB INSECT CONTROL SYSTEMIC at least every 6 month as a preventative against pests and should be repeated as indicated above for an infestation. Be sure to use gloves**



MRS, JAMES HENDRY



RUTH WATSON



JIM HENDRY

The bloom Mrs. James E Hendry was hybridized and named for Helen Johnson Hendry, his wife, by Jim Hendry - both were among our founding members.

Ruth Watson was hybridized by **DALE DUBIN** and named for long time member Ruth who was **WANDA SCHMOYER'S** mother. **DALE DUBIN** is still one of our members and is quite well known for his wonderful hybrids that live on.

Jim Hendry was registered in 1958 by L. K. Thompson.

### JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

October 8 , 2023

President **BETH MEEHAN** called the meeting to order at 2:04. The Pledge was completed. There were no visitors, but we had new members present: **PAUL AND SUSAN FECHTMANN.**

\*The Minutes were approved as published.

\***BARB YEKEL** gave her monthly treasurer's report.

\***KAY JANSSEN** suggested that in the future our Christmas Party be on a Sunday since that is the day of the week we hold Chapter Meetings.

\*President **BETH** repeated several Bylaws introduced in September for a vote in October: All presented Bylaws Passed. See the changes on the last page of newsletter.

\***WANDA SCHMOYER** explained what gold, blue, and red awards entail.

\***BETH** did a presentation of the taxonomy of hibiscus. "Albo" is one of the hibiscus cultivars dating to late 1700's to early 1800's.

We will have 180 plants at our October 21 sale at Rotary Park. **CATHY DUNN** has the plants listed on our website, [hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://hendrychapterhibiscus.com).

MINI SHOW run by **TERRY & ELAINE MARTIN**

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Amateur Single  | Evanna's Joy          |
| Amateur Double  | Jane Cowel            |
| Single          | Polar Vortex          |
| Double          | A Mother's Dream      |
| Mini single     | Dainty White          |
| Mini Double tie | Pink Pride of Hankins |
|                 | Pink Pride of Hankins |

- CHRISTINE PETERSON**
- BRENDA COURMIER**
- MARSHA CRAWFORD**
- NANCY KOPP**
- NANCY KOPP**
- NANCY KOPP**
- WANDA SCHMOYER**



Submitted by **JOYCE YATES, Secretary**



EVANNA'S JOY



JANE COWEL



POLAR VORTEX



A MOTHER'S DREAM



DAINTY WHITE

**You've got to get up every morning with determination if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction."**

## A WORD ON HYBRIDIZING

Hybridizers never know what they will get in any given cross. Even by studying all the background traits of the different blooms involved, it is still a guess. I think this is one of the great joys of hybridizing - creating something entirely new with a surprise factor built in. **DAMON VEACH**

**p.s. Keeping accurate records when hybridizing is important. Knowing parentage of plants can help in determining what you are seeking in future crosses. It is a simple task but very necessary. Damon**

**NOVEMBER 12 LEARN HOW TO HYBRIDIZE, WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO AVOID**

## THE MOST COMMON HIBISCUS GROWERS MISTAKE: DO NOT FEED THEM SUPPLEMENTS WHEN THE LEAVES ARE PALE AND VEINY

--by **DARREN EMINIAN**

Here at the IHS we see a lot of posts with hibiscus plants from growers that have pale and/or veiny leaves. Some posts are asking for help as to why their plant is not doing well. For an expert Exotic/Tropical Hibiscus grower these pale/veiny leaves are the first sign that the soil doesn't have enough air in it. Expert growers are on the lookout for this which typically shows up on the top leaves first and then works its way down the branches as the air levels in the soil continue to drop.

Hibiscus roots are tender and fragile compared to most other flowering plants. This is due to their origins from tropical regions where the soil is commonly volcanic which means it is rocky and porous. Even after very heavy rains it drains quickly and fills up with air again. Hibiscus roots have been genetically bred for this over many millennia. Our job as good growers is to find a way to emulate these same conditions in the pots and planters we now grow them in. Unfortunately a vast majority of other flowering plants are actually the opposite of this. So, ironically many expert gardeners find growing hibiscus problematic as they respond negatively to all the usual remedies that work for most other plants when they are in trouble.

For most flowering plant species pale/veiny leaves are an indication that the plant is suffering from chlorosis or a nutrient deficiency from elements like magnesium or iron. But hibiscus are different as they only need most elements like magnesium, iron, phosphorus, etc...in trace amounts. So the big mistake offered as advice in this situation is to give your hibiscus plant supplements containing some variation of the elements just listed.

This is exactly what your hibiscus plant **DOES NOT NEED AT THIS POINT!** That just introduces more water into the soil that is already severely lacking the proper air content. Any additional water is the worst thing to do when you see the leaves like this. Many times this will create the perfect conditions for root rot to start on your hibiscus plant. Once root rot gets going it is almost always fatal over the long run. For more established hibiscus plants it might take several years but you will see the slow and steady decline especially during the cooler months when the rot has the most ideal conditions to spread.

The first action step is to stop watering your hibiscus immediately. Next you will need to analyze the water content in your soil mix. If you can use a water meter that will help especially for large pots where the top layer of soil might be very dry but deep down can still be completely saturated.

During hot stretches of weather many growers unknowingly create the prime conditions for root rot by overwatering their hibiscus. That top soil looks so dry but deep down it is very wet already with little to no air left. Perfect conditions for root rot to get started up and once the cooler months hit those rot pathogens flourish and spread throughout the soil and root system. Once they get in the main trunk it is terminal.

The next step is to repot your hibiscus with a soil mix that is light and fluffy that contains lots of air in it all the time. Many growers will use products like coco coir, peat moss, pumice stone and perlite mixed together in varying amounts with a standard potting soil mix. Avoid potting soil mixes that have a lot of worm castings, composted materials and manures as those all become very heavy

and dense when wet. You might have to experiment a bit to get that right soil mix that works for your microclimate. A good starting point is 1/3 pumice or perlite, 1/3 coco coir or peat moss and 1/3 potting soil.

If your hibiscus is potted make sure you never have a saucer underneath it ever. That completely stops the pot from draining out the water and getting air back in the soil at the bottom of the pot which is crucial for those tender hibiscus roots. Also pots with just one center drainage hole tend to not offer enough proper drainage so we don't recommend those type of pots as well. Drill additional holes if you have to, the more the better for your hibiscus. The larger the pot the more this matters. Also you will be surprised how quickly the roots of your hibiscus plant will plug up the drainage holes so make sure to check every six months minimum.

What you feed your hibiscus matters. The main drivers for a thriving and healthy hibiscus plant are steady strong heat (80-95F) and ample humidity. With a well aerated soil and good drainage they will do very well just with those inputs. For the many growers around the world that don't have those conditions year round a great way to help with that is to feed your hibiscus high amounts of potassium. Being hibiscus roots are tender potassium is the best thing for root growth and development. Hibiscus seem to be able to absorb large amounts of potassium and it really helps to green up pale leaves. That combined with a lot more air in the soil will get you those beautiful waxy, green leaves that indicate your hibiscus plant is healthy and thriving. Please do not put spent banana peels or other organic matter in the soil for potassium. Anything that decays in the soil will introduce rot pathogens that will find their way to your hibiscus roots. Sadly we still have lots of people offering this advice.

Finally and what we think is the most important growing skill needed for hibiscus: PATIENCE. Hibiscus are momentum plants which means if they start to decline it will take 2-3 weeks minimum if you treat correctly for the problem for it to slow down and cease. Then it will take another 2-3 weeks for your hibiscus plant to reset and start to take things in the right direction. Then after that you will start to see all the good things like shiny green leaves, new branch growth and bud production. That right there is 2 months if not longer which is hard for a lot of growers to wait through. Many lose patience as it is really hard to see your plant not performing well and you just got to do something extra to get it in high gear. But that is the trap that many times spells doom for a hibiscus plant as the grower starts to try different inputs (many of which require additional water). Hibiscus hate changes of inputs so the more new things you throw their way the worse they tend to do. That is why patience is key. As the new leaves start to sprout from the branch nodes you will water your plant in proportion to the size of those new leaves. If in a small pot that might dry out much more quickly and you should water more in accordance to the weather and the quick dry out of the soil.



|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| TYANNE DOWNING  | NOV 1  |
| BARB YEKEL      | NOV 13 |
| BRENDA COURMIER | NOV 16 |
| WANDA SCHMOYER  | NOV 21 |



**NOVEMBER 12 CHAPTER MEETING LEARN HOW TO CREATE NEW HIBISCUS**

#### **HOW TO GET HIBISCUS SEEDS**

The AHS SEED BANK run by Don Bernard in Florida is a source for seeds. The Seed Bank continues to send postage free seeds to AHS Chapter and MAL members.

Contact Don at [lantanalandscape@bellsouth.net](mailto:lantanalandscape@bellsouth.net)

**BRENDA & TERRY  
MARTIN**

## ANOTHER PIECE OF ADVICE from grower and hybridizer BUDDY SHORT

This cooler weather normally tells me to start hybridizing again. For me seeing the same bloom over and over again may not be as exciting as it was initially but seeing that new creation for the very first time NEVER gets old!!! If you haven't tried the cross-pollinating process, you should. It's fun and it keeps you young in this magnificent hobby.

As our 2023 hibiscus season starts to come to an end, there are still other maintenance issues for each of us to deal with as we start to prepare for getting our plants ready to store them away.

Here are a few of the items on my check list. Your list may differ slightly:

I am constantly checking my plants for insect issues, but I pay closer attention to my favorite plants as I get closer to the point of storing them away. There is nothing worse than storing away an infected plant. Insects multiply and given the right environment, they can absolutely destroy your babies if they are given enough time to fester.

Remember as you inspect to look at both sides of your leaves. Use a good systemic spray or granular to get to any insect eggs that have taken up residence in your potting mix. That's hugely important. Do it now! If you are allergic to insecticides, then be sure to at least get out the hose attachment and set it on jet spray. I wash off my leaves as often as I can and you should too.

Are you fertilizing your plants? I am and mine are rewarding me with a new crop of buds. Just in time for my hybridizing efforts. My plants have recently received a healthy helping of our granular fertilizer along with a monthly hose or bucket application of water-soluble Peters 20-20-20 plus some extra Potassium Nitrate. Remember healthy and well-fed plants resist pests better. Load them up with potassium and don't forget the monthly Epsom Salt. There is nothing like having plants with dark shiny green leaves. It won't take long to see the "happy" results.

If you haven't been doing this already then get out your pruning shears and prune away dead flowers and branches. You might also pay attention to any grafted plants in your collection. Many of them are sprouting branches from their root stock. Prune those branches away as well, and while you're at it, cut them up in 6 inch pieces and stick them in some potting mix. Who knows? You might get lucky and root another plant.

Here's one additional recommended step in your October preparation. Examine your pots and, if necessary, re-pot some plants with fresh potting mix. There is nothing better for your plants than having those root tips sitting in fresh mix. Remember, in most cases, if you want sustained performance, your plants should be repotted with fresh mix about every 2 years maximum. Have you been doing that? That's necessary but I admit it gets harder to do as you accumulate more and more plants in your collection.

I hate to end on a negative, but it's probably a good time to evaluate if a plant in your collection is still alive or not. The reality is some probably didn't survive our brutal summer heat. Good blooming everyone.....Buddy

BUDDY SHORT is from the Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter of AHS in Louisiana. He is most generous with his vast hibiscus knowledge and we use his writings often.

**If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."**

-Milton Berle

## SOUTH FLORIDA GROW-ZINE - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

**Do any hard pruning now. Minor trimming is fine all year but for shaggy plants that need a hard pruning, now is the time. NOTE: Never prune anything when it's dry - water first and wait at least an hour (or a day) before hacking it back.**

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**Fertilize everything!** Summer fertilizer blackouts are over. [Gardenias](#) and [Azaleas](#) (**AND HIBISCUS**) need to be fed TODAY (or asap). They need special food formulated just for each of them. The rest of the garden can be fed now, too.

## ONE YEAR AFTER IAN

## CATHY DUNN



Sometimes it is hard to believe that one year has passed since Ian roared through SW Florida. We see constant reminders of the devastation; empty spaces on our beautiful beaches where buildings once stood, blue tarps on many of our roofs, and damaged trees and shrubs in our landscapes. But I am constantly amazed at the resilience of the landscape and how quickly many gardens have resumed a lush, subtropical appearance. I must admit that when I returned from Florida's East Coast three days after the storm, I scanned my gardens and thought they would never recover. The destruction seemed insurmountable; trees were blown over, shrubs were ripped apart, palms were stripped of their fronds. It was difficult for me to even know where to begin, but after I established a sort of 'triage' for my damaged landscape things began to fall into place. And now, one year later, I can reflect on what happened with a clearer perspective and even a little gratitude.

The most significant contribution from Ian was allowing me to confront some of my gardening missteps and correct them. I had made some errors in judgment when I first moved to SW Florida because I was used to the slow growth rate of plants and shrubs in more moderate climates. Some of the shrubs that I planted when we first moved here five years ago had become overgrown and required constant pruning; they were the first plants to come out of the landscape! A beautiful silvery pink bougainvillea that provided shade for my fern collection and gorgeous blooms in the winter had become a nuisance and took several days to remove. I lost my shaded area, but gained room for plants that loved the sun and provided more diversity in my garden.

Adjusting the plantings that I wanted to retain was a second contribution from Ian. I have five dwarf poinciana trees that were blown over; I decided that I wanted to keep these trees because their blooms attract butterflies, and their lacy foliage offers a nice contrast in the landscape. I consulted a horticulture friend to ask how I should treat these trees once I had them staked in place. He told me to cut them back hard, and to use this opportunity to reshape the growth into a more upward habit. This year the trees are more beautiful than ever, and their 'corrected' shape is so much more attractive.

Observing the plantings that did well after Ian offered the opportunity to concentrate on these types of plants in my garden. My crape myrtle trees lost most of their leaves, but their flexible branches saved them from damage and shortly after Ian they leafed out again in a lush canopy. Bromeliads survived the storm almost unscathed; if they were uprooted, they could wait for me to replant them since they are epiphytes and don't actually require soil. And as you might suspect, all my native plants were quick to recover even though many were almost defoliated.

And there were plants that did not fare well during Ian. Foxtail palms are much more prone to lose their fronds than other palms; native palms like the cabbage palm suffered little damage. Several of my hybrid hibiscus plants were twisted and broken by the winds. Large mixed container pots that were too heavy to move were blown over and broken; I now have the remaining large pots on wheeled saucers so I can relocate them.

Overall, I believe that Mother Nature brilliantly displayed her resilience and adaptability after Ian, and that is exactly what we had to do as well. Even as many of us are putting on new roofs and refurbishing damaged homes, we remain strong and resilient. As we endure another busy hurricane season, I feel that the lessons Ian imparted are a valuable reminder that life does go on – maybe differently, but if we take recovery one step at a time, we might even discover a silver lining. And if we approach our gardens with the knowledge gained from Ian, perhaps we'll have a more vibrant and diverse landscape that can more effectively weather future storms.



**CATHY DUNN** is a Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer and a member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral, Vice President & Webmaster of JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER OF AHS

**CATHY'S 1st success as a hybridizer! She has named it **barbara oster!** How thrilling for me! barb**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BETH MEEHAN

Greetings!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy. The Holiday season is fast approaching, along with cooler weather. My goal was for my plants to survive the summer heat. Now, it's a time to be outside to enjoy them.

In the months ahead, we will continue to talk about exhibiting our beautiful blooms in Florida shows. You will find the list of shows in our yearbook. Please note, however, that the date for our show has changed. It is now going to be held April 6.

I hope to see you at our November meeting!

Best wishes, BETH



Announcement for next meeting: TO BE HELD **NOVEMBER 12** at the GARDEN COUNCIL BUILDING, 2166 VIRGINIA AVENUE. 1:30 set up your mini show blooms and have a refreshment. 2:00 meeting put on by two of our best hybridizers. This is one you won't want to miss.

The November meeting will feature two of our most experienced hybridizers: Valerie Costa and Micki Dougherty. They will talk about the process they use to hybridize their plants and evaluate the results.



barbara oster, editor TERRY & ELAINE MARTIN, MAILERS  
YOU CAN CLIP BYLAW CHANGES AND ADD TO YOUR MEMBER BOOK

## BYLAW CHANGES adopted at October 10 JEH MEETING

Several BYLAWS changes were presented at the September meeting and voted on at the October meeting. Here is a summary of those changes. An updated copy of all the bylaws has been emailed to everyone.

BYLAWS changes – Article V – Dues – Clarification of dues for partial year members.

Current: Sec. 3 Dues for new members joining between December 1st and May 30th shall be half the annual rate.

**New:** Sec. 3 Dues for new members joining between January 1 and April 30 will be half the annual rate. New members joining from May 1 to June 30 will be at the annual rate and will cover the following fiscal year.

BYLAWS changes – Article VI Officers – Change to all Directors serving 1 year.

Current Sec. 1 Officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors. Officers shall serve for one (1) year and may serve consecutive terms. Sec.2 The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) Directors and four (4) Officers. The Outgoing President shall serve as one of the Directors for one (1) year. In the absence of an Outgoing President another Director shall be elected. Directors shall serve for two (2) years with two (2) minimum elected every year. Directors may serve consecutive terms.

**New:** Sec. 1 Officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors. Officers and Directors shall serve for one (1) year and may serve consecutive terms.

Sec.2 The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) Directors and four (4) Officers. The Outgoing President shall serve as one of the Directors for one (1) year. In the absence of an Outgoing President another Director shall be elected.

BYLAWS changes – Article VII – Election of Officers – Add a current officer to the nominating committee

Current: Sec. 1. The President shall appoint a nominating committee at the April meeting of not less than three (3) members, nor more than five (5) persons from the membership. The President shall name the chairman of the committee.

**New:** Sec. 1. The President shall appoint a nominating committee at the April meeting of three (3) members, one of which will be a current officer. The President shall name the chairman of the committee.

BYLAWS changes – Article VIII – Duties of Officers – Define representation at National meetings and scope of expenses to be paid.

Current: Sec. 2 PRESIDENT-The President shall be recognized as a delegate to all meetings of the American Hibiscus Society Board of Directors having equal voting power within that Board.

**New:** Sec. 2 PRESIDENT-The President shall be recognized as a delegate to all meetings of the American Hibiscus Society Board of Directors having equal voting power within that Board. In the event he cannot attend, delegate will be the Vice-President and down the line of Officers. If none of them can attend, the President will appoint an alternate. The Chapter will pay for three nights hotel accommodations and the cost of the convention only. The attendee shall be responsible for their own travel expenses.