

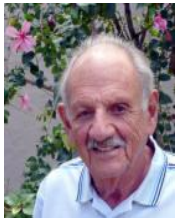
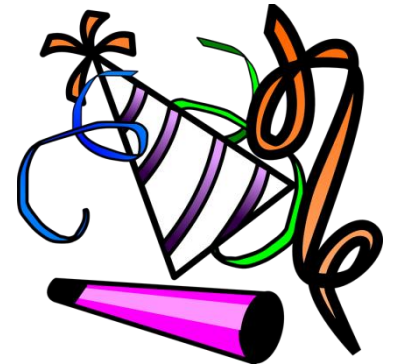


JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com
JANUARY 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY 2024 BE OUR BEST YEAR EVER HY'S WAY FOR JANUARY



Do not prune hibiscus until the last week in February except for damaged or diseased branches. Pruning results in new growth and new growth could be killed by a frost or cold spell in January. Remember, **blooms arise on new growth**, not old growth, so you don't want to kill new growth by pruning too early. February notes will contain pruning information. Keep watch on your plants at least weekly.

Dr. Hy Lans passed away in 2013 but his sage advice lives on

BEST DAY OF MY LIFE

Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did I'm going to celebrate!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes, even the hardships because they have served to get me here.

I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds. Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for her and how much she means to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and his Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

Tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life. I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be the best day of my life, ever!

LORI ANDREWS
WES ROWE
GINETTE AREY
CANDACE RYAN

JANUARY 4
JANUARY 7
JANUARY 30
JANUARY 31

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

January - WHAT TO PLANT

Bedding plants: Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotiana.

Bulbs: Winter is a great time to plant bulbs that will bloom this spring. Some to try include Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus.

Herbs: Many herbs will thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints.

Vegetables: Continue planting cool-season crops, including beet, cabbage, turnip, lettuce, and broccoli.

WHAT TO DO

Landscape: After the danger of freezing temperatures, it's a good time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start.

Irrigation: Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce.

Shrubs and trees: Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form *and Shrubs*

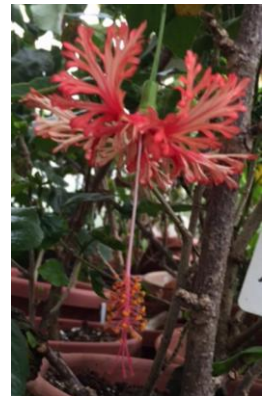
Arbor Day: Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (the 3rd Friday of January) by planting a tree in your yard or community.

Crapemyrtle: Remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve the appearance and form of the plant, if desired. Hard pruning is not required.

Cold protection: Bring sensitive plants like orchids inside if a frost or freeze is predicted. Thoroughly water and cover sensitive plants in the landscape 12–24 hours before a freeze.

Pests: Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom.

Hibiscus schizopetalus is commonly called Japanese Lantern and is a native of tropical areas of eastern Africa. Although not a native of Japan, its flowers droop from the branches in a manner reminiscent of Japanese lanterns, hence the common name. It typically grows as a narrow, woody shrub. The specific epithet schizo (meaning split) and petalus (meaning petal) is in reference to the re-curved and divided petals of each flower. It is sometimes called fringed hibiscus or fringed rose mallow. It's easy to root and grow, so get this one for your collection. It is a good bloomer and will add a lot of color to your summer gardens. My plant is in the greenhouse now, but if you root several you can put some in the ground. They will grow quickly and be a good conversation topic when people visit your garden.



Damon Veach

ATTENTION SHOW GOERS!
moving their 2/24/24 show to 5/18/2024

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?" – John Steinbeck

My goal for 2023 was to lose just 10 pounds ... only 15 to go.

I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

"You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor." Aristotle

"At any given moment, you have the power to say: This is not how the story is going to end." Christine Mason Miller

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is today." Chinese Proverb

RESOLVE TO HELP GROW OUR CHAPTER! CATHY DUNN



Resolutions often accompany the beginning of a new year. Personally, I've never really liked resolutions because they always seem to involve trying to convince myself that there is something magical about January 1 that will make me more capable of doing something I really don't want to do – like lose weight, stop drinking, or go to the gym 5 times a week! Maybe it would be better to resolve to do something FUN – like adding new members to our JEH Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. Think back to how you became involved with the chapter; it was probably either because you purchased a plant at one of our show/sale events, or you had a friend whose garden you admired. And I bet you felt the same way I did when you attended your first meeting – this is a really great group of people! I have one friend who joined the chapter during her first meeting as a guest – she couldn't get over what wonderful, friendly people were in the group.

Many AHS chapters are losing members and struggling to stay afloat; if you look around at our membership there are many “mature” members. But we've recently been adding new, younger members and that's good for all of us! It helps keep us “mature” folks more engaged and hopefully shows the younger members that life doesn't end at 65.

It's important that we continue to grow our group, especially with younger members who will maintain the beautiful blooms and varieties that we have cultivated over the years. These younger members are eager to learn how to hybridize, graft and grow blooms that will be on the head table in future shows, and our job as established members is to encourage and teach them the ‘tricks of the trade’ that we have developed over time.

There are many ways that you can help with increasing our membership. You can talk to your gardening friends about hibiscus and see if they would be interested in attending a meeting, or even just checking out our website or Facebook page. Beth and I are both Master Gardeners and we are prepared to speak to groups that are interested in learning more about tropical hybrid hibiscus; we have an excellent power point presentation that Beth created and we also take blooms to presentations to show the beauty of the hibiscus. Beth spoke to my Garden Club the month before our show and sale last year and we had quite a few garden club members who came and bought plants! It really makes a difference if you see these blooms in person and hear some of the history of the cultivation of the tropical hibiscus. Many people who move to Florida from cooler climates fall in love with the garden variety hibiscus that you can buy at Lowes or Home Depot – and once they see the hybrids they are truly head over heels! Let's help them learn how to grow these beauties in their own gardens!

Another great opportunity to introduce your friends and neighbors to hybrid tropical hibiscus is through our sale of 400 plants (38 varieties) coming up on **January 20th**. The sale will be held at the **Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers**. Pictures of the blooms available at the sale will be posted on our website, and the sale will also be promoted through press releases and on our Facebook page. We will have some highly sought-after varieties available at our sale, including Black Dragon, Imperial Dragon, Rum Rascal and Blue Jean Baby. These sales fund our chapter's award-winning newsletter, help defray the costs for our annual Christmas Party, and enable us to make charitable contributions in our community. Our BIG Show and Sale will be held on **Saturday, April 6th also at Covenant Presbyterian Church**.

Let's all add a fun new resolution for 2024 – to grow our JEH Chapter and expand our reach within the American Hibiscus Society! Happy New Year to all our wonderful members!

CATHY DUNN, JEH VICE PRESIDENT and LEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

A WORD FROM HIDDEN VALLEY HIBISCUS

At this time of year, our HVH inbox gets flooded with emails that say, "Help! My hibiscus plants are healthy, green, and growing, but I have no flowers. What should I do?" We have all the answers you need on our website, but in case you can't find them, we thought we would help point our readers in the right direction.

If your plants are babies, then it's normal for them not to bloom. Many hibiscus like to be 3-4 feet tall before they start to bloom, and a few varieties are very slow to start blooming. If your hibiscus is young and has not yet bloomed, then don't worry. It is expending its energy on growing leaves instead of producing flowers. When it feels strong, big, and healthy enough, it will start blooming.

However... if your hibiscus is already big and several months or a year old, it should be blooming. If it isn't blooming, read on!

"My hibiscus make buds, but the buds fall off before they bloom."

Thrips! (the name of this insect is thrips – be it one thrips or a bevy of thrips)

Thrips are a nearly invisible little flying insect. These annoying little pests fly off of many, many different flowering plants and weeds, and lay their eggs in our lovely, developing hibiscus buds. Sadly, the eggs hatch and the larvae kill the bud before it finishes developing, with the result that we see fallen buds all over the ground and no flowers.

Fortunately thrips are easy to get rid of. We have complete directions on the [Thrips Page](#) of our website. You'll find all the help you need there to prevent and treat this obnoxious little pest. If you don't have thrips, you may want to go ahead and treat your plants anyway, just as a preventative measure. Thrips are one of the most universal garden pests, and this is one of the cases where prevention is easy and saves a lot of heartbreak in the form of fallen hibiscus buds.

"My hibiscus aren't making any buds at all."

Sun, Water, and Fertilizer

There are three main things that hibiscus need in order to make buds: the right amount of sun, enough water, and enough of the right kind of fertilizer. So if your hibiscus aren't making any buds at this time of year, look at each of these three possibilities. These are so important that we have a page for each of these areas in the [Care Section](#) of our website.

The website for Hidden Valley Hibiscus is news@hiddenvalleyhibiscus.com. The site is [plants in their mouths](#)

On December 9th, the James E. Hendry Chapter held their annual CHRISTMAS PARTY! It was a fun time, attended by 36 happy and festive members. The food was outstanding, the gift exchange was imaginative (old DIRTY SANTA was very active), and the crowd had a fine time.



NANCY KOPP, PHOTOGRAPHER

2023 PARTY AT WHISKEY CREEK COUNTRY CLUB!



JERRY McINTYRE, PHOTOGRAPHER

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT **BETH MEEHAN**

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season!

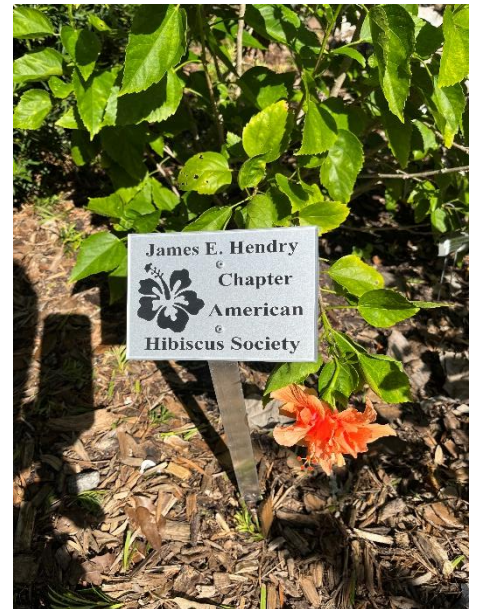
Now, it's SHOW TIME. I want to encourage everyone to consider attending some of the shows being held around the state. It is a time for you to show off what you have blooming in your yard. It is also a time to meet other hibiscus enthusiasts from other chapter. Many of the shows also have sales, so you may find a special plant to add to your collection.

The first show of the season is at the Tampa State Fair on Feb 10. The Sunset Chapter is the host and we have a lot of fun.

In order to win those gold ribbons, you have to pick and transport your blooms in a way that will keep them in perfect condition. The next meeting will focus on this as well as how to display them when you get to the show.

I hope to see you at our next meeting! When you do come to the meeting, take a look at the hibiscus section in the gardens. We have new advertising to let everyone know about us!

Beth



JANUARY 14th

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER MEETING!

Become an expert at showing your blooms. Win ribbons!

1:30 - set up your blooms for the mini show. 2:00 meeting. Bring a treat to share, beverages provided. Meeting held at Garden Council Building, 2166 Virginia Ave.