



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER
of the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com APRIL 2024

March 31 - HAPPY EASTER

April 6 - JEH Annual Show and Sale

April 8 - Total Lunar Eclipse

April 14 - JEH Chapter Meeting @ Garden Council Building

April 15 TAX DAY

April 22 Earth Day

April 23 - Passover begins

Coming in May-JEH Annual Picnic

A busy month ahead for James E. Hendry members. Our Annual Show & Sale on April 6 is being held at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers.

For the sale, there will be in excess of 400 beautiful tropical hibiscus plants. Current members qualify for a \$5 per plant discount. See our website www.hendrychapterhibiscus.com for pictures and a list of plants for sale.

For the show, exhibitors from all over the state will be bringing blooms to be judged. Prize money will be awarded to the best of the best! Anyone may exhibit blooms if the plant has been in their possession for at least 30 days prior to the show. Only one bloom per variety per gardener may be entered. Blooms must be entered by 11:30am and the doors open at 8:00 to get an early start.

If you have not entered a bloom before, it is easy to do. There will be many of our pro members on hand to help you identify and display your bloom. We encourage everyone to try his or her hand at winning a gold ribbon!

Very important is the volunteer help needed to set up the show. If you are able to help, you will have first choice of plants after the show is set and ready to go. Cashiers will be on hand after set-up for cash, check or credit card purchases.



MOONLIGHT MADNESS



MARIANNE CHARLTON



MAGNIFIQUE



BLUES IN THE NIGHT



BYRON METTS

IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY FOR A LIFETIME, PLANT A GARDEN

HY'S WAY FOR APRIL

As spring arrives the harmful insects (aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and scales) also arrive. Check all your hibiscus plants at least **once a week** on both top and under surface of the leaves. Use Bayer systemic protection. Use it now and again in six months. The reason to use it now before you find any insect infestation, is that it takes time for the systemic insecticide to reach the upper portions of the plant. You want the insecticide in the plant's leaves **prior to the insect's arrival**.

The sucking insects (aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and scales) suck the plant's sap and ingest the insecticide which is fatal for the insect. Avoid using insecticide sprays which can kill useful insects such as bees and lady bugs...the systemic fertilizer is safe for these useful insects as they are not sucking insects. If you want to spray, use horticultural soap or oil on the top and under surfaces of the leaves.



Our members won an award for the **MOST TROPICAL DESIGN** at the Garden Club Strolling Flower Show.



DR MARY-MARGARET SHOAF	APRIL 3
BETH MEEHAN	APRIL 6
ELAINE MARTIN	APRIL 13
MARILYN MOORE	APRIL 20
LINDA FEWELL	APRIL 22



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from **BETH MEEHAN**

Oh, how time flies! Here it is April already and our **BIG EVENT** is upon us! We need everyone's help with the show and sale.

If you did not sign up at our meeting last month, please email me and let me know that you can help out. We need everyone's help!

We have enough help for the set up on Friday nights. We need more help on Saturday, April 6. You can help with the show in the morning, the sale in the afternoon, or both. Whatever you can do will be sincerely appreciated.

Let's make this the best show ever!

Beth

bethmq2020@gmail.com



ALSO FROM PRESIDENT **BETH MEEHAN**

The original H. Rosa-sinensis was being sold a couple of years ago by Hidden Valley Hibiscus. Did anyone purchase one that would be willing to give me a cutting? I'm trying to preserve older plants and what better way to start than with the original! Thanks, Beth

SELECTING NATIVE PLANTS

by CATHY DUNN



If you want to enjoy a garden that provides many benefits with minimal effort, then native plants are your best bet! Plants that are adapted to local climate and soil conditions where they naturally occur are classified as native plants. A "Florida Native Plant" refers to a species occurring within the state boundaries prior to European contact; most native plants were spread by wind, birds or other natural means. These beneficial plants produce nectar, pollen and seeds that provide food for native butterflies, insects, birds and other animals. In addition, native plants do not need fertilizers and generally require fewer pesticides than other plants. Native plants also require less water and are more apt to help prevent erosion.

Native plants encompass a wide range of species, from wildflowers to ferns, groundcovers to grasses, palms to vines, and trees and shrubs. You can easily incorporate native plants in your existing landscape, and for a truly Florida Friendly Yard you can convert your entire landscape to natives! One of the primary reasons to enjoy native plants is that they preserve the character of the Florida landscape. Familiar native plants include Buccaneer, Royal, Florida Thatch and Silver Saw Palmetto palms; Florida Maple, Gumbo Limbo, Live Oak, Mahogany and Slash Pine trees; Carolina Jasmine and Coral Honeysuckle vines; Fakahatchee and Muhly grasses; Beautyberry, Cocoplum, Coontie, Firebush, Sea Grape and Wax Myrtle shrubs, and Beach Sunflower, Peperomia, Sunshine Mimosa groundcovers.

How do you go about identifying appropriate native plants for your landscape? There are several excellent Florida specific resources available to help you:

- Florida Friendly Landscaping (<http://floridayards.org>) provides resources to help you plan your garden with native plants. You can start with the Florida-friendly landscaping Interactive Tutorial and Quiz, and download the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods handbook for more detailed information. The site also includes an excellent photo gallery of Florida-friendly yard examples and links to resources offered through your local UF/IFAS County Extension office.
- The Florida Native Plant Society (www.fnps.org) is dedicated to promoting the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. Their web site provides maps of native gardens and native plant "Hotspots" throughout Florida as well as resources including books and downloadable documents. A comprehensive list of native plants by county also allows you to select plants that are appropriate for your area. You can also browse the database by viewing all plants, find specific plants, find plants for a specific county, site conditions or purpose, or plants that are helpful in attracting butterflies or wildlife.
- The University of Florida/IFAS Gardening Solutions site (gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu) provides many general publications on Native Plants as well as a comprehensive list of native plants with specific information on purchasing, planting, and maintaining the plants.
- Plant Real Florida (plantrealflorida.org) is dedicated to helping you add native plants to your landscape and bring home the beauty of *real* Florida. Their website includes a large database of Florida native plants, numerous publications about native plants, and a listing of professional native plant landscapers and native nurseries for the entire state.

Incorporating Florida native plants into your landscape will provide rewards for you, your neighbors and our native birds, butterflies and wildlife. Who wouldn't support plants that mean less work for you, more compliments from your friends, and the added benefit of sustaining our native wildlife? I hope you will be inspired to explore our many native plants and give your garden the true Florida touch!

CATHY DUNN, Florida Master Gardener, Garden Club of Cape Coral Member, JEH VICE PRESIDENT

"KINDNESS CAN TRANSFORM SOMEONE'S DARK MOMENT WITH A BLAZE OF LIGHT. YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR CARING MATTERS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR ANOTHER TODAY."

Amy Leigh Mercree

"BEING HAPPY NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE." Lilly Pulitzer

"A CLOUDY DAY IS NO MATCH FOR A SUNNY DISPOSITION" William Arthur Ward

"IN EVERY DAY, THERE ARE 1,440 MINUTES. THAT MEANS WE HAVE 1,440 DAILY OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT."

Les Brown

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER AHS GENERAL MEMBER MEETING March 10, 2024

President Beth Meehan called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer Barb Yekel gave the Treasurer's Report.

Our speaker was Angie Nichols who spoke on the subject of vermicomposting.

The members of the Nominating Committee will be Cathy Dunn, Barb Yekel and Kathleen Dubin. The Board consists of 4 Officers: President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, there are 5 Directors. Per the bylaws, terms of office for all members of the board is 1 year and members may serve consecutive terms. The new board will be elected at the May meeting.

Our Annual Show and Sale is April 6th at Covenant Presbyterian Church (the same place as our sale in January). Signup sheets were distributed and everyone was asked to volunteer.

Beth Meehan demonstrated how to pick and transport blooms to the show.

The mini show results were announced and six plants were given away as door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20

Amateur single	CATHY DUNN	Climax
Amateur double	DENISE HELFRICH	Bob's Golden Angel
Collector double	NANCY KOPP	Indian Bride
Collector single (Tie)	VALERIE COSTA	Jason B
	MARSHA CRAWFORD	T. Princess
Mini Single (Tie)	NANCY KOPP	Ice Fairy
		Erin Rachel
Mini Double	NANCY KOPP	Firecracker
Regular Single Seedling	VALERIE COSTA	Unnamed (Bon Temps + T. Summer Passion)
Mini Double Seedling	VALERIE COSTA	Bonita Ballerina
Double Seedling	CATHY DUNN	Unnamed

SUBMITTED BY BETH MEEHAN & WANDA SCHMOYER

"A HERO IS AN ORDINARY INDIVIDUAL WHO FINDS THE STRENGTH TO PERSEVERE AND ENDURE IN SPITE OF OVERWHELMING OBSTACLES."

CHRISTOPHER REEVE

"BELIEVE YOU CAN AND YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

THOUGHTS ABOUT HYBRIDIZING

Multiplying Cultivars

When a new cultivar is produced, it is the only ONE in the world. Even if the same cross is made repeatedly, there is no guarantee that the same characteristics will be expressed in a particular flower that resembles an earlier cross. So, with a desirable new cultivar, one needs to secure a "backup" by multiplying it. Two methods are used: raise a plant on its own roots from a cutting made from the parent plant, or make a graft. Grafting allows us to share desirable and rare cultivars that we could either not find or perhaps not afford.

Rationale for Grafting

Plants that have been hybridized to produce better fruit or flowers do not always exhibit the same vigorous growth characteristics as their "old fashioned" cousins. In fact, some modern crosses of tropical hibiscus perform poorly on their own root systems, while others fail to root reliably (Red Snapper). Some cultivars, such as Kona, do root and grow well, but are so prone to fungal diseases that they are practically impossible to keep alive for an entire season. In nature, cultivars with these limitations would not have survived. But because of their appealing floral characteristics, growers enhance their viability by grafting; thus, providing the desired cultivar with a more vigorous root system.

Robert Gerlich, S.J. NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER

THE BASICS OF FERTILIZER

Plants and grasses need nutrients to grow and typically get them from the soil. But sometimes we apply fertilizer to help them along. Fertilizer provides specific nutrients for your plants, and it's available in a variety of forms. Inorganic fertilizers are mined or synthesized, while organic fertilizers are derived from living organisms.

Different plants have different nutrient requirements, and in many cases a fertilizer product may not be necessary, so know your plants' needs and do your homework before you purchase and apply fertilizers. Your landscape plants may need a different fertilizer than your turfgrass. Sometimes, specific plants, like azaleas or palms, need a special formulation of fertilizer.

Consider having your soil tested to see what's present and what's lacking. Kits are available at your county Extension office.

Plants also benefit from the right *amount* of fertilizer. With container-grown plants, applying too much fertilizer can create a build-up of salts in the potting media, which can cause stunted growth, leaf browning, or even death. And in the landscape, over fertilizing can burn plants, trigger excessive growth, aggravate pest problems, or lead to pollution of our waterways and groundwater.

For your lawn and landscape, use **slow-release** products that require fewer applications and may be less likely to leach nutrients into the water supply. Before you apply any fertilizer, make sure you read and understand the label, and that you follow all label instructions.

Understanding Fertilizer Labels

The label includes a series of numbers that indicate the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, by weight. For example, a 16-4-8 fertilizer contains 16 percent nitrogen, 4 percent phosphorous, and 8 percent potassium.

The label also lists all of the other nutrients as part of the guaranteed analysis, and information about how to properly apply the product. The fertilizer label specifies if the fertilizer is water soluble or controlled release, indicating if the nutrients will be available immediately to plants or slowly over time.

Remember that you should apply only as much fertilizer as plants can use, and always fertilize responsibly. Learn more in the EDIS publication, "[The Florida Fertilizer Label](#)."

WE ALL USE FERTILIZER BUT DO WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE BUYING?

The Florida Fertilizer Label¹ J.B. Sartain²

Fertilizers are manufactured from a wide variety of materials to supply required plant nutrients. Once these materials are mixed, it becomes difficult to distinguish the materials present. In the past, a few unscrupulous manufacturers have taken advantage of this to increase their profit. To protect consumers and legitimate manufacturers from such practices, the Florida legislature enacted the first fertilizer law in 1889 and has amended it many times since enactment. These laws regulate the manufacture and sale of fertilizers in the state.

The law requires that the manufacturer purchase and affix a label to each bag, package, container, or lot of fertilizer offered for sale in the state. The law requires that each label show specific information about the analysis and composition of the mixture or material.

Information on the Fertilizer Label The label includes the following:

1. Each label of fertilizer shall bear the Florida license number. The fertilizer license number, shall appear and be clearly identified on all fertilizer labels with a capital "F" preceding the license number. The number must be clear, legible and appear prominently and conspicuously on the label in proximity to the brand name or guaranteed analysis.

2. A "brand name" is the name used by the licensee to identify his product. "Brand" means a term, design, or trademark used in connection with one or several grades of fertilizer. The label shall also include a grade in close proximity to the brand. The "grade" means the percentages in fertilizer total nitrogen expressed as N, available phosphate expressed as P₂O₅, and soluble potassium expressed as K₂O, stated in whole numbers in that order.
3. The "net weight" is the actual weight present in the package or container. If sold in bulk, five labels containing all the required information must accompany a delivery ticket that shows the certified net weight of the bulk material.
4. The "name and street address" of the manufacturer or registrant of the fertilizer must be included.
5. When the term "organic" is used in the label, labeling, or advertisement of any fertilizer, the water insoluble nitrogen must not be less than 60% of the total guaranteed nitrogen so designated.
6. The "guaranteed analysis" section of the label is divided into the percentage of total nitrogen, which is the sum of all forms of nitrogen present in the mixture, available phosphate, soluble potassium, and a statement of each secondary plant nutrient present in the mixture. The chlorine content is guaranteed as the maximum percentage present, when applicable, in agricultural fertilizer. Specialty Fertilizer, 49 pounds and less, designed for home and garden use, is exempt for the chlorine requirement.

HIBISCUS SHOWS - How do they work?

by **TODD ALVIS, President of AHS**

I thought I would talk about something that I love to do with my hibiscus and I know a large number of you have never had this experience. The American Hibiscus Society chapters host hibiscus shows every year typically in the spring. Here in Baton Rouge Louisiana it is usually the first weekend in May. This is not only a great way to see tons of amazing blooms but sometimes you can even win awards with your blooms. It is also a good place for you to talk with local hibiscus experts. Entrance to participate is allowed to any person with a bloom whether you're a member or not. Once the final judging is done, the event is open to the public with free entrance and most chapters will have a sale on hibiscus at this time. I want to give you a basic breakdown of how this works..

The competition is broken down into a few categories

AMATEUR- These are people that have had less than 2 years of participation in shows. This way when you start you're not competing against pros.

COLLECTOR- This category is for people who have up to 75 varieties of hibiscus. Once again this gives people with less plants a chance to compete against each other instead of someone with 500 plants.

OPEN COLLECTOR- This category is for people with 76 and above plants.

COMMERCIAL- This category is for professionals that sell plants.

Each group competes for the best single and double.

Once a winner from each category is determined, they compete for **BEST OF SHOW SINGLE** and **BEST OF SHOW DOUBLE**. Blooms that are smaller than 5 inches compete against each other in the miniature category for single and double flowers. Everyone competes in this category. Once the mini single and double are selected they compete for **BEST OF SHOW MINIATURE**.

The Seedling category is for new varieties that have not been sold (which is why I can't sell my seedlings), have been in competition no more the 5 years and have been shown no more then 5 times. Once they are sold, shown for 5 years or in 5 shows they are considered released and are regular blooms. The Seedling category is broken into Single, Double, mini single, mini double. (This is why you will see me excited about mini blooms). Once a winner is picked in each category they compete for **BEST OF SHOW SEEDLING (BOSS)**. The winner of BOSS is then moved to the **SEEDLING OF THE YEAR** Competition where the plant is sent to growers to evaluate the plant for 3 years against the other show winners from that year. This is the premier competition of the American Hibiscus Society and is commonly known as **SOTY**.

by **TODD ALVIS**, written in 2021

