



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER

of the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com MAY 2024

CHAPTER PICNIC MAY 11th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from BETH MEEHAN



A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in any way to our annual 71st annual show and sale. It was a resounding success! We had beautiful blooms and sold all the plants. What more could you ask for?

The Nominating Committee will be present the new slate of Officers at our April meeting. I will not be continuing as President, but I will remain on the Board as a Director.

I want to thank all of you for making this year such a success for me. My goal was to help grow the Chapter and encourage participation in our Annual Show. We added 14 new memberships and had 8 Amateurs exhibited their blooms in our Annual Show. I'm very happy with these results. I hope the meetings have been fun and educational for you regardless of whether or not you are a new member or had any plans to participate in our show. **BETH**

JAMES E. HENDRY'S 71st ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE!

The 71st Show & Sale was declared a resounding success by Show Chair BETH MEEHAN! 400 plants sold out in record time, many members and friends and relatives of members helped to put together another great show! Results:

BEST OF SHOW WINNERS:

Single: Night Runner – Brenda Courmier JEH CHAPTER

Double: Roslyn – Denise Helfrich JEH

Miniature: Cajun Dark Princess – Nancy Kopp JEH

Seedling: Bayou New Direction – Nancy Kopp JEH

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Amateur Single: Midnight Tryst-Brenda Courmier JEH

Amateur Double: Delite-Denise Helfrich JEH

Collector Single: Kelly Raspberry-Nancy Kopp JEH

Collector Double: Queen of Dreams-Terry Martin JEH

Open Collector Single: None

Open Collector Double: None

Commercial Single: None

Commercial Double: Bayou Rose-Don Bernard

Miniature Single: Fort Myers-Frank & Karen Sullivan

Miniature Double: Janelle's Autumn Topaz-Valerie Costa

Single Seedling: None
 Double Seedling: Caribbean Pearl x Dancing Fire-Valerie Costa JEH
 Mini Single Seedling: Forget Me Knot-Valerie Costa JEH
 Mini Double Seedling: Bonita Ballerina-Valerie Costa JEH

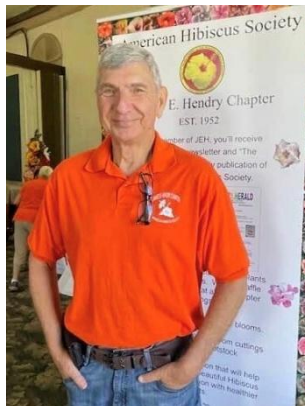
SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS:

Amateur – Denise Helfrich JEH
 Collector – Valerie Costa JEH
 Open Collector – Micki Dougherty JEH
 Commercial – Frank and Karen Sullivan Sunset Chapter



HIGHLIGHTS

8 Amateurs; 178 Entries; 68% Gold Seal; 7 Seedlings; 27 Volunteers;
 400 + plants sold in 30 minutes!





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

POTASSIUM ~ THE LEAST UNDERSTOOD PLANT NUTRIENT AND THE MOST NEGLECTED!

Potassium is the least understood of all plant nutrients, plus it is expensive to put into fertilizer. So it has been the most neglected nutrient in plant fertilizers. Other plant nutrients end up forming part of the actual molecules and cells that make up plants, but potassium is not found in any molecules anywhere in plant tissues! So why is it important? We never really knew before. Only experience over time taught farmers that plants go downhill, stop producing, and eventually die without potassium. Finally now plant science is advancing, and little by little we are learning more about this unusual nutrient. from **HIDDEN VALLEY HIBISCUS**.

PAUL ZINSZER MAY 2
 CHRISTINE PETERSON MAY 3
 MARY WHITE MAY 3
 FRANK HEFFERNAN MAY 5
 DON BALAS MAY 5

BRUCE COURMIER MAY 9
 JULIETA BRUNI MAY 13
 ROGER McNEELY MAY 13



May

WHAT TO PLANT ANNUALS/BEDDING PLANTS: Plants that can take summer heat include coleus, salvia, torenia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper.

Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming.

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, ginger, cumin, summer savory, and rosemary.

Vegetables: Sweet potatoes, boniato (a variety of sweet potato), hot peppers, and tropical "spinach" such as Sisso, Malabar, and New Zealand can be planted now.

WHAT TO DO

Pests: Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental -**ESPECIALLY HIBISCUS**- plants because they become more active in warm weather.

Gardenias and ixora: Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency

Oleanders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work

Lawns: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahia grass lawns.

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants.

FRITILLARY BUTTERFLY

CATHY DUNN



I find that observing butterflies is one of the greatest joys of maintaining a garden. My garden has numerous nectar plants that attract a variety of butterflies, yet 2 years ago my only butterfly host plant was milkweed, which is used by monarch butterflies. I had often seen Gulf fritillary butterflies, but without a host plant available in my landscape their visits to my nectar plants were sporadic. I knew that passionflower vine varieties were the fritillary's host plants, so I visited the plant shop at the Edison Ford Winter Estates to purchase a passionflower vine. I came home with a lush and full purple passionflower vine which was covered with blooms, and dutifully bought a trellis to support my new vine. Within days the fritillaries had found the vine and were busily laying eggs, and soon the vines were covered with larva defoliating my vine! One of the first things I noticed about the larva was the similarity of their color with the tendrils that support the passionflower vine; this made it more difficult to find the larva on the vines. Then the first pupa appeared, and I was amazed at the appearance of this chrysalis; it looked almost identical to a withered leaf of the passionflower vine. Unlike the monarch chrysalis, which changes color as the butterfly prepares to emerge, the fritillary pupa doesn't change and continues to appear like a dead leaf on the vine. There is no indication when the butterfly is ready to emerge, which is an ingenious adaptation. Of course, I constantly monitor my butterfly population, and one morning I was fortunate enough to find a newly emerged fritillary hanging from its spent chrysalis! My passionflower vine has been through several cycles of being totally defoliated and then sprouting new leaves which are soon covered with larva, followed by beautiful fritillaries flitting through the gardens. Butterfly plants constantly amaze me with their regenerative powers; I don't know of any other plants in the garden that will recover from nearly being stripped of leaves to bursting with new life to support another generation of beautiful life!

The Gulf fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*, is a bright orange mid-sized butterfly with black markings and 3 black-rimmed white dots on the upper wing surface. The word fritillary is from the Latin for "checkerboard", describing the butterfly's markings. The fritillary is a medium-sized butterfly, with a wingspan of 2.5" – 3.2". Found throughout the southern United States, Mexico, and Central America, the fritillary is present in all 67 counties in Florida. This butterfly is most often found in open, sunny habitats, and is a frequent visitor to urban gardens. The fritillary has distinct seasonal migrations, moving northward in spring and forming temporary breeding colonies throughout the southeastern United States. From late summer throughout the fall the butterflies migrate south to Florida, where they overwinter in frost-free areas.

Females lay small yellow eggs singly on the purple passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*), corky passionflower (*Passiflora suberosa*), or yellow passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*). The eggs hatch within five days, and the emerging larvae are bright orange with tufts of branched black spines. After seven to ten days the larvae form a mottled brown pupa (or chrysalis) that resembles a dead leaf. The metamorphosis from larva to adult fritillary butterfly takes approximately twenty days. The average lifespan of the fritillary is between 14 and 27 days.

When I purchased my purple passionflower vine, it was covered in beautiful purple blooms which served to attract the fritillaries to my new host plant. Unfortunately, I have rarely observed flowers since the first group of larvae began feasting on my vine! When the vine was almost defoliated, I questioned whether it would recover; it was just a mass of bare stems attached to the black trellis I installed. But the bright green leaves soon began emerging, ready to support another generation of these magical butterflies. If you enjoy observing nature, I urge you to add some butterfly host plants to your landscape. Watching these beautiful butterflies in your gardens, it is easy to understand the mystery and symbolism of butterflies, which are thought to represent a metaphor of spiritual rebirth, transformation, change, hope and life. I believe nature has a message for us: What lowly caterpillar ever dreamed of emerging as a bejeweled soaring butterfly?

CATHY DUNN, Lee County Master Gardener, Garden Club of Cape Coral Member, JEH Vice President

Photo Credit:

Gulf Fritillary: UF/IFAS



James E. Hendry Chapter AHS Meeting, April 14, 2024

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

Beth Meehan reported on the attendance at the Punta Gorda Show. We had 10 members show blooms and won 11 ribbons, including all 4 Best of Show ribbons.

Beth reported on our show held on April 6. We had 8 Amateurs showing blooms. Our chapter took all 4 Best of Show ribbons. We sold out all 400 plants in less than 30 minutes. Our net proceeds for the show and sale was \$2695.

There was a round table discussing on planting new plants and Beth discussed pruning your plants.

Our next meeting will be our Annual picnic, Saturday, May 11. This will be held at Denise Helfrich's home in Cape Coral. Details will be in our next newsletter.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of Officers for 2024-2025. Election will take place during the May meeting: President: **CATHY DUNN**, Vice President: **DENISE HELFRICH**, Treasurer: **BARB YEKEL**, Secretary: **KATHLEEN DUBIN**, Directors: **PAUL FECHTMANN**, **NANCY KOPP**, **BETH MEEHAN**, **BARBARA OSTER**.

Mini Show Results:

Amateur Single	El Capitolio Sport	WAYNE LARSON
Amateur Double	Jane Cowl	AMY ROBERTS
Single	Swamp Cloud	NANCY KOPP
Double	Amber Suzanne	NANCY KOPP
Mini Single	Unknown	MICKI DOUGHERTY
Mini Double	Bayou Rose	TERRY MARTIN
Regular Seedling	My Blue HeavenxYoda	DENISE HELFRICH
Double Seedling	Unknown	DENISE HELFRICH
	FRANK HEFFERNAN -hybridizer	
Mini Seedling	Forget Me Knot	DENISE HELFRICH

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 Submitted by **BETH MEEHAN & WANDA SCHMOYER**

HY'S WAY FOR MAY

HY LANS' advice is the single MOST important thing in our newsletter. Heed his words and you will have a garden with wonderful blooms to be proud of.

FERTILIZER FOR HIBISCUS

Florida requires a tag on the fertilizer bag listing percentage by weight of the major elements: nitrogen, phosphate and potassium. Fertilizer with a tag showing 8-2-12 means that the fertilizer has 8% by weight of NITROGEN (N), 2% by weight of PHOSPHATE (P) and 12% by weight of POTASSIUM (K). In a 100-pound bag of 8-2-12 fertilizer, there are 8 pounds of N, 2 pounds of P and 12 pounds of K.

There are also secondary elements in the bag. These are Sulfur (S), Magnesium (Mg), Calcium (Ca), Chlorine (CL), Manganese (Mn), Boron (B), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Iron (Fe), and Molybdenum. The secondary elements are present in smaller percentages than the primary ones but play important roles in plant growth. All but Magnesium (Mg) are known as "trace elements". Magnesium (Mg) is a very important element for plant growth and is a secondary major element.

NITROGEN (N) is the growth element. It is essential for formation of protein and chlorophyll and is required for leaf and stem development.

PHOSPHORUS (P) is important for root formation. However, phosphorus does not leach out of the soil and remains available for long period. Too much phosphorus, especially in alkaline soil, will tie up or render unavailable some minor elements, especially iron. For this reason a fertilizer formula relatively low in phosphorus such as 8-2-12 is desirable.

POTASSIUM (K) is especially important in the production of good hibiscus. Muriate of potash (KCL) is the least expensive source of potassium but should be avoided because of the high chloride

level which hibiscus does not tolerate).

In Florida, a “complete fertilizer” is one that contains N, P and K. It is not really complete as it does not contain magnesium or any of the other essential minor elements. Also, a “balanced fertilizer” is one which has the same percentages of N and K but can have any percentage of P (6-6-6, 7,2,7). Potassium should be present in larger amounts than nitrogen to obtain more and larger **hibiscus blooms**.

SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZERS: it is essential that 100% on the N, K, and Mg be in slow release form. Florida’s soils have low capabilities to retain these elements in the root zone during periods of heavy rainfall or irrigation. The only efficient way to keep these elements readily available to plants during intervals between fertilizer applications **is to use slow release sources**. A water-soluble source applied one day could be completely leached out of the root zone the next day by a heavy rainfall or irrigation and the hibiscus would receive no benefit from the fertilizer application (big waste of money). Controlled release fertilizers are not greatly affected by rainfall or irrigation. Since they release more slowly than soluble fertilizers, they are also less likely to burn plant roots during periods of drought. If your fertilizer has slow release N but water-soluble release K, you will have a large green plant with little or no blooms because you will have a large plant starved of K which is needed for blooms. Therefore, you need slow release for N, K, and Mg.

USE ON THE ENTIRE LANDSCAPE: The fertilizer developed for use on palms (8-2-12 slow release) can be used on **HIBISCUS**, lawns, trees, shrubs, fruit trees and herbaceous ornamentals besides palm trees.

DR. HY LANS

SAGE ADVICE FROM BUDDY SHORT IN LOUISIANA

New growth and buds are forming on just about every plant in my collection. I’m betting your plants are doing the same thing. **It’s time to Fertilize!**

CLINT OSTER'S age-old advice on planting

TO PLANT HIBISCUS IN A PERMANENT LOCATION,
DIG AND PREPARE A \$50 HOLE TO PLANT A \$15 PLANT.

JAMES E. HENDRY'S ANNUAL PICNIC

Day: Saturday, May 11 Time: Noon to 3:00

Place: **DENISE HELFRICH'S** home, 1753 SE 40th Street, Cape Coral 33904

The Chapter will provide a ham, drinks and paper products. Everyone else, please bring a dish to share. Bring your favorite side to go with ham or your special dessert OR pick up something from Publix, Aldi, Walmart, or Winn-Dixie but be sure to come!



In case of inclement weather or other unforeseen happening, watch your email for a venue change.

SEE YOU MAY 11th AT THE PICNIC