



HENDRY HERALD

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

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com **OCTOBER 2024**

OCTOBER 31, HALLOWEEN



GARDENING IS A LIFE PURSUIT

When Thomas Jefferson wrote, "But though an old man, I am but a young gardener," he knew that gardening had continuous lessons to impart in every stage of life.

Whether you grow houseplants in your home, tend a small veggie garden, fill containers on your porch with colorful blooms, or plant masses of flowers to feed and attract pollinators in your yard, you are part of a worldwide trend of living with, raising, and loving plants. You are in good company. **You can never start too early. Or too late.**

Gardening is something that is joyous at all stages of life.

Quoted from Costa Farms Newsletter

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.
- (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



FRANK'S LAST HURRAH



Bee Kind

Every garden requires pollinators, and bees are among the finest. Without them, there would be limited flowers and far fewer fruits and vegetables. Did you know that about 30% of our food we eat depends on the pollination of bees? Bring more bees to your garden by planting flowers they like. Keep the bees in your garden by eliminating chemical use, especially while plants are in flower. Be kind to bees in your garden by providing shelter and a place to lay their eggs, and they will return the favor in your garden

CATHY DUNN	OCTOBER 2
JACK BERNATZ	OCTOBER 5
JILL BRESLIN	OCTOBER 6
DAN LOTT	OCTOBER 19
PAUL YEKEL	OCTOBER 20
LISA SMITHSON	OCTOBER 21
BARBARA OSTER	OCTOBER 25



REMEMBERING JOYCE COMINGORE

Joyce Comingore was born December 21, 1932 and passed away August 19, 2024. She was president of the James E. Hendry Chapter from 1979 to 1981, also in 1989 and a third time in 2007 to 2009.

Joyce was born and raised in Michigan. She was one of seven children. Her dad was the County Extension agent for the area and she learned to love the garden from him. She married Tom Comingore and they had four children. After their youngest left for college, Joyce and Tom moved to Florida.

Besides being very active in our chapter, Joyce was well-known in the Garden Club of Cape Coral. Our Society sends sympathy to the Comingore Family.

WHEN TO PRUNE:* TIPS from DRIFTWOOD NURSERY

- Prune tropical hibiscus in late winter or early spring, before new growth begins.
- Prune hardy hibiscus in late fall or early winter, after the plant has gone dormant.

PRUNING TIPS:*

1. *Remove dead or damaged branches*: Cut off any dead, diseased, or damaged branches at the base.
2. *Cut back tall stems*: Reduce the height of tall stems to maintain a bushy shape and encourage branching.
3. *Thin out the plant*: Remove select stems to allow air and light to reach inner branches.
4. *Shape the plant*: Prune to maintain a balanced, symmetrical shape.
5. *Cut back leggy growth*: Reduce leggy stems to encourage branching and a fuller plant.
6. *Leave node buds*: When cutting stems, leave the node buds (small, swollen areas from which new growth emerges) intact.
7. *Make clean cuts*: Cut just above a node using sharp, clean pruning tools.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:*

- Prune no more than one-third of the plant's foliage at a time.
- Prune tropical hibiscus more heavily than hardy hibiscus.
- Prune after blooming to avoid removing buds that will produce flowers.

By following these steps and tips, you'll be able to prune your hibiscus plants effectively and enjoy healthy, thriving plants with plenty of beautiful blooms!

GIVE EVERY DAY THE CHANCE TO BECOME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DAY OF YOUR LIFE MARK TWAIN

SOME PEOPLE WANT IT TO HAPPEN, SOME WISH IT WOULD HAPPEN, OTHERS MAKE IT HAPPEN MICHAEL JORDAN

EVERY DAY MAY NOT BE GOOD...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING GOOD IN EVERY DAY ALICE MORSE EARLE

THE SMALLEST ACT OF KINDNESS IS WORTH MORE THAN THE GREATEST INTENTION KAHLIL GIBRAN

JEH MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

At 2:00 pm, JEH President Cathy Dunn called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cathy recognized past JEH president Beth Meehan. Past president Wanda Schmoyer has been in and out of hospital following surgery, and Kay Janssen has not been feeling well.

Cathy welcomed a new member, JANE DUMAIS

Program on Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council:

Cathy introduced guest speaker Sylvia Swartz, President of Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council.

FMLC Garden Council is an umbrella organization for many garden clubs within 15 mile radius of Fort Myers. Member clubs not limited to Lee County. JEH Chapter of AHS is a member.

Every other month, members receive The Courier newsletter for news, horticulture, and environmental articles. Caution, don't trigger Garden Council security alarm; LCSO charges \$2,700 for false alarms. Mina Edison Botanical Library on shelves at Garden Council is an honor system lending library; sign out sheets to borrow books.

Garden Council hosts interesting speakers. Next meeting, Phil Flood of SWFMD on the good, the bad, and the ugly. October 25th Halloween Social to enjoy food, crafts, and share ideas. Every other year, biannual Flower Show. Strolling Flower Show reestablished since pandemic in downtown Fort Myers; March 2025 theme Awesome Blossoms.

Sylvia thanked Master Gardeners who beautify and maintain Berne Davis Gardens. Berne Davis was a philanthropist and gardener who lived 107 years. New red Japanese Tori gate was donated to gardens. Sylvia discussed expenses, fundraising, and volunteering. Docents are needed in season to welcome visitors.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bylaws Chair: Beth Meehan presented proposed change in dues rule. Proposal, make one price dues rule, eliminate half price membership. Membership will vote at October 2024 general meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Beth presented Treasurer's report. Copies are available for members. Current balance ~ \$11,500.

2024-25 JEH Directories and Hy Lans publication:

Cathy thanked Barbara Oster, Elaine & Terry Martin who mailed directories to entire membership.

Dr. Hy Lans hibiscus book will be reprinted in small format, size of JEH directory. Cathy wants to sell copies at October Rotary Park plant sale.

October Rotary Park Plant Sale: 200 plants of 20 varieties will be sold.

Re-cap of Grafting Workshop: Cathy thanked Beth and Valerie Costa, our best grafters. Grafting rootstock and scion wood was available for members. Valerie urged members to "back up" their special cultivars by grafting.

NEW BUSINESS:

October Meeting: Up-potting plants and plant care tips.

GENERAL MEETING, This Is Our Chapter:

Overview of JEH within American Hibiscus Society and International Hibiscus Society. IHS is internet only virtual association of 150,000 members. IHS has authority for officially registering cultivars and fantastic search engine and database. IHS Facebook page recommended by Cathy.

AHS is national organization, twelve US chapters plus two Australian associated chapters. Six Florida chapters. AHS regulates shows and publishes The Seed Pod quarterly journal.

JEH is a member of Lee County- Fort Myers Garden Council, which costs little and provides excellent free meeting venue.

JEH members pay \$40 annual dues. JEH pays \$25 to AHS, leaving \$15. Thus, fundraising needed through plant sales. We need to determine how many plants were bought by members at discount price versus plants bought by public at full price. Our sponsors contribute. Raffles raise money for newsletter and postage. Expenses include website, storage unit, newsletter, directory, fertilizer, clippers, and show advertising in The Seed Pod. Other expenses are Christmas party and donations to local charities. Emphasis — \$40 membership dues don't cover all expenses, so fundraising is necessary.

Awards: For two years, editor Barbara Oster awarded AHS certificate for outstanding Hendry Herald newsletter. Congratulations! JEH is tops at Florida show; Cathy applauded members who travel the state to compete — notably, Valerie Costa BOS Seedlings and Micki Dougherty Open Collector.

Internet: Denise Helfrich is training with Cathy to keep JEH website updated. JEH has a Facebook page and about 5,400 members all over the world, from Florida to Bulgaria to India.

Disease in Hibiscus: Beth Meehan talked about Dieback Disease. Distinguished from Wilt disease that affects entire plant through roots; dieback is a bark problem when a pathogen enters through bark. Causes — pruning tear, insects, abrasion. Treatment strategies:

1. Cut away diseased branch.
2. Find source of infection.
3. Cut back to clean, healthy, green cambium.
4. Watch remaining wood for trace of disease
5. Destroy diseased wood using sanitary measures.

6. Sanitize clippers between cutting. Valerie uses Hydrogen Peroxide to spray plant and clippers.

MINI SHOW RESULTS: Denise Helfrich announced mini show winners.

Amateur Single	Fiesta del Sol	Paul Yekel
Amateur Double —	Anderson's Double Red	Richard Thurlow
Single	Zydeco	Valerie Costa
Double	Paul Felsberg	Valerie Costa
Mini Single	Chi's Garden Rose in Palm	Valerie Costa
Mini Double	Mini Ballerina	Valerie Costa
Single Seedling	(Unnamed) Valerie's Valentine X Sacred Fire	Valerie Costa
Double Seedling	(Unnamed) Caribbean Pearl X Dancing Fire	Valerie Costa
Mini Single Seedling	Forget-Me-Knot	Valerie Costa

Square for Credit Card Payments: Valerie will bring Square card reader to meetings for purchases \$15 and over.

Adjourned: Cathy adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm. submitted by KATHLEEN DUBIN, Secretary

OCTOBER PRESIDENT'S LETTER CATHY DUNN, President

We have certainly had a hot, wet September! If some of your plants are looking a little bedraggled, or if you just want to expand your collection, make sure you put our October 19th sale at Rotary Park in Cape Coral on your calendar. We'll be offering 200 total plants, 10 each of 20 varieties, and you can find pictures of the varieties on our website. We asked our members for their input on the varieties we will be selling, and you can read their comments in this newsletter in my monthly article.

You won't want to miss our October 13th meeting because we will be discussing 'up potting' your plants. Beth and Valerie will discuss three scenarios: 1. If you buy a new plant and want to put it in a bigger pot. 2. If you buy a new plant and want to plant it in the ground. 3. How to refresh a plant that is in a pot and is root bound. This presentation will help you with the new plants you buy at our sale and guide you in caring for the plants that you already have in your garden.

If you have started any cuttings or grafts, we'd love to hear about your progress. If there is interest, we will offer assistance with rootstock cuttings and supplies at our October meeting, as well as help with grafting (we will supply rootstock and cuttings). I will send out an email reminder prior to the October meeting asking you to let us know if you are interested.

And finally, it's never too early to think about the holidays and our annual holiday party! Please save the date – **DECEMBER 14th** – for our party which will again be held at Whiskey Creek Country Club. It's always a fun evening and we hope to see you there!



STATE TREE OF FLORIDA - SABAL PALM - CARE INFO

This information comes from the FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF NATIVE NURSERIES



Green fronds are the palm's source of nutrients! Cutting green fronds stunts growth, invites disease, and reduces the palm's natural resilience to high winds. Harsh pruning takes away food and shelter from native and migratory songbirds, woodpeckers, butterflies, honey bees, treefrogs, bats, anoles, squirrels, and other wildlife. Over-pruned palms develop weakened trunks, which will eventually cause them to break off and die. Work boots with climbing spikes incur wounds in the trunk, leaving the palm prone to disease.

Small white fragrant flowers are produced in large clusters and are a good nectar source for bees and butterflies. The black berries which follow are a critical food source for a variety of birds and small mammals.

Say NO to landscapers who want to prune green fronds, spring flowers and berries. Exclude annual harsh pruning from your yard.

CATHY'S COMMENTS

Cathy Dunn

One of my goals as your president is to involve our members more by engaging in helpful discussions about our plants and how to care for them. I thought it would be fun to poll our members about their experiences with the 20 varieties we will offer at our sale in October. I sent an email asking members if they had ever had any of these varieties and how they were doing; would they recommend the variety to others, and if they had the variety in the past would they purchase it again? I figured I'd get the good, the bad and the maybe – but surprisingly not one member said they would not recommend a particular variety, even if they had failed with the plant! My conclusion is that you must be an eternal optimist to continue growing tropical hibiscus and apparently none of us are quitters!



Many varieties received high marks from our members; Blue Jean Baby was praised by Wayne Larsen, Jan Farley, Valerie Costa and Jill Breslin. Amy Roberts reported that Rum Rascal was a great plant in her garden. Beth Meehan, Valerie and Nancy Kopp noted that Swamp Cloud was one of their favorite varieties – and these ladies are frequently on the head table, so pay attention to their favorites! Another favorite of Beth's is Tahitian Tau. Kathleen and Jan Farley both highly recommend Marianne Charlton as a hearty plant with lots of blooms. Richard Thurlow bought Blue Jean Baby, Midnight Tryst, Marianne Charlton and Queen of Dreams at the April sale and said that all are doing well despite the heat and wet weather. Wanda Schmoyer has had Sweet Pink for years and highly recommends this variety. Jill noted that she had good luck in the past with all the blooms that sold out quickly at our April sale: Blue Jean Baby, Jolanda Gommer, Chartreuse Rose, Marianne Charlton, Moonlight Madness, Queen of Dreams, and Sweet Pink. So, there is probably a reason these plants sell out fast – they are proven varieties! Christine Peterson said that Bayou Rose had done well for her. Surprisingly, Nancy reported that she has better luck with doubles – many other members expressed frustration with doubles being 'divas' and dropping blooms in the heat!

Even though no one said that they absolutely wouldn't recommend a variety, many members expressed frustration with some plants. But they blamed themselves, the location of the plant, etc. for the lack of complete success! Wanda stated that she had good luck with Bayou Rose, but that Marianne Charlton and Crown Jellyfish were 'pretty finicky' in her garden. Nancy and Valerie both stated that the Moorea and Tahitian varieties were harder to grow in our SW FL heat; since these varieties were developed on islands where the temperatures are not as variable or extreme as we experience here, that is probably understandable. Both Nancy and Valerie mentioned that these varieties do much better in shaded locations. Paul and Sue Fechtmann had placed Blue Jean Baby, Midnight Tryst, Moonlight Madness and Sweet Pink in full sun and decided that they needed more shade; they report that the plants are doing much better with additional shade. Kathleen Dubin stated that Sweet Pink and Moonlight Madness were doing "OK" since she has moved them out of full sun. One of my favorite comments was from Christine Peterson who stated that her Marianne Charlton plant is very sensitive and that she 'had pulled it out of a coma three times'!

I hope you find your fellow members' comments not only interesting but helpful as you plan which varieties you'd like to purchase at the October sale. I was really struck by our members' refusal to give up on a plant; almost every respondent said that they had moved a plant to another location to try to find the optimal environment. At least the weather in October will be cooling off which will be a big benefit to getting your new plants off to a great start! Make sure you come to our October meeting to learn how to transfer your new plants either to a larger pot or directly into your garden.

**OCTOBER MEETING - October 13 - 1:30 mini show entries
2:00 meeting - LEARN TO PROPERLY UP-POT - DON'TMISS**

OCTOBER WHAT TO PLANT

Annuals/Bedding plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden.

Bulbs: Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results.

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to try include dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro.

Vegetables: Easy crops that can be grown now include beans, broccoli, carrots, collards, lettuce, green onions, peppers, radishes, spinach, and tomatoes.

WHAT TO DO

Lawns: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Preemergence herbicides must be applied at the right time to be effective. Apply when nighttime temperatures are 55°F–60°F for 4–5 days. Mow lawngrass at the recommended height; mowing too short encourages weeds and stresses the turf.

Ornamental trees and shrubs: Fertilize plants that are not performing as desired. This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time.

Lawn fertilization: Fertilize lawns if needed.

Strawberries: Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Either way, water daily until plants are established.



Palms: Palms have unique nutritional needs. Select a fertilizer that contains controlled release nitrogen, potassium, and magnesium.

Oleanders: Control the oleander caterpillar, which is a year-round resident in south Florida, without harming beneficial insects by pruning off infested leaves or spraying with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*).

MEMBER BOOK ADDITION AND CORRECTION

New member to add to your book: JANE DUMAIS, 4694 RUE BAYOU, SANIBEL 33957
603-848-9889 jjdumail@gmail.com Welcome aboard Jane!

Correction: KAY JANSSEN - only correct phone number is 239-334-3782 cancel other#
If you have any corrections to make, PLEASE LET ME KNOW! barbaramo@earthlink.net

SAVE THE DATE!

CHRISTMAS PARTY - SATURDAY DECEMBER 14

The James E Hendry Chapter will hold their annual

CHRISTMAS PARTY

on December 14 at the Whiskey Creek Country Club. Happy hour at 5pm, with dinner at 6pm. More information will be provided next month.

OCTOBER MEETING - October 13 - 1:30 mini-show entries

2:00 meeting - LEARN TO PROPERLY UP-POT - Beverages

Bring a snack to share, if desired-Garden Center, 2166 Virginia Ave