



HENDRY HERALD

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

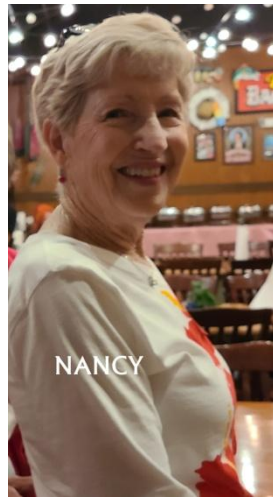
WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com **JANUARY 2022**

May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more, and may nothing but happiness come through your door.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Once again, James E. Hendry Chapter had a fun-filled Holiday Party. We were serenaded by JIM DOUGHERTY, traded gifts and learned about Jewish customs from the MASCOOPS. The ribs and bread pudding were outstanding and the company even better!





PRESERVING YOUR BLOOMS FOR A SHOW

What do you do if your favorite plant blooms too early? Hibiscus flowers only last a day or two and you won't get another before the show! Here's how to keep them fresh up to 3 days prior to the show. So, for a Sunday show, I start picking blooms on Thursday.

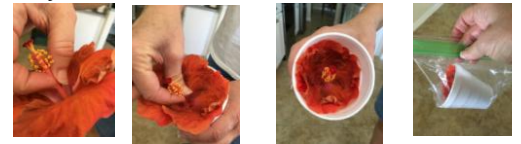
For this procedure, I use an 8 oz Styrofoam coffee cup, but you can also use a paper funnel (like an ice cream cone).

Simply hold the bloom by the stamen and **gently** push it into the cup. Then put the cup in a zip-lock bag and place it in the refrigerator. (See photos)

Having my blooms in cups and bags also helps protect them as you travel to the show.

Questions? Contact me at Bethmq2020@gmail.com

Submitted by Beth Meehan



JUDGING A SHOW

Want to be a judge at shows? Or just want to know what the judges are looking for? Join our present judges WANDA, NANCY, MICKI and JILL at judging class to be held after the January 9th General Meeting. If you are interested in attending, email WANDA, wanda.schmoyer@gmail.com, She needs to know how many are coming so she has a judge's manual for everyone.

HOW TO DIAGNOSE YOUR PLANTS NUTRIENT DEFICIENCY

Learning Garden's tips, tricks and articles are presented by BGI Fertilizers. **THOMAS SCANNELL**

If you suspect your plant is lacking vigor, color or appears weak and growing abnormally, chances are nutrient deficiency is the culprit. It is necessary to examine the specific symptoms and the growing environment. Soil, water and tissue testing will not only confirm the cause but will also recommend corrective actions. Nutrient deficiency symptoms are broadly categorized by location on the plant: old growth and new growth.

OLD GROWTH:

- Nitrogen Deficiency: Uniform yellowing of entire surface of older, lower leaves.
- Phosphorous Deficiency: Lower older leaves appear purple or dramatically smaller and greener.
- Potassium Deficiency: Lower leaves exhibit chlorosis (yellowing) or marginal necrosis (death) that may occur along the entire leaf surface.
- Magnesium Deficiency: Interveinal chlorosis on the older leaves usually beginning along the margin.

NEW GROWTH:

- Iron Deficiency: Uniform interveinal chlorosis on upper leaves and new growth.
- Manganese Deficiency: Symptoms are almost identical to Iron deficiency. Interveinal necrotic spots may form as well.
- Boron Deficiency: New shoot (Meristem) growth will abort, fall off and cause abnormal growth habit and distorted branching.
- Calcium Deficiency: New growth foliage exhibits marginal necrosis and chlorosis. Leaves often become misshapen.

Diagnostic soil testing not only confirms the deficiency, or in some cases the toxicity problem, you can become proactive and avoid future nutritional problems. It can also indicate potential pH problems, where adequate nutrients might be in the soil but are unavailable.

In South Florida, even though soil nutrient levels may be adequate, Iron and Manganese still are often the deficiency culprits. This is because our high alkaline soils and ground water cause these nutrients to become insoluble and unavailable. Please note they are essential micro nutrients. This means they are absolutely necessary (essential) but in lesser amounts (micro). A soil test and corrective pH application would resolve the deficiency problem.

So to all of our plant Doctor diagnosticians out there; if you detect a problem, diagnose the symptoms and take corrective action..

After it's all said and done, it's true but trite: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I like to think of it as preventative health care, i.e. avoid the hospital at all costs!

Get your soil tested today.

I hope this blog helps, and we at BGI wish only the best success for you and yours! TOM

MAY YOUR GARDENS GROW GREEN AND YOUR HIBISCUS BLOSSOM ABUNDANTLY

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.

For the latest up-to-date information regarding INSECT MANAGEMENT on hibiscus see Lee County Extension Service. <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu>

FOLLOW HY'S ADVICE AND YOU WON'T GO WRONG!



MAINTAINING PLANTS SHOULD BE A PLEASURE, NOT A PUNISHMENT

Experienced gardeners know that a pruning job should not be judged by how the plant looks when finished pruning but by how the plant looks a year later.

Landscape maintenance in Florida can be a twelve months a year endeavor. Pruning correctly opens up plants to let in more light and air and helps reduce the build-up of woody stems, dead wood and disease.

BUT NOT HIBISCUS until the last week in FEBRUARY! per HY

January What to Plant

Annuals/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 in the spring. Some examples 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: Many vegetables can be planted this time of year. This the last month to plant Irish potatoes, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, mustard, and turnips.

What to Do

Landscape: It is 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.

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.

END OF THE YEAR MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JACK BERNATZ

Hello All, We can officially call this December the chronological end of the Year 2021. We are now half way through our fiscal 2021-2022 year.

A year filled with many firsts as we move back into a fully operational Chapter once again.

Along with our celebrations of warm and friendly gatherings, we are working through our celebration of Life honoring Martin Estep who was working very hard at our Plant Sale up to the day before He passed. We will miss and very positively remember Martin's contributions to our chapter, along with His warm friendly smile, and willingness to help any & all He could. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn & Family.



Our Edison/Ford Plant Sale was a Huge success. Even though we had many compromises and contributions of many of our members to fill unexpected vacancies in the planned staff and operation. Lots of appreciation and thanks to all who stepped up and made things happen!

As we celebrate the 2021 Christmas Holiday Season. we want all of you to know that we (The Board) wish you all a Blessed and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you next year, January 9th 2022 we will begin the second half of our 2021-2022 fiscal year, with our General Meeting. JACK

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

My goal for 2021 was to lose just 10 pounds ... only 15 to go.



DID YOU SEND ME YOUR BIRTH DATE, DAY and MONTH?
I HAVE NOT ONE January BIRTHDAY TO REPORT :(

GROWING ORCHIDS IN TREES



I have always loved growing orchids but living in northern climates I was confined to maintaining my plants in pots indoors. When I moved to SW Florida, I thought my orchids would thrive effortlessly outside on the lanai, but about six months after I arrived several of my plants looked truly pathetic. In desperation, I decided to place the failing orchids on trees in my garden thinking I had nothing to lose, and those initial orchids have now bloomed twice!

I knew that orchids were *Epiphytes* or air plants that grow on plant surfaces deriving moisture and nutrients from air, rain, and debris in the surrounding environment. Through my research I discovered that the best trees for growing orchids are those with textured bark, and I was concerned because the only trees in my gardens were palms, which have primarily smooth trunks. Since I had no other option, I proceeded with attaching the orchids to several palms, and based on my initial success, I now have more than twenty orchids happily growing on palm trunks.

Even novice gardeners can grow orchids in trees, and I will outline the basic steps that will ensure your success. The first consideration for placing your orchid is to match the plant to the appropriate light environment. The most common orchid variety sold in garden centers is *Phalaenopsis*, which prefers shade; other familiar varieties such as *Vandas* and *Cattleyas* prefer more sun. Areas that receive morning sun are preferable since the afternoon heat and bright sun are less forgiving.

If possible, when placing your orchid choose a location where the blooms will be visible from your lanai or walkway. Once you have chosen a spot for your orchid, carefully remove the plant from its pot and discard all the potting materials. I use Vigoro "Sturdy Stretch Tie" plastic tape to secure the orchid to the tree; this tape is available in several widths at garden centers and will stretch to accommodate plant growth. I have read recommendations for using panty hose or old tee shirts, but I find these to be quite unattractive! You should also avoid using stiff plastic tie wraps as they are inflexible and could strangle the plant as it grows. Do not apply sphagnum moss or any other growing medium to the roots as this could lead to rot and will inhibit the roots from adhering directly to the tree surface. If you look carefully at the orchid, you will see a natural 'fit' for the leaves against the tree that will also bring the roots closest to the trunk surface; hold your orchid in this position and tie the first tape over the plant where the leaves are attached to the roots. I like to add another tape across the roots to orient them to the tree trunk. Tall orchid varieties, such as *Dendrobium* and *Cattleya*, may require another tie to keep them upright against the trunk. (Although I do have one orchid that turned upside down once it was affixed to the palm trunk and it is thriving and blooming!) If you are attaching your orchid to a palm, be sure to allow sufficient space beneath the crown shaft so that spent fronds can be removed without harming the orchid.

Now you are ready to observe your orchids for a few months until their roots adhere to the tree trunk. It usually takes about six months for the first roots to form on the tree surface; once this process begins the roots will rapidly expand and even circle the tree! At this point you can safely remove the stretch tie tape. During the dry season you should mist the plants a couple of times a week to ensure they have enough moisture. I occasionally mist the plants with orchid food, but the orchids seem to obtain enough nutrients without this step, just as they would in the wild. Once established, orchids are almost maintenance free and will grow and expand, rewarding you for many years with their beautiful blooms. Most orchids will bloom annually, and the blooms will last for 2 months or longer; some varieties like vandas will bloom 2 or 3 times a year.

To me, nothing says tropical paradise more than orchids blooming outside on trees. And now that you know how simple it is to attach orchids to trees, I hope that you will use these easy techniques to achieve your own beautiful orchid garden!



Cathy Dunn, Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer, James E. Hendry board member
Garden Club of Cape Coral Member

JANUARY 9, 2022 JEH GENERAL MEETING

CATHY DUNN

Guest Speaker at the January 9, 2022 JEH Chapter Meeting

The JEH Chapter gives a warm welcome to new board member, Cathy Dunn.

Cathy is a native of VA and has been an avid gardener since childhood. When Cathy retired and moved to Indiana, she became an Advanced Master Gardener and served as an officer in the Hendricks County Master Gardeners Association as well as the Brownsburg Garden Club. Cathy is a certified Master Gardener in Florida and serves as First VP of the Garden Club of Cape Coral. Cathy writes monthly gardening articles for the Cape Coral Breeze and occasionally for the Fort Myers News-Press. She is also a new contributor to the Hendry Herald.

Inspired by JEH Member and former board member, Beth Meehan, Cathy fell in love with hybrid hibiscus and is making as much room as possible in her gardens for these beautiful plants!

Cathy will share her research techniques learned from head Lee County horticulturist, Stephen Brown. Come prepared to learn lots of new stuff. Mark your calendars for the **JEH Chapter Meeting on JANUARY 9, 2022**



Martin Alan Estep, Sr., 78, of Lehigh Acres, FL passed Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

Martin was born September 12, 1943 in Fairview Township, PA and is survived by his best friend and wife of 55 years, Carolyn, his son Marty and his daughter Melinda.

Martin was a Marine veteran of 5 years and served in the Vietnam War. After returning from Vietnam, he married Carolyn and they settled down in central Pennsylvania. Martin was a serious do-it-yourself person. He remodeled homes, was an expert auto mechanic, and taught himself to be very proficient with computers and web design. After spending many years as a diesel mechanic for Roadway, Martin learned the trade of photographic equipment repair and opened his own camera repair business that he operated for over 25 years. Martin and Carolyn finally retired in Lehigh Acres, FL.

Martin was a member of the James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. He was a helper to many with a gentle soul, and deeply touched so many people throughout his entire life.

SOMETHING TO PONDER ON,,,,

You can shed tears because they are gone, or you can smile because they lived. You can close your eyes and pray they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you. Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live in yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember only that they are gone or you can cherish their memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind and feel empty, or you can do what they would want.. Smile, open your heart, love...and go on.

ELIZABETH AMMONS

COME TO THE JANUARY 9th GENERAL MEETING!

Doors open at 1:00. Bring blooms to enter in the mini-show contest. Light refreshments served. Mini show voting at 1:45. Speaker, **OUR OWN CATHY DUNN**, at 2:00. Short business meeting to follow. After meeting is adjourned, JUDGES TRAINING will be held by our 4 active judges. Manual will be furnished.

Meeting is held at Garden Council Building, 2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers.



barbara oster, editor