



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER
of the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com FEBRUARY 2020

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Also Happy Groundhog Day (2/2) and President's Day (2/17). Lent begins 2/26

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means "to cleanse." The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a monthlong festival of purification and atonement.

WELCOME ALL 38 NEW MEMBERS! COME TO THE FEBRUARY 9th MEETING
EXPERTS ON HAND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR NEW PLANTS!



"Hibiscus schizopetalus is a definite plus for any landscaping arrangement. It is a native of tropical East Africa and does well in our climate. It is different from most hibiscus that we hybridize with or even find in local gardening outlets. This fringed hibiscus is definitely one that you need to add if you want to garner attention in your garden." DAMON VEACH

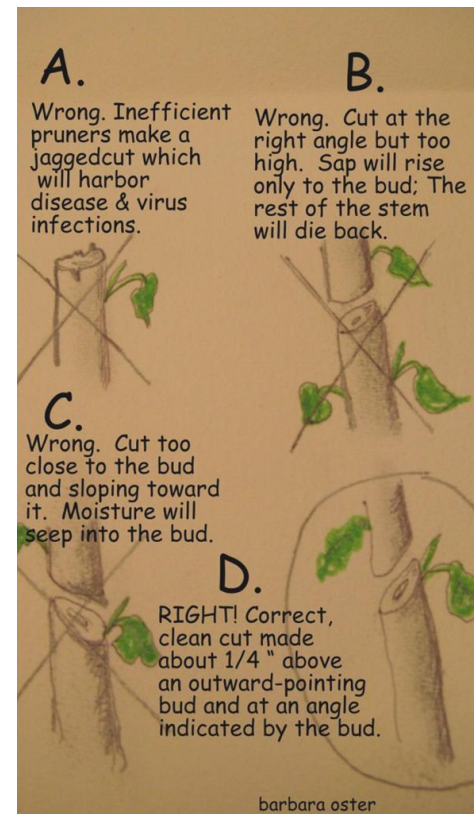
HY'S WAY FOR FEBRUARY

PRUNING YOUR HIBISCUS

When To Prune: In Southwest Florida, the time to prune hibiscus is **late February**. You do not want to prune when a frost is likely. The frost can kill tender new growth. Remember, **blooms grow on new growth**, not old growth. Pruning results in more branches which results in more flowers. Pruning allows you to shape the plant.

Pruning is not a black art. It is simple-when you know how.

- (a) Prune at the right time.
- (b) Prune to an outward pointing bud. This is directional pruning.
- (c) Cut away all dead, all crossing and weak-looking wood.
- (d) Make all cuts clean and smooth. Use a clean sharp pruner.
- (e) Do not leave stubs above a bud as the stub will decay.
- (f) Remove all horizontal branches within 4 inches of the ground.
- (g) You can remove a third of any branch (leaving at least two nodes) without hurting the plant.



How To Prune:

- (1) Remove all dead wood. Using a fingernail or small knife, scrape away ¼ to ½ inch of the brown outer bark of a branch you are not sure about. A live branch will be bright green underneath the bark; if the branch is brown or light tan the branch is dead. Remove the dead part of the branch down to where it is green.
- (2) The general rule in pruning hibiscus is to cut the plants back one-third all over. You can leave a few old stems intact that will provide a few early blooms.
- (3) Prune at a node. So what is a node? It is a definite bump on the surface of the stem where a branch is growing or had grown. The best node is one that has a leaf growing from it. If all leaves have already fallen off, just choose a node pointing outward and up. Be sure you cut ¼ inch above the node at a 45 degree angle to shed water.
- (4) Remember that blooms occur on new growth and not old growth. Pruning causes new branches and therefore more blooms. After pruning, apply a foliage fertilizer in ½ the suggested label strength.
- (5) Very old bushes with old hard wood, large thick branches and small flowers need rejuvenation by drastic pruning. You may need a pruning saw. Saw them off two feet from the ground on a slant outward. A whole new plant, bushy and with more flowers will result.

After pruning do not overwater. Because of the loss of leaves, the plant cannot cope with excess water. Also, be careful to not over fertilize until the plant has grown leaves.

We are forever grateful to Dr. Hy Lans for sharing his knowledge of hibiscus with the James E. Hendry Chapter. Hy passed away in 2013. He was the author of a wonderful hands-on hibiscus manual **HIBISCUS FOR YOUR GARDEN - IN-GROUND AND CONTAINER** that is for sale at our chapter meetings or by contacting Barbara at barbaramo@earthlink.net for \$10.

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

FRIENDS ARE LIKE RAINBOWS. THEY BRIGHTEN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A STORM

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Ad for Seniors found in a Florida Newspaper.

You can say what you want about Florida, but you rarely hear of anyone retiring and moving north.

DO NOT REGRET GROWING OLDER. IT IS A PRIVILEGE DENIED TO MANY.

INTERESTING WEBSITE

Karen at Costa Farms [info@costafarms.online] ALL KINDS OF GARDENING INFO

The following plants are perennial and grow for several seasons, but are annuals in cold-winter areas:

Angelonia, Caladium, Crossandra, Curcuma, Evolvulus, Gerbera daisy (Garvinea varieties), Heliconia, Lantana, Pentas, Plumbago, Shooting star

FRANK HEFFERNAN and REVEREND DURAISINGAM

Even though FRANK HEFFERNAN and BONNIE HALL have left our area for greener pastures, they still keep in contact. For years FRANK has been buying a membership in the American Hibiscus Society and sending hibiscus seeds to Reverend Samuel Duraisingam of Malaysia. The Reverend has been quite successful in growing Frank's seeds. Pictured are only a few of the blooms he has.

Dear Frank & Bonnie,

Greetings of love, joy and peace to you.

The year 2019 has been a wonderful year for me and the ministry. God's grace has been sufficient. He marvelously sustains and strengthens me to do His work. With His grace, I will continue to serve Him.

My hibiscus plants gave me plenty of blooms this year. The number of plants has increased considerably with your kind assistance. In my balcony, I have about 30 plants. These bloom in various colors and size. On the ground in my compound I have about 10 plants. These are more than 10 years old. I keep them trimmed. Outside my house compound along the road I have planted all the 'not so spectacular' ones. With very little care, they have grown well. I also have more than 30 smaller seedlings in small pots. These are from the seeds you sent me early this year. They have grown to be more than a foot tall. I hope they will give me some large blooms soon.



I am regularly receiving the Seed Pod magazine. Thanks for the subscription.

May the Lord continue to make His face upon you and shower His goodness and grace to you in abundance during this festive season. Have a Blessed Christmas. May your joy be full. I pray that the Lord will enable you to end this year successful and enter into 2020 with renewed blessings.

With Love & Prayers, Your brother and friend, Rev. Samuel

WHILE WE HAVE SOME FREE TIME IN FEBRUARY FROM OUR USUAL GARDENING CHORES-IT'S A GREAT TIME TO LABEL YOUR PLANTS-several thoughts:

Many of our members have found the most successful way to label your plants is with a white venetian blind slat and a #2 pencil. Blind slats that people replaced have been found in the trash. They are easy to cut and punch a hole in.

I have always had better luck using loop labels to identify my hibiscus. Those tags, stakes, pieces of venetian blinds, etc., that some growers use disappear after a while, but those labels that loop around a branch last much longer. They can be found online from A. M. Leonards. They offer several sizes of loop labels.

BTW, writing the name of a variety on the label with a grease pencil or a thick lead (graphite) pencil lasts much longer than using a Sharpie. **Tom Miller**

Some years back, our member, TOM ADAMS, who has since passed away, gave a demo of his labeling method. He cut label sized pieces of aluminum from soda cans (with a kitchen scissors), punched a hole in the aluminum (with a newsboy's punch), put the label on a thick section of newspaper and "etched" the plant name in with a ball point pen. These have been long lasting also.

FEBRUARY 9th MEETING

Our speaker will be Alan Schulman. Alan is a lifetime gardener from Chicago. He has been a active member of a Chicago based garden club, "The Gardeners of the North Shore" for over 45 years. Club members call him "Mr. Color." He plants all kinds of gardens wherever there is an opportunity. He grows everything from a full season greenhouse, vegetables, and sunny annuals to full shade northern gardens. In 1994-95 Alan was the on air personality in a yearlong TV garden show called Easy Gardening that aired in Chicago. For many years, he penned a newspaper garden column under the byline "Eddie Earthworm"

Alan says that wherever he lives he has a desire to plant a garden. Being snowbird living in a condo in Punta Gorda, Alan was frustrated by his lack of some dirt to plant flowers in. Three years ago, Alan was walking in History Park, a 3-acre public park in Punta Gorda and he could see numerous areas that were previously plant beds. Today Alan will tell us how he got involved in beautifying History Park and what plans he has for the park gardens in the future.

A happy group of workers after the very successful January Plant Sale. 500 plants were sold in 1/2 hour. Yes, 30 minutes after the doors opened at 2:00 pm at the Salvation Army Building in Fort Myers, the plants were GONE! Our success was a combination of many hands working hard but especially important was the publicity WANDA SCHMOYER got out. There were articles and pictures in every local newspaper in town.



We offer members a \$5 per plant discount and 38 people wishing to take advantage of this special price joined our chapter. We now have a total of 114 members. We realize that some of the new members joined only for the discount but many seemed very interested. We hope all come to our February 9th meeting to learn more about their beautiful hibiscus plants.

PICTURE COURTESY OF **MARTIN ESTEP**



PHOTOGRAPHERS: **VALERIE COSTA**
MICKI DOUGHERTY

GENERAL MEETING OF THE JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER of the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY 1/12/2020

President JACK BERNATZ called meeting to order at 2 pm. There were 29 people in attendance including several guests. One of the guests, JULIE BRUNI, signed up to be a new member.

Secretary: BARBARA OSTER said the minutes of the November meeting were in the December newsletter and there was no December meeting due to the Christmas Party.

Treasurer: CHARLOTTE HARFF gave the December 31st balance on hand as very healthy and had copies of report available for members to see.

Plant Sale: MARSHA CRAWFORD talked about the January 18th Plant Sale at the Salvation Army Building on McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. She related that the 500 plants were due to be delivered at 10 am and there would be two shifts of people to handle the duties. One group of 10 will unload and place the plants and then have lunch and buy plants. Lunch will be provided to all workers. Group two, the afternoon workers are to arrive at 12 pm to have lunch and buy plants then get to their duties. She has people lined up for all the jobs.

MINI SHOW:	Single	Flickering Flame	MARSHA CRAWFORD
	Double - tie	unknown	RICHARD WALTER
		Chiffon Pink	NANCY KOPP
	Mini Single	Pride of Hankins	NANCY KOPP
	Mini Double	Chad	WANDA SCHMOYER
	Seedling	unnamed from FRANK	BETH MEEHAN
		HEFFERNAN'S Seed	

Information on showing blooms: NANCY talked on picking blooms in the morning, pinning bloom to block, refrigerating for a later show, and transporting to show. WANDA told the group she has been a judge for over 10 years and has judged over 50 shows. She explained how only the gold ribbon blooms move up to be judged for Best of Show. JILL BRESLIN showed the 5" ring used to size miniatures purchased at a craft store and explained that the judges look for form, size, color and condition. It was mentioned that perhaps we need a judges training for our chapter and several members were interested.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50. 50/50 was won by WES ROWE

JACK mentioned what to do with a new plant when it was brought home and several people talked about the ways that they handle new plants.

The group then moved out doors and member WES ROWE showed a raised planter that he has designed for his church's neighborhood Faith Garden. He brought the actual planter boards and constructed it on sight. He also brought a complete set of plans for the 4x8 raised bed. If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a set of plans, email barbaramo@earthlink.net and I will send them to you. Our group gives a donation to several of the hardest working, most valuable volunteers who work with WES at the community garden. The crops of vegetables are donated to the local food bank. We are pleased to support this worthy cause.



TERRY MARTIN , who runs our mini show, congratulates new member RICHARD WALTER on his winning bloom.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from JACK BERNATZ

Congratulations everyone !!!!

What a very rapid moving, organized and effective sale of 500 Exotic Hibiscus Plants. Thanks to all who contributed to making the sale move along so smoothly. Amongst all of the favorable Sale Helpers were Membership Gatherers, who enlisted 38 new members.

When You do good things, good things seem to happen. Following protocol of previous years I ask all of you to inform a board member of anything you saw or heard that might make our next Sale even better. We have a very interesting Speaker, Alan Schulman, also a new member, slated to speak at our 2-9-2020 General Meeting. He has agreed to share his love of Flowers and what brought him to History Park in Punta Gorda.

Hope to see you at the meeting! Safe travels and safe gardening. **JACK**



GARDEN VARIETY HIBISCUS THAT WE SEE AROUND TOWN

Friends and neighbors say "Oh you're in the Hibiscus Society. What kind of hibiscus is that one in my yard?" Below are a few we see often.



And the White Versicolor which is often confused with White Wings. The way you can tell is by the color of the stigma pads. WV has yellow ones and Wings, red. Now you can be the neighborhood expert!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARSHA CRAWFORD for her wonderful article in the SEED POD! JEH is so proud of her!

PAUL ZINSZER with our FEBRUARY SPEAKER, ALAN SCHULMAN

MEETING - FEBRUARY 9th 1:30 to enter blooms

Bring your hibiscus questions. Experts on hand with answers.

