



HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL



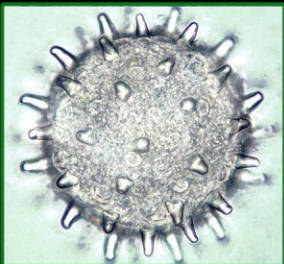
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RESULTS OF HOTY 2007
The Winner and Runners Up



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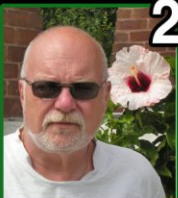
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2014 - 2016



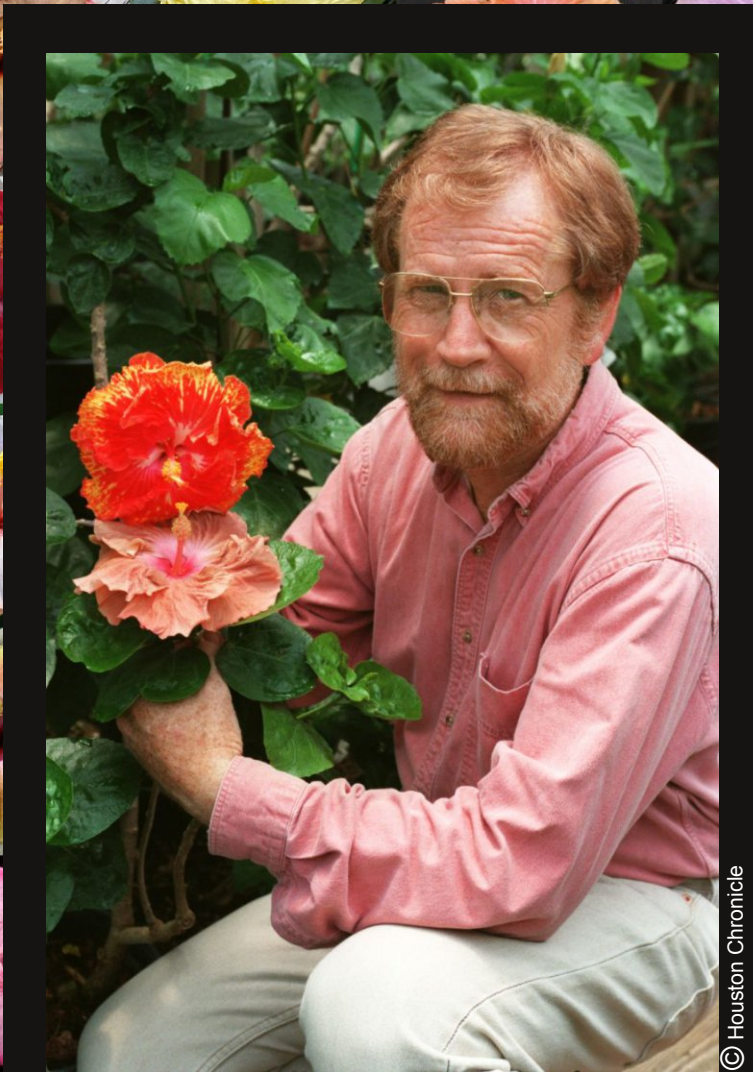
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BARRY SCHLUETER

We bid a sad farewell to a Master Hybridizer



HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL



© Houston Chronicle

Barry Lynn Schlueter 1945 - 2014

Barry Schlueter, the award-winning and charismatic giant of the world of Hibiscus hybridizing, sadly passed away at his Webster, Harris County, Texas home at the age of just 69.

A retired science and physics teacher, Barry was a member of the American Hibiscus Society and a life member of the Lone Star Chapter in Houston, Texas.

Barry won many AHS awards, including Seedling of the Year winners 'Double Date' in 1999, 'Atlantis' in 2003 and 'Climax' in 2006.

For more than 10 years he edited 'The Petaloid', the monthly newsletter of the AHS. He also edited the society's 'The Tropical Hibiscus Handbook'.

A Personal Tribute to Barry Schlueter

from Pushpa Suresh, India

Barry Schlueter, such a well known name in this Hibiscus world. I can't imagine the Hibiscus world without his creations. It is really sad he is no longer with us. But we all remember him through his blooms and words.

I did not meet Barry in real life. I dreamed of meeting some great Hibiscus personalities, but that did not happen with either Bob Carran or Barry Schlueter. But I consider myself so fortunate to have had their virtual friendship which I consider equivalent to real life.

When I entered this field I was stunned, mesmerized and could not believe my eyes that there could be so many colors, forms and varieties of Hibiscus. I was totally spellbound to see Heartbreak Hotel, Barry Schlueter's own namesake etc. I expressed my interest in growing hibiscus from seeds to Barry and he sent me hundreds of free seeds with growing instructions. Today I am using some of

the outcome in my own hybridizing work. He patiently taught me about fertilizers, pest controlling methods and many many other things. We became great friends. When I actually met his sweet daughter Shelley Lynn, I saw Barry in her.

I am short of words here. It is hard to digest the fact that Barry is no longer with us. My sincere condolences to his wife Susan Schlueter, his daughter Shelley Lynn and to Selena Jade, his most adorable grand daughter.

I picked some of the blooms to show you all which I grew from the seeds he gifted me. Also attached is a picture of an Indian version of Barry which he sent me a long time ago.

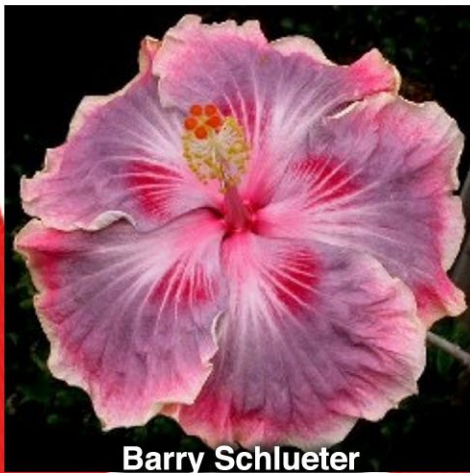
Barry my dear friend, you will be not only in the heart of thousands of your friends and relatives but also every Hibiscus enthusiast who admires and appreciates your blooms. Rest in peace my friend.



Barry salutes Pushpa surrounded by some of the beautiful crosses with which he has gifted her.



Yoda



Barry Schlueter

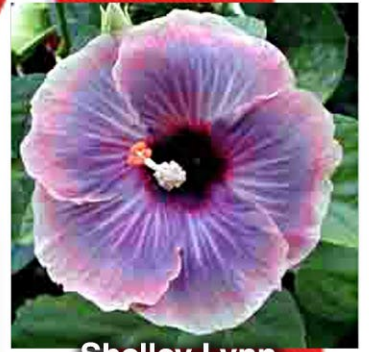


Georgia's Pearl



Almost Heavan

**THE MAN
IN THE RED SUSPENDERS**



Shelley Lynn



Jeanette Elliff



Eye Spy



Hitchcock

**AND THE BEAUTY HE LEFT
FOR THE WORLD TO ENJOY**



Selena Jade



Barry's Timeless



Susan Schlueter



Roz Merritt



Climax



Marianne Charlton



Lone Wolf



Mountain Air

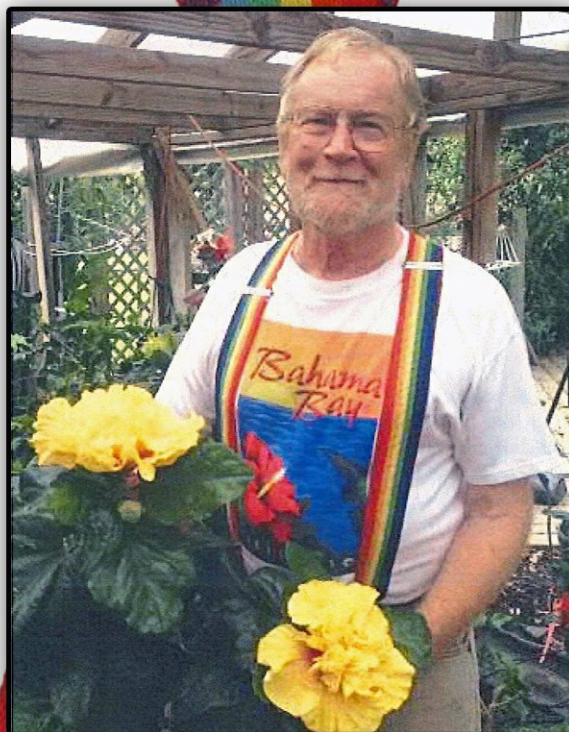
1365
REGISTERED CULTIVARS



Jason Blue



Wheel of Fortune



Area 51



Double Date

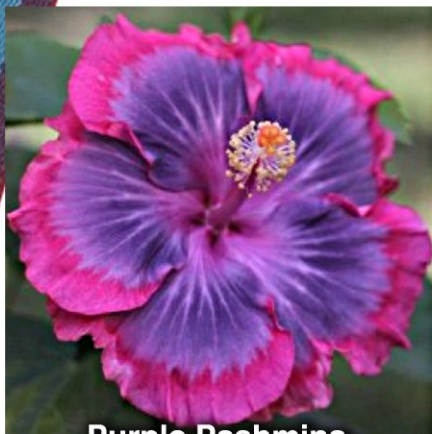
IN ALL THE COLOURS OF
THE RAINBOW



Heartbreak Hotel



Bluebook



Purple Pashmina



Pushpa Suresh

HIBISCUS OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

With the HOTY competitions under a new chairperson, we are now able to declare the HOTY 2007 champion. This cultivar was ranked #1 by every member of the HOTY Panel of Judges who was eligible to vote and received a ranking of 9.4 out of a maximum of 10.

The contest was a very competitive one in that the 3rd to 5th ranked candidates all received exactly the same score creating a 3 way tie as can be seen below.

HOTY 2007 CHAMPION



9.4

TAHITIAN SPOTTED SUN

9.4

A] PARENTAGE - Rosalind X Kylie Ritchie

B] SIZE OF BLOOM [average and range from minimum to maximum eg. 7" - 6.5" to 9"] - 6 to 7 inches

C] TEXTURE OF THE BLOOM [thin, average, good, excellent] - **Above Average**

D] SYMMETRICAL FORM [reliable, average, variable - meaning sometimes less than ideal] - **Reliable**

E] DURATION OF THE BLOOM [1 day, two day, more than two days] - **2 days**

F] ANGLE OF BLOOM PRESENTATION ON THE BUSH [upright, lateral to upright, lateral, lateral to down angle and pendulous] - **Lateral to upright**

HOTY 2007

THE RUNNERS UP



TAHITIAN LION QUEEN - 8.4
Bonnie B x Tahitian Solar Fire
2nd PLACE



TAHITIAN PURPLE QUEEN - 8.2
Midnight Blue x Tahitian Queen
Joint 3rd PLACE



TAHITIAN PINK PRINCESS - 8.2
Grand Hyatt x Silver Memories
Joint 3rd PLACE



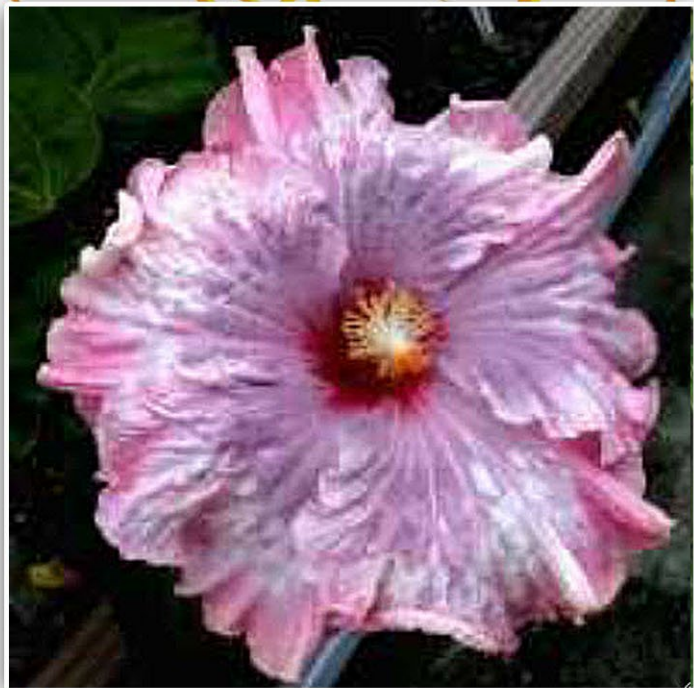
TAHITIAN SOPHISTICATION - 8.2
Georgia's Pearl x Dragon's Breath
Joint 3rd PLACE

HOTY 2007

THE RUNNERS UP



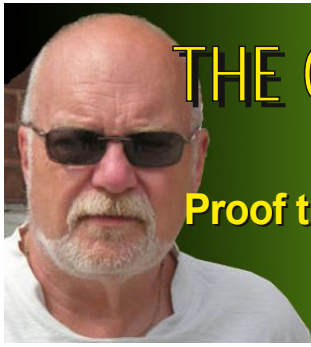
TAHITIAN LION KING - 8.08
Georgia's Pearl X Evelyn Howard
6th PLACE



TAHITIAN LAVENDER EXTRAORDINAIRE - 8.00
Miss Liberty X Kevin Johnson
7th PLACE



MOOREA IMPERIAL BLOSSOM - 7.5
Persephone X Jemina [Not Registered]
8th PLACE



THE GREAT ADVENTURE BEGINS - PART 1

OR

Proof that growing Hibiscus makes a person try crazy things

By Kes Winwood

As anyone who lives in a climate where there are less than favourable conditions for growing hibiscus can attest, you must provide shelter during the coldest months of winter for your plants. Without a heated greenhouse, which for most people is a prohibitively expensive proposition, you are forced into the only other solution – bring them indoors.

This of course presents a host of other problems not the least of which is the moving of the whole collection, which in my case means transporting some nearly 200 cultivars into my heated basement where they spent the winter under grow lights. This solution provides the temperatures and adequate light they need to survive but it is not ideal. However there are some major difficulties to overcome, not the least of which is age. I no longer am physically capable of carrying this many plants up and down basement stairs twice a year without help (volunteer or otherwise).

The other factor that plays an important role is of course the weather. When you have a very long and colder winter than normal as many of us experienced this past winter, it prolongs the amount of time they must stay in the basement before it is safe enough to bring them outside in the spring.

There is always a fear of a late frost which can cause damage to the leaves but not kill the plants outright. And then light itself is the other enemy. The plants have spent a winter in a low light environment and when brought outside where the light is more intense – even in the shade – there is always the potential for sunburn and/or severe leaf drop.

All of the above factors mean that often when our plants return to the outdoors after their winter indoors, they are slow to break out of their dormancy and if they suffer frost, wind or severe leaf loss at this stage, they suffer a setback that shortens the already short growing season of the northern hemisphere.

That was the situation I was in this year when the spring was colder than normal with late snows and very cold temperatures. It was late May and still no immediate hope to move the plants outside. At this point I was almost one full month behind schedule as my plants had gone outside in late April the preceding year. I desperately needed a greenhouse to provide shelter and to extend my outdoor season both in the spring and in the fall.

This required thinking outside the box to find a solution and it was found in a box, albeit a very hefty 250lb box which contained a translucent car shelter. The

shelter is 11ft wide by 20 ft. long with a center height of eight feet – all in all a perfect size for a makeshift greenhouse.



As the material was translucent, I immediately realized that it would hopefully provide adequate light but most importantly diffused light rather than direct sunlight. The only way to test the theory was to buy the car shelter and turn it into a greenhouse.

Best case scenario was I had found a solution to extend my growing season; worst case scenario was I had just bought a car shelter for the winter. A win-win situation no matter what the outcome. And so the grand adventure began.



Site of greenhouse before leveling the ground

I chose a site at the back of my house which is west facing and receives the afternoon sun. The brick wall provides a backdrop to slow the winds which are mainly from the west and they will also absorb heat that will be radiated back out to the greenhouse in the cooler evenings.

UP



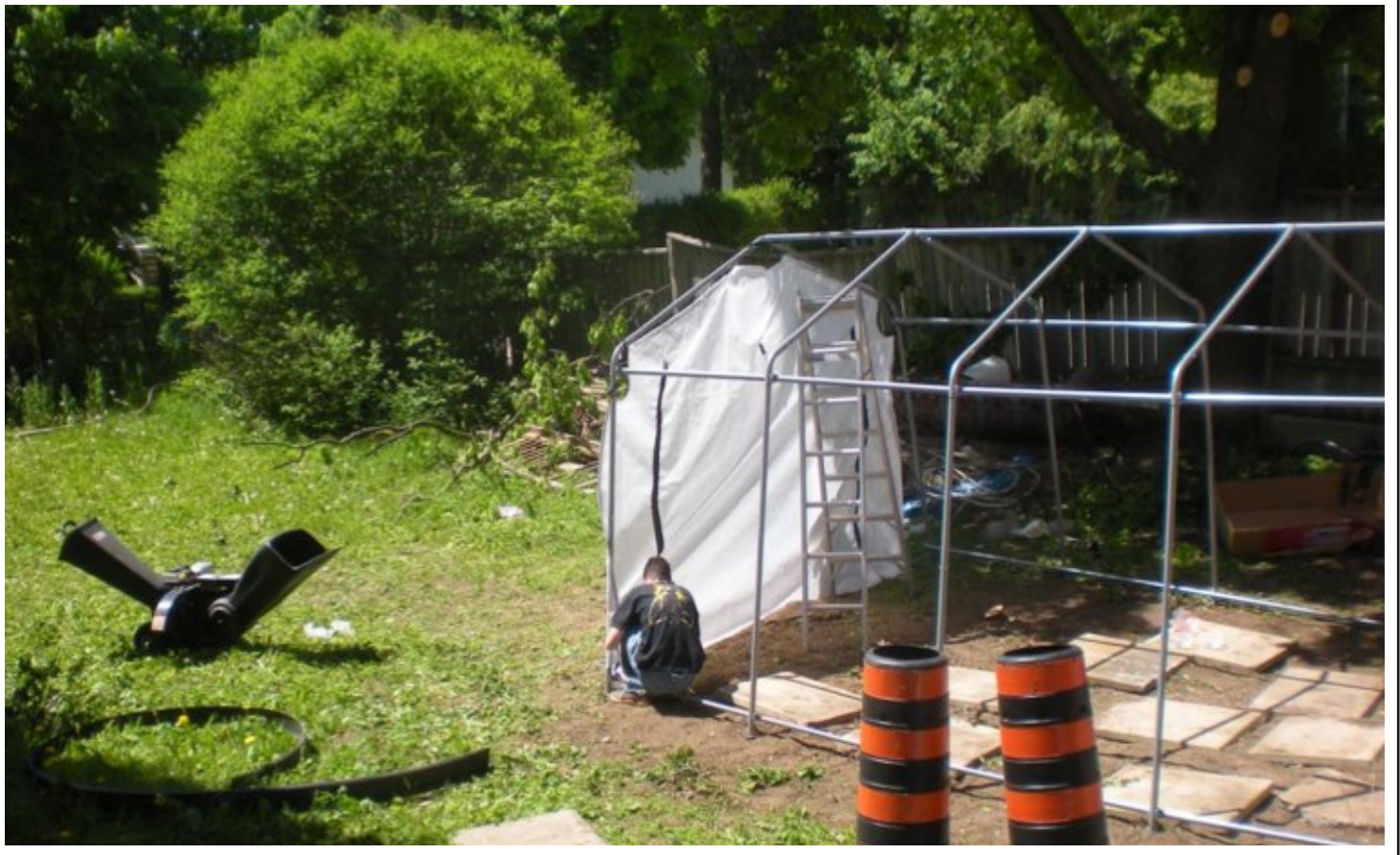
SHE



GOES







End door being attached



Complete - just needs to be tightened



Ready for the plants



June 1st and finally all the plants are out of the basement and in their summer home. We placed patio stones as a method to raise the plants off the ground to prevent

slugs access to the drainage holes. Notice that the patio stones are not flush with one another so that pots can straddle the opening which provides better drainage.



One of the nice features of this structure is that it has doors at either end that can be opened to provide air flow. Since this picture was taken, additional patio stones were added to complete the “flooring”.

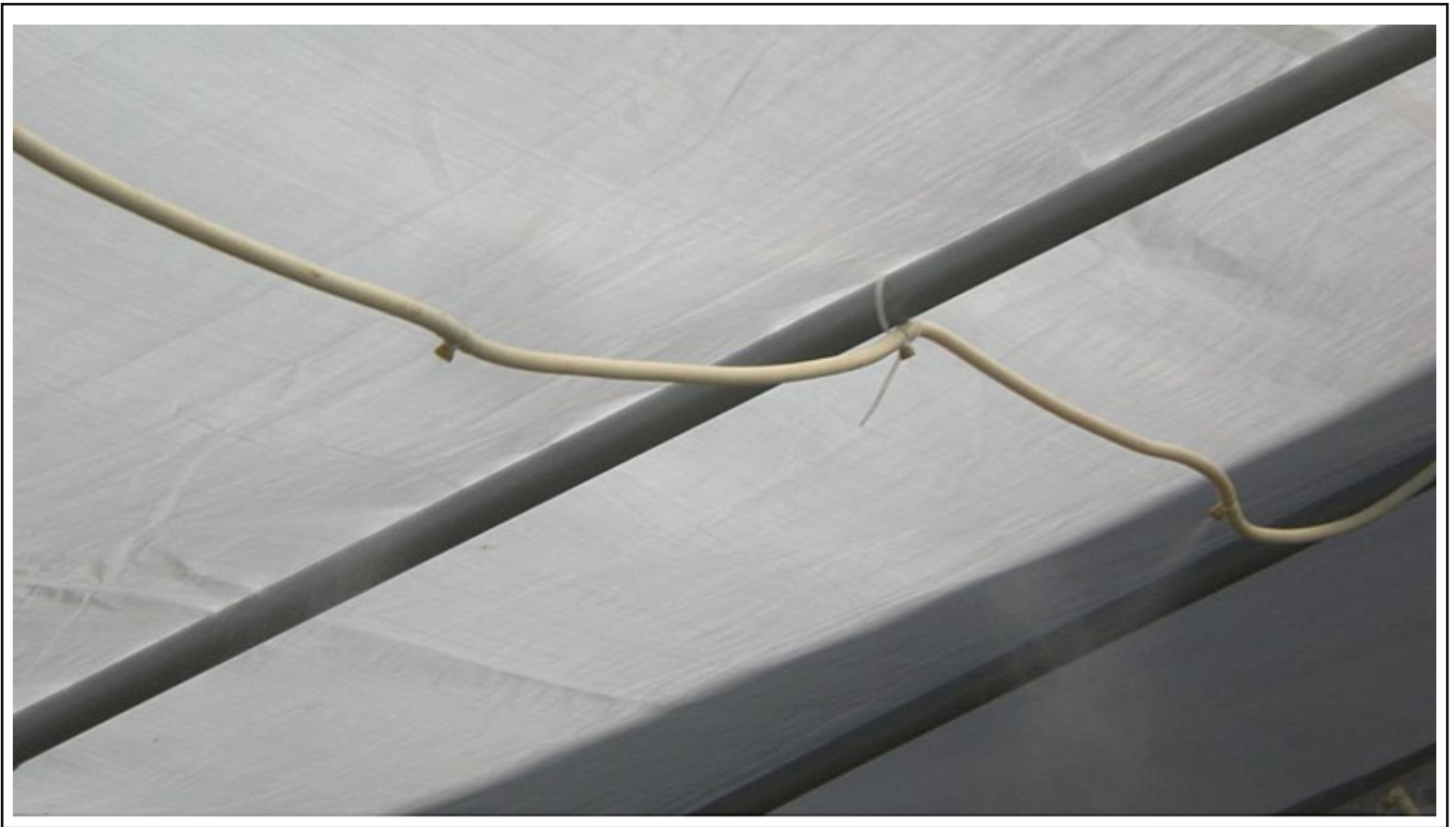
The greenhouse has been in operation for a month and the first major thing that I noticed was that I had absolutely no leaf drop due to exposure to increased light levels. I assume that the diffuse light provided by the translucent plastic (a heavy woven type) is the reason for this development. This seems to be a major improvement in that the plants can focus on bloom production rather than growing new leaves.

However, it soon became apparent that temperature, particularly in the afternoon would be a major issue. The

greenhouse is shaded until about 10:30am when the full sun first reaches one end. By noon it is half in sunlight and half in shade and by 2pm it is in full sun until about 4:30pm when it begins to receive shade again.

By noon the temperatures can exceed 90 degrees F (32C) and rapidly reaches 100F (37C) or higher unless something is done to mitigate these extreme temperatures. The solution turned out to be a simple and inexpensive one. By attaching a misting system on the inside of the structure I am able to drop the temperature on a hot day from 90F (32C) to 80F (26C) in about 15 minutes.





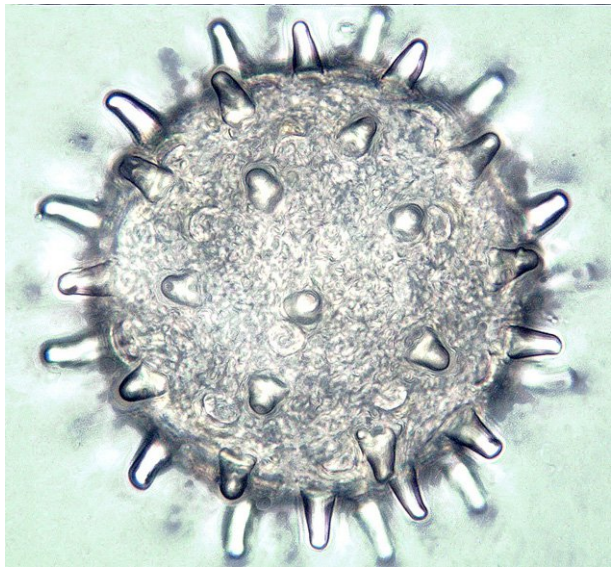
Misting system attached to the steel tubing of the structure with plastic zip ties. If you look closely you can see the fine spray from the nozzles. In the picture below you can see the fine spray that helps cool the

greenhouse to suitable temperature. So far the adventure is proving the old adage that necessity is the mother of invention. Part 2 of the adventure will show the successes and failures of this great adventure.



HOW TO FREEZE HIBISCUS POLLEN

By Wendy Williams



Highly magnified Hibiscus rosa-sinensis pollen grain

Picture the moment. One of your best Hibiscus has bloomed and there is not another flower in sight to pollinate it with. What do you do? You could try a self-pollination which does sometimes work - or you could simply pick the solitary flower and enjoy it displayed on the coffee table.

Those lucky growers who live in warm countries may not encounter this type of scenario frequently enough to bother about it but, in cooler climates, flowering can be very sporadic, certainly until the end of May - and what a shame to waste all those solitary blooms!

One solution to the problem is to freeze some of your best pollen so that you will always have a supply on hand. Anyone with a domestic freezer can do it.

The procedure for freezing pollen is quite simple. The main thing to remember is that, in order for freezing to be successful, the pollen must be as **DRY** as possible. Any residual moisture will expand as it turns into ice potentially damaging the pollen's cellular structure.

All you will need is some silica gel, some small vials in which to store the pollen ... and a freezer. (More details at the end of the article.)

The first step, of course, is to harvest some fresh pollen. I use a small artist's brush for this (1) but I am sure you will adapt the technique to your own circumstances and environment.



1 - Harvesting fresh pollen



2 - Using the back of a craft knife to move the pollen

maturity a plant can be encouraged to produce better quality pollen - but there are some plants which I have had to admit are simply poor pollen donors.

The fresh pollen is then transferred onto a tiny square of absorbant kitchen paper (3) circa just 3.5 mm square - small because it will be tucked into a 2ml

Next I gently scrape the collected pollen off the tip of the brush, doing my best not to crush or damage it (2). The back of my craft knife is a good tool for this.

Some flowers produce copious amounts of fluffy, slightly sticky pollen which often gives great results when used in pollination. This is the best kind of pollen to freeze.

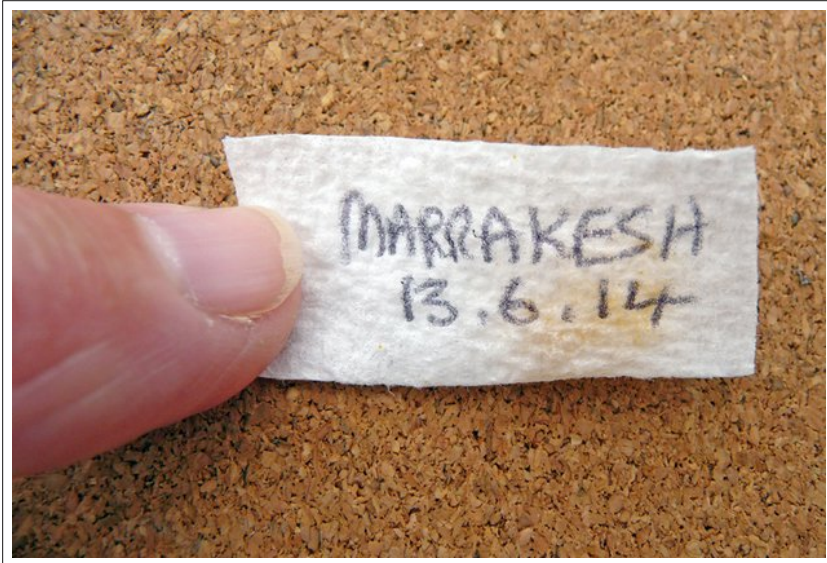
Other flowers produce sparse pollen which feels dry and gritty even when the pollen sacs first open. Such pollen seems inferior. Sometimes with better feed, hydration and



3 - Pollen transferred to a scrap of kitchen paper

vial. The name of the donor pollen and the date of collection is already written on the reverse of the paper and is revealed when the paper is folded in half (4).

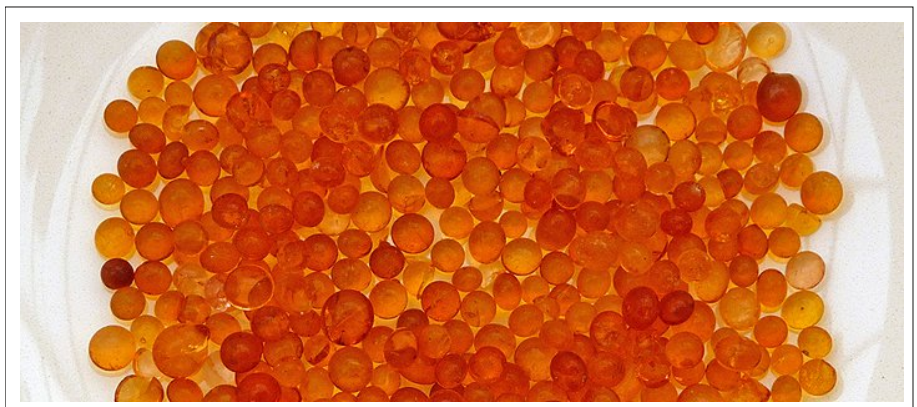
I use a ball point pen to write on the easily torn kitchen paper. It survives time in the freezer well.



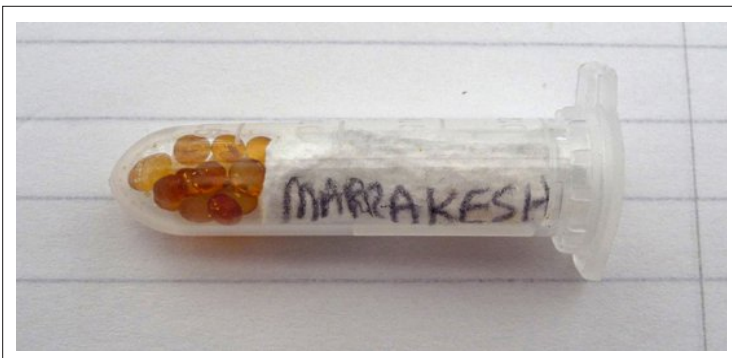
4 - Paper gently folded over to enclose pollen

Having successfully collected pollen, it now has to be thoroughly dried before it can be placed in the freezer. I use non-toxic, self-indicating silica gel (5) for this purpose. It turns from orange to green as it absorbs water.

(After it has absorbed all the water and turned green, the silica gel can be re-activated by heating for several minutes on a low setting in the microwave.)



5 - Paper gently folded over to enclose pollen



6 - A vial containing silica gel and fresh pollen

I then place a few beads of silica gel into a 2ml vial (see end of article for details of where to buy). Then I gently ease the paper containing the pollen into the vial, making sure that I can read the name of the donor through the plastic (6). The cap is snapped shut and the silica gel will now suck the moisture out of both paper and pollen.

While they are drying, the vials of pollen are stored in a small airtight container in the main body of my refrigerator (7). After three full days (72 hours) of drying, the vials should now be ready to go into the freezer.

I often end up using my stored pollen before it ever gets as far as the freezer so only a few of the vials actually reach their final destination.

The vials that do get frozen are kept at the bottom of the freezer in the coldest part (8). When I want to use one, I retrieve it as quickly as possible so that none of the remaining vials begin to defrost.



7 - Airtight container with vials of pollen drying in the refrigerator



8 - Vials of frozen pollen among the frozen chips and peas in my freezer

DEFROSTING AND USING YOUR POLLEN



When you want to use your frozen pollen, it is important to thaw it out SLOWLY! If it thaws out too quickly the pollen could sustain damage.

As soon as a vial has been removed from the freezer (9), I put it back into the refrigerator for about half an hour to allow it to warm up slowly. Then I remove it from the fridge and place it on my kitchen counter to return to room temperature. Finally I open the vial, spread out the paper containing the pollen, and allow it to absorb a little moisture from the air.

9 - A vial removed from the freezer after several months

If everything has gone according to plan, the pollen should once again look and feel quite fresh and it is now ready to be applied to the staminal pads. Again, I use a small artist's brush to do this.

Because the pollen has been so dry, I give the loaded staminal pads a very brief mist with plain water. I am currently experimenting with using a sugar solution instead of plain water as research shows that sugar solution can stimulate pollen to germinate in vitro. I am hopeful that it might help, but it is an experiment in progress.



10 - Previously frozen pollen on the staminal pads

- Q) Does frozen pollen really work? A) Yes. Absolutely - and I have the resulting seedlings to prove it.
Q) How long will frozen pollen remain viable? A) Not sure, but I have used it successfully after 6 months.

NB - The non-toxic, self-indicating silica gel and the 2ml plastic snap top centrifuge vials were all purchased on ebay.



INTERNATIONAL HIBISCUS SOCIETY NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014 - 2016

PRESIDENT
Kes Winwood
(Ontario, Canada)
Sole candidate



"I have been the president of the society for four years and in that time many changes have taken place and since we created a Facebook page we have seen explosive growth in our membership. Some of the changes that have been initiated are yet to be completed and I want to see these projects completed in the next two years, if possible."

**VICE
PRESIDENT**
Peter Moll
(Brazil)
Sole candidate



"For about the last 10 years I got more and more dedicated to Hibiscus and started hybridizing myself. For me it is always a very exciting moment to see a new creation showing its first flower. For several years I was the IHS Seed Bank officer, distributing free seeds all over the world."

**SECRETARY-
TREASURER**
Martin Sembries
(Germany)
Sole candidate



"In 2008 I became interested in hibiscus and I looked for information about these beauties on the internet. I found some forums and the website of the IHS. I bought many plants from Mr. Gommer and I tried to hybridize my hibiscus. I recently graduated my second exam as a clerk for office management in July 2014."

EURASIA (EU)
Taner Turt
(Turkey)
42% of votes cast



"I have been importing seeds of tropical hibiscuses since 2011 and grow them myself. I also helped one of my friends who has greenhouse with importing seeds and there are about 136 kinds grown there at the moment. I have about 80-100 different kind of hibiscus grown from hybrid seeds. I try to promote and spread information of this special plant in my country."

EURASIA (EU)
**Francoise
Levavasseur**
(France)
30% of votes cast



"Hibiscus! A great love story since 2001. In 2002: creation of the Yahoo group 'Hibiscusmania' affiliate to IHS and of a website Hibiscusmania.com dedicated to Hibiscus. I was part of the IHS Board from 2007 to 2010 as Vice President and from 2012 to today as European Representative. My collection, of over 400 different varieties, is grown in a greenhouse throughout the year."

**EURASIA
(RUSSIA)**
Elena Tabuntsova
(Moscow)
Sole candidate



"Thanks to the internet I have made many friends around the world who are also keen on hibiscus. We communicate and share our successes and challenges, support each other and build new interest in hibiscus lovers worldwide. I want to encircle the entire globe with these beautiful plants that bring joy and peace in every home."

**INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT**

**Pushpa Suresh
(Bangalore)**

Sole candidate



"I entered this beautiful hibiscus world around nine years ago and never turned back. Many of my cultivars have been propagated and are being grown in many parts of the world. I am especially excited that some of these cultivars have been entered in shows and have proven to be winners."

**OCEANIA
Joseph Bautista
(Philippines)**

55% of votes cast



"I asked if I could bring home some of the small potted hibiscus and fortunately was able to purchase two of them. From then on I was addicted to hibiscus and I learned a lot about how to take care and propagate them by joining the IHS Forum. My only wish for the future is that one day I can create my own variety that will stand out and be able to share it with all hibiscus enthusiasts."

**AFRICA
Gail Cahil
(South Africa)**

Sole candidate



"The luckiest day of my life was when I signed up as a member, and since then we have received seeds from the Seed Bank, have learned who we can trust when buying seeds through the Internet, what to do and what NOT to do and met fabulous and generous people who are only too willing to help those who know virtually nothing."

**ORIENT
Bi Yu Jin
(Taiwan)**

Sole candidate



"Some of my gardening friends shared the beautiful hibiscus photos from the rest countries in the world, such as USA, Tahiti and Moorea. I became one of the fans of the gorgeous and splendid hibiscus flowers! One of my gardening friends helped me and the others to buy wood and seeds from the States and we started to grow hibiscus. I currently have about 100 pots of hibiscuses."

**NORTH AMERICA
Damon Veach
(Louisiana, USA)**

57% of votes cast



Damon Veach is a past president of the American Hibiscus Society, and is president of the Red Stick Hibiscus Association, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He has been a member of the AHS since the early 1980s and is a current member of their seedling evaluation committee. He was the first editor of the IHS newsletter and board member, and has been a member of the IHS since it first started.

**SOUTH AMERICA
Elizabeth Jordan
(Brazil)**

Sole candidate



"I have been a member of the Board for the last 4 years as a South American Representative. I am also a judge for the HOTOY (Hibiscus of the Year) competition & as well as a trialling station for the HOTOY program. I have been a member of Yahoo forum of the International Hibiscus Society since 2002. My collection consists of about 900 varieties and I have a commercial web site."

**AUSTRALIA
Sue Lansdown
(Perth,
W. Australia)**

Sole candidate



"I have been a member of the Western Australian Hibiscus Society (Inc.) for 20 years, and the immediate past President, after serving for 6 years, and my husband Eddy the 3 years before that. We have approximately 180 cultivars in the ground – we also have quite a few grafted to host plants, and of course those in pots."

WILD CARD REP
Wendy Williams
(United Kingdom)

51% of votes cast



WILD CARD REP
Doyle Williams
(Texas, USA)

48% of votes cast



ICRAR
Ian Rabenda
(Ontario, Canada)

Permanent post



PRESIDENT
EMERITUS
Richard Johnson
(Tahiti)

Life member



"I retired in 2012 and now spend as much time as I can with my plants. Surfing the internet one day in 2010, I stumbled across the Hibiscus rosa-sinensis hybrids – and it was love at first sight. I now have about 100 seedlings at various stages of maturity from seed sourced from some of the best Hibiscus hybridizers in the world."

"I oversee three large sized greenhouses in which I only grow, graft, cross and hybridize hibiscus rosa-sinensis, no other plant. Being located on the Gulf of Mexico and our warm humid climate our hibiscus thrive here. I am currently on the IHS Board of Directors and it would be a privilege to serve the Global Hibiscus Community once more. There is no-place like the IHS !"

With the IHS being given responsibility for Hibiscus nomenclature, as the ICRAR (International Cultivar Registration Authority Registrar), it is Ian's job to maintain momentum in the registration of new Hibiscus cultivars and to make sure that the main database is kept up to date.

Richard Johnson has grown Hibiscus for over 25 years. His passion is hybridization, and he has created a number of excellent new varieties, most of which carry the prefix "Tahitian", This passion spread to sharing his experiences with others which resulted in his founding the International Hibiscus Society in the year 2000 which still provides a worldwide internet platform for Hibiscus enthusiasts.

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