



# HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL



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# The Hibiscus World Loses Yet Another Master Hybridizer

## ALLAN LITTLE

### THE MAN FROM BOOLARONG



**'Wahine'**  
(Harvest Moon x Hot Mustard)

February 5th, 2015.

I have just heard that Allan Little has passed away this week. My heartfelt condolences, as I considered both Allan and Elaine to be good friends in spite of the fact we only occasionally met. Chantal and I visited them on a couple of occasions, and spent a week with them at their garden paradise in Australia's Glass House Mountains. However, I have had hundreds of communications with Allan over the years and come to very much appreciate his way of thinking. I had known for some time that he was not well. I wrote a couple of times but got no response, which I sort of expected as I knew he was going through very difficult treatments and was likely not well at all during that period.

Allan has been very supportive of the IHS and I am sure it was due to his efforts, and perhaps others, that helped us become associated with the Australian Hibiscus Society and also become the ICRA (International Cultivar Registration Authority) for Hibiscus.

Allan may be gone, but he is far from forgotten, not only because of who he was but also because of the many superb variety he hybridized that are growing in gardens around the world.

Richard Johnson, Tahiti

# INDIA IN THE HEADLINES!

## Our Rising Stars in the East



**Pushpa Suresh (left) and Shyamala Madappa**



Our two favourite ladies in India have been making headline news in Bangalore with the story of their Hibiscus hybridizing success.

Hot on the heels of a highly successful seed auction held through the International Hibiscus Society, they were visited by a representative of their local press who paints them in glowing terms.

He describes the profusion of beautiful flowers in their gardens and how the two friends and neighbours have, through love and patience, created a paradise in the city.

He tells of how Pushpa has loved flowers since her idyllic childhood in the Indian Highlands. When she grew up and married, she had had no previous experience of city gardens and concrete. Bored with sitting in an empty house, she began to cultivate plants and her journey in horticulture began.

A year after moving to the city, Shyamala moved in next door and the two were soon friends. Just two minutes away, Pushpa only has to open her window and shout and Shyama (as her friends know her) can hear.

Nine years ago the pair discovered the wonderful world of the tropical Hibiscus hybrids which have filled their lives with colour and delight.

Like so many other Hibiscus lovers they first discovered the tropical rosa-sinensis hybrids on the internet. They soon began making contact with other enthusiasts and buying their first plants. The journey had begun.





**BOB CARRAN**

(Dark Continent x Eye of the Storm)

# PUSHPA SURESH

**54  
REGISTERED  
HYBRIDS**



**INDIAN BRIDE**

(Plum Pizzazz x Black Jack (Dupont) ) x Allure



**SHIVA**

(Dark Continent x Madame Curie)



**ALLURING DIAMOND**

(White Diamonds x Allure)



**CHRIS LUK**

(Silver Chalice x Mantra)



**CLASSICAL DANCER**

(Dark Continent x Indian cv/unregistered)

# SHYAMALA MADAPPA

**28  
REGISTERED  
HYBRIDS**



**SHUMI**

(Space Oddity x Eva Paoloni)



**EARLY BIRD**

(Creme de Cacao x White Diamonds)



**INDIA'S PRIDE**

(Creme de Cacao x Moorea Velvet Ribbon/unregistered)



**WINGS OF FIRE**

(Plum Pizzazz x Black Jack (Dupont)/unreg.) x Unknown)

# MEANWHILE ... IN GERMANY

## URSULA LENGDOBLER

- AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY -



Back in Europe the popular and respected hybridizer, Ursula Lengdobler, was invited to make a film about her Hibiscus for German TV in January. Having already made several television appearances in the past, as well as having taught classes at various societies, Ursula, who has been growing Hibiscus rosa-sinensis for almost 40 years, took everything in her stride and came across as a relaxed and seasoned performer in front of the camera.

Ursula talked about her plants and the camera followed her around her lovely 12-square-meter conservatory as she watered her plants and examined flowers and leaves. Ursula went on to describe pollination and demonstrated nicking and sowing the precious seeds. She also gave excellent advice on nurturing the young seedlings, potting on and feeding.



***Ursula demonstrating how to nick and sow Hibiscus seeds.***

Photo: Bayerisches Fernsehen

Ursula recommends potting Hibiscus in a medium consisting of one third perlite and two thirds compost. She also recommends a nutrient with is low in phosphorus, suggesting that the ideal ratio for Hibiscus is NPK 2-1-2.

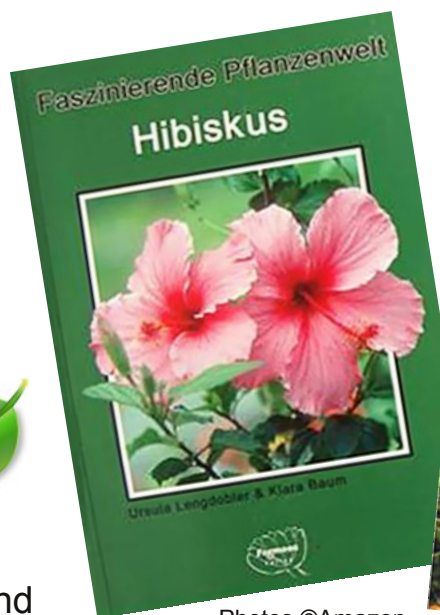
Ursula and her husband Hans both love those moments during the day when they can pause to enjoy a cup of coffee surrounded by the lush greenery and colorful flowers of tropical Hibiscus.



*Ursula enjoying the beautiful Hibiscus flowers in her conservatory.*

Photo: Bayerisches Fernsehen

Ursula has written two illustrated books about Hibiscus (in German), both of which are currently available on Amazon. You can find them by doing a search for her name, Ursula Lengdobler.



Photos ©Amazon

Ursula has 32 registered hybrids, and four of her beauties are shown here:



**ALEMANIA RAINBOW**

(Zauberflote x Donna Lynn)



**AVA ZOE**

(Scarlet Angel x Friedrich Heindl)



**DROP OF WINE**

(Rainbow Christie x Lunar Dust)



**URSULA'S PASTEL MAGIC**

(Romeo x Jolanda Gommer)



WHAT WORKS FOR ME

# HOW I ROOT CUTTINGS

By Diego J. Dominguez

I live in the south of Spain in a mountainous area and I began to grow tropical Hibiscus in 2012. Using photographs I will describe the way that I root cuttings. Some of the steps could be incorporated into your own methods.



1 - First I stand the cuttings in water with a few drops of hydrogen peroxide to disinfect the wood. I keep them in this solution for one or two weeks depending on the state of the cuttings. Here they are shown packed together in a plastic bottle which has been cut in half and which is perfect for this purpose.

2 - I change the water every day for the first five days and every two days after this (and continue to put some drops of hydrogen peroxide into the fresh water after changing it). Doing this also helps to heal the wounds of the cuttings.



3 - When the Hibiscus cuttings are showing their first small roots, I put them into Rockwool. I make a hole in a piece of Rockwool and use my fingers to fill it with soil. After dipping the cuttings into rooting hormone gel I insert them into the rockwool nests.

*Note - Rockwool is a type of insulation that is made from actual rocks and minerals. It also goes by the names of stone wool insulation, mineral wool insulation, or slag wool insulation. This type of insulation is commonly used in building construction.*

4 - I then place a cutting into every cell of a seed tray and put a little soil in the bottom of each cell. This helps to maintain moisture levels and also holds the cutting upright.







5 - To prevent the cuttings from moving, I wrap insulating tape (or something similar) around the Rockwool cocoon.





6 - I keep the Rockwool wet and I put it in a small greenhouse with heat under the cuttings. If you don't have a small greenhouse, then keep them in a warm and wet place.





7 - When the real roots begin to grow strongly through the Rockwool, I plant the cuttings in plastic cups.



*Note from the Editor - This technique obviously produces fantastic results! Thank you for sharing it with us Diego!*





# DON'T FORGET TO LABEL WHEN YOU POLLINATE!

## Never Lose Track of those Precious Crosses!

**GAIL CAHI** recently posted this great tip for all those hybridizers who need to keep track of their pollinations:-

"With all the chat about pollinating going on, I thought that I would just let you know how I keep a record of what pollen has been used on a bloom. I use the plastic tags that are used here to seal the loaves of bread. They work like a bomb !



I write the date and the pollen parent on it with a permanent marker (not a paint marker), and then attach it to the stem of the bloom. They are easy to clean off with nail polish remover so that they can be re-used if the pod either falls off or grows to maturity."

**TOM MILLER** replied saying the he uses masking tape to label his crosses:-

"That is a good way and other people use other types of plastic tags. I have always found it quickest and easiest to walk around with a roll of masking tape and a Sharpie. I use as little tape as possible, depending on how much I need to write. If no pods form and the bloom and tape fall off, the tape will eventually rot away if I forget to dispose of it. The tape and Sharpie ink easily last two months or a bit more."

**WENDY WILLIAMS** prefers to use little card tags with string:-

"These neat little tags can be found in any good stationers and are great for keeping track of crosses. The only information I put on the tag (in pencil - so that I can re-use them!) is the number of the cross. All other relevant details go in a book: number, date, time of day, weather, flower-to-flower cross or previously stored pollen, etc.

I can use these because my plants are kept indoors. Being paper/card they would not be suitable for outdoor use."





# **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

# **IHS SPONSORED SEED AUCTIONS**

# **NOW OPEN TO MEMBERS!**

## **A WIN-WIN OPPORTUNITY!**

In the past the IHS used to run approximately three seed auctions a year on eBay using seeds donated by members. These auctions have been the main source of income for the society and still are to this day. In the last few years as the interest in growing tropical Hibiscus has mushroomed, the demand for hibiscus seed has also kept pace. This unfortunately has made it more and more difficult to find sources of donated seeds for these auctions.

In addition, as the demand increased, so did fraudulent sellers taking advantage of the demand. Often they advertised tropical Hibiscus rosa-sinensis seeds for sale but

what was delivered to the customer often turned out to be seeds from other common hardy hibiscus species.

As well as the issues above, it became apparent that as more and more Hibiscus enthusiasts began hybridizing, they had more than enough seeds for themselves and often did not have the time or the expertise to use the internet to sell their excess production.

In response to these issues the IHS has recently developed a new approach to running seed auctions of Hibiscus rosa-sinensis seeds which attempts to address some of these issues.

**We now run regular seed auctions for our members as well as for the IHS on our website: [www.internationalhibiscussociety.org/new](http://www.internationalhibiscussociety.org/new).** These auctions provide a number of advantages:-

- All seeds sold through these auctions are guaranteed to be exactly as advertised which avoids the worry of fraudulent sellers.
- The auctions are designed to appeal to Hibiscus enthusiasts, mainly our Facebook membership.
- The auctions provide a 'one place shopping' environment with great variety from members around the world.
- The auctions help provide a small income for participating hybridizers to help offset the costs associated with what is an expensive hobby.
- **No monetary fees are charged for these auctions but rather one packet of five seeds donated for every five packets auctioned on behalf of a member.** Thus, the IHS has a reliable source of seeds for its own IHS auctions to raise funds for society activities.
- These auctions will hopefully make more of our Facebook members aware of our website and the information it contains - particularly the nomenclature program.
- By focusing primarily on seeds with known parentage, the auctions promote the idea of careful record keeping when hybridizing.
- Any member with extra seeds they wish to sell through the IHS can now apply to do so by following the information outlined below.

# How to Sell **\*YOUR OWN SEEDS\*** in an IHS SPONSORED SEED AUCTION

Enquiries regarding auctions should be directed to Kes Winwood at the following email: [hibiscus@wightman.ca](mailto:hibiscus@wightman.ca)

The International Hibiscus Society will undertake the setting up and sale of Hibiscus rosa-sinensis seeds through an online auction on our website.

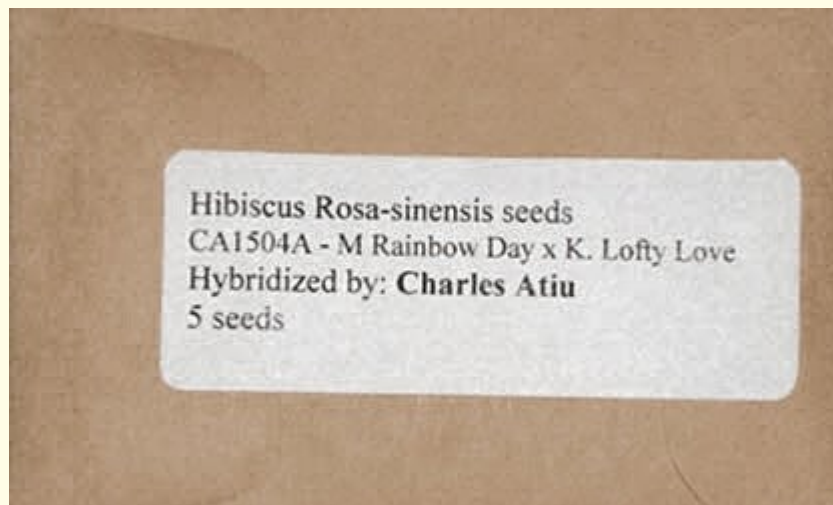
These auctions are to provide members with an assured source of Hibiscus seeds that are guaranteed to be as advertised.

The IHS will not levy a monetary fee for providing these auction services to members and all proceeds from these auctions will be forwarded to the hybridizer in US dollars via PayPal.

Sellers will be responsible for all PayPal fees as levied.

Seeds should be forwarded to the designated person running these auctions. Currently seeds should be sent to the following address:

Kes Winwood  
548-7th Ave.  
Hanover,  
ONTARIO N4N 2J7  
Canada



Your seeds will be re-packaged as shown above. Please visit the IHS website for more detailed information:

<http://internationalhibiscussociety.org/new/index.php/auctions/auction-types>

# Hibiscus Art From Singapore

## 'JANET' (LIM HONG ENG)

### Chinese Brush Painting



*Janet (above) and the red Hibiscus which inspired the stunning Chinese Brush Painting shown below.*



The International Hibiscus Society recently welcomed a new member from Singapore. Janet Lim specialises in the ancient art of Chinese Brush Painting. She has produced many beautiful works of art and one of her favourite subjects is the Hibiscus.

The Chinese characters are Janet's Chinese name - Lim Hong Eng.



The title of this piece is 'Beauty in Red'.



'Brilliant Beauty'

Another of Janet's beautiful paintings, this time inspired by the yellow Hibiscus below. We think her work is absolutely wonderful and are delighted to showcase it here!







Before Janet begins a painting she makes sure that all her materials and equipment are ready.

**Above - clockwise from the bottom left:-**

- Brushes made from sable, goat hair, horse hair or rabbit.
- The yellow container divided into sections which contains a supply of fresh water.
- A palette on which to mix the paints.
- A box containing the Chinese 'chop' (stamp) which is used to finish the artwork with the artist's unique mark.
- A bottle of black Chinese ink which is a must for Chinese art.
- A box of Chinese/Korean/Japanese paints.
- A box of watercolor pencils which are used for drawing outlines.

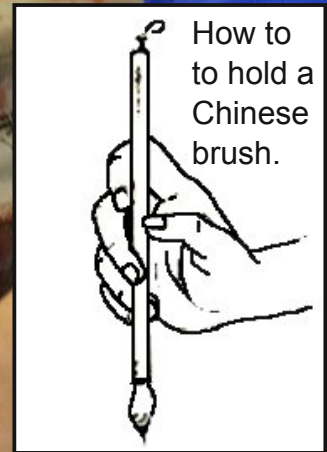
**Right** - Janet marks out her painting using a watercolor pencil.



Most of Janet's work is done in one sitting. She loads a brush with two colours, dark at the base and light at the tip and, in one stroke, sweeps from from the eye zone to the tip of each petal allowing the colours to flow and blend without hard edges. Darker areas are worked before the paint or ink dries so that the colours merge. The leaves can be added later if necessary.

Janet started Chinese Brush Painting about 25 years ago having first studied western watercolour technique with teachers in both Britain and Singapore. (Janet spent her university years in the UK.)

She still belongs to a Chinese Brush Painting group because she enjoys painting with others interested in this art form. Although an instructor is on hand with advice if required, most members of the group are already advanced in their art and getting together is an opportunity for both fellowship and exchange of ideas.



Starting around 4000 B.C. traditional Chinese painting has developed continuously over a period of more than six thousand years.

The brush strokes give the painting rhythm and beauty and aim to depict the subject's outward and inner qualities. At the same time, they reveal the individuality and style of the painter himself.

'Blue Passion'



## 'Honey, I Love You'

Chinese painting may be done either on Chinese paper or silk. The paper is very absorbent and the amount of size in it will dictate the quantity of ink used for strokes on the paper. Different papers produce different results; some are rough and absorb ink quickly like a sponge, others have a smooth surface which resists ink. Chinese paper is usually known as rice paper in English.



## 'To God's Glory'

The brush hairs are tapered to a fine point, a feature vital to the art form, and different brushes have different qualities.

Once a stroke is painted, it cannot be changed or erased. This makes ink and wash painting a technically demanding art-form requiring great skill, concentration, and years of training.

## 'Sunburst'

## 'The King's Robe'

Chinese painting and modern western painting are different. Chinese painting does not express realism, but aims to capture the spirit of the subject.

For example, the adding of traces of brown or green to rocks, trees, leaves or grass in a painting is used to reinforce the feeling of a particular season or state of the weather.



Janet sells some of her pieces and also displays them in art exhibitions. She has also donated some to charity and given others as birthday presents to her friends.

She says that painting Hibiscus has inspired her to start growing them in her garden. As Janet's Hibiscus collection grows, hopefully we can look forward to enjoying many more of her works of art!

All Images ©Janet Lim



***YUM! Dixie Stone Resnick posted this gorgeous photo in Facebook.***

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