



HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL

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GAIL CAHI

A tribute from her Hibiscus friends



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OUR NEW SEARCH ENGINE

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CELEBRATING BEAUTY



Hot Gossip



Photo Credit: Wendy Williams

Cultivar Name: Hot Gossip	Origin: USA Texas
Pod Parent: Tin Man	Bloom Type: Single Regular
Pollen Parent: Earth and Fire	Size Range: Large 7-8 Inches 180-200 mm
Hybridizer: Schlueter Barry and Susan	Date Registered: 03/20/2015
Grower: Williams Wendy	
Reg./Mini: Regular	Color Group: Red
Propagation: Seeder: Average, Pollen: Average	
Bloom Colors: Color of Veining: Red, Color of Spots and Splashes: None, Eye Zone Color: Purple, Number of Colors: four, Number of Rings of Color: three, Color of Stamen Pads: Orange	
Bloom Characteristics: Form of Bloom: Recurved early and flattens out, Bloom Features: Plain, Petal Overlap: less than 1/4, Veining: extensive, Substance: average, Duration: 1 Day, Presentation: Lateral to upward, Eye Zone Size: medium	
Leaf Characteristics: Leaf Size: Medium - 2-5 inches or 5-13cm long, Leaf Appearance: Matte	
Bush Characteristics: Bush Development: Average Grower, Bush Size: Medium 3-6ft 90-180cm, Bush Width: 1/2 as wide as hgh, Bush Form: Normal shaped	

Cultivar

Pod Parent

Pollen Parent

Hybridizer

Grower

Pages 4-8

NOMENCLATURE
Should I Even Care?

by Kes Winwood

and more!

GAIL CAHI

**Another special
Hibiscus friend leaves us**



**Tahitian Gail's Peony (Georgia's Pearl x Simple Pleasures)
Hybridized and photographed by Richard Johnson**

Gail Cahill represented Africa on the Board of the International Hibiscus Society. She lived in Brackenfell, a northern suburb of Cape Town, South Africa. Here she worked with her son, Malcolm, who is the owner of Plantgrow Garden Nursery, specializing in the hybridization of Roses, Hibiscus and other beautiful flowering plants. Gail also worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the IHS and ran the 'Hibiscus South Africa' group on Facebook.

Kes Winwood, Canada - IHS President. It is with deep sadness that I have to inform the hibiscus community of the passing of Gail Cahill, the IHS Board of Directors representative from Africa. All who knew her were aware of her love of hibiscus and her thoughtfulness. She had friends around the world who will be saddened by her passing. She will be sorely missed.

Darren Eminian - IHS Vice President. Great person - we were all touched by her passion and kindness. You will be greatly missed Gail!

Richard Johnson, Tahiti - IHS Group admin. Very sad indeed to hear that Gail Cahill has passed away. She was one of the more active members on the HIS Board of Directors and nearly always responded with comments or suggestions on the subjects brought before the BOD. I came to know her through personal emails and she was always the same, completely friendly, cooperative and never missed an occasion to remember us with personal cards during holidays.. Below is a seedling of mine Gail liked so long ago it was name Gail's Peony.

Rodrigo Joseph Bautista, Philippines - IHS BOD. Gail, we will miss you, thank you for all you contributed to IHS and I also appreciate all your thoughtfulness. God will Bless and keep you...

Wendy Williams, England - Editor, Hibiscus International - When I first began to grow Hibiscus here in England, I felt very isolated. Everything was a challenge because I didn't know anyone else who had these plants. When I did eventually find my way onto the IHS Yahoo group, Gail was one of the first people to welcome me and make me feel that my newbie questions were important enough to be answered. Eventually she contacted me privately and we started an online friendship that I treasured. She knew so much about the Hibiscus world and its diverse global community. I learned that her son, Malcolm, loved growing roses from seed, so I went around Kent's beautiful parks and gardens keeping an eye out for fat rosehips to send her. In return, she sent me some wonderful stuff in a tube that helps to seal a graft. We also sent each other cuttings of course. Hers to me always arrived reasonably promptly, but mine to South Africa sometimes took weeks. Seeds survived the long postal journey much better, so she always had plenty of those from me to add to her gene pool.

I was horrified when I heard in January that she had passed away, quite suddenly, of kidney failure. Although I never met her in person, she has left me with lovely memories of laughter and good conversation. She was kind, knowledgeable and generous and I miss her very much.

Pushpa Suresh, India - IHS BOD. It is really a sad news. I had contact with her till Dec 2017. When I asked about her recent silence, she said everything is okay except acute shortage of water due to draught! It is really shocking news for me. RIP dear Gail.

Eliza Ridzi Jordan, Brazil - IHS BOD. My deep condolences, for sure I'll miss her along the days, she was my friend a long time. Rest in peace my dear, God bless you!

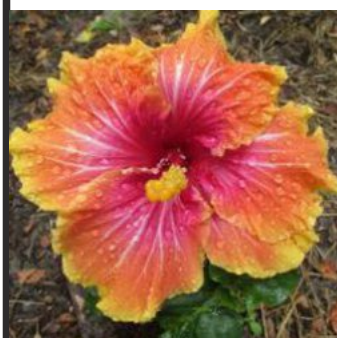
Doyle Williams, Texas, USA. IHS BOD. Bless her heart and may she rest in peace. I did receive a Christmas card from her (via email), so this is so shocking. My condolences to her family and friends. She will be sadly missed by the IHS in every aspect. Needless to say, we all knew where her loyalty/heart was and that was with the International Hibiscus Society.

Columbine Hibiscus, Gran Canaria - Me acaba de enterar de la muerte de Gail Cahi ahora que estaba a punto de recibir las semillas que le mande a principios de enero que pena, una gran perdida para todos nosotros y su familia, una mujer estupenda y muy amable. Pero nos deja su legado. *Translation - I just found out about the death of Gail Cahi now that she was about to receive the seeds I sent her in early January, what a shame, a great loss for all of us and her family, a great and very kind woman. But she leaves us her legacy.*

Sonny Stollings, Maryland, USA - thanks Louise, we were great friends and she registered many of my Hibiscus creations.....i will miss her dearly!

Ursula Lengdabler - Gail was a very special friend to me, we exchanged our knowledge about how to grow hibiscus in Germany and at her place. The more her son took over the nursery, the more time she gave to her friends around the world. She surely was a very kind and very caring person and I will miss her a lot.

Four of the registered CVs grown from seed by Gail and her son, Malcolm.



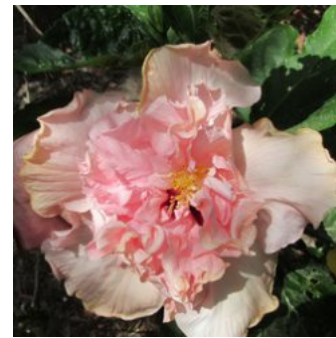
PENHILL GALAXY STAR
(Yellow Lemon Star x Tahitian Orange Garnet)
Hyb: Elizabeth Jordan



PENHILL MARYLAND MAGICIAN
(Unforgettable x Taboo)
Hyb: Sonny Stollings



PENHILL PINK MUSTARD
(Starry Eyes x Chocolate Cherries)
Hyb: Connie & Fred Roush



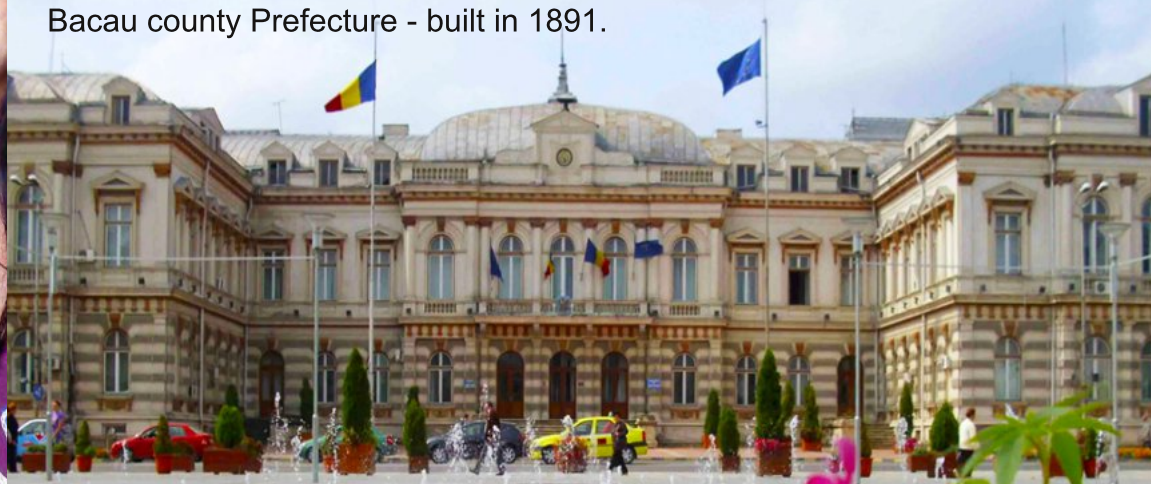
PENHILL SUGAR PLUM FAIRY
Moorea Taravana x Moorea Parade Sun)
Hyb: Charles Atiu

HOW TO ROOT USING JIFFY PELLETS

Daniela Pradais



Bacau county Prefecture - built in 1891.



Daniela lives in Bacau, Romania. The city is situated in Western Moldavia at the foothills of the famous Carpathian Mountains. The Ghimes Pass links Bacau to the equally famous Transylvania.

Daniela uses Jiffy pellets (the kind you put in warm water to expand) in order to root her hibiscus cuttings. She puts the plugs in a plastic bottle and places it somewhere warm and with good light. She says she doesn't use rooting hormone. It looks so easy that I've decided to try it ... so here is my bottle with three plugs that I did today. I cut the bottle nearly in half, bent the top half back to pop the plugs in - and then sticky-taped it back upright.

- Wendy Williams





• NOMENCLATURE • SHOULD I EVEN CARE?

Learning from the past to shape the future

By Kes Winwood

Kes lives in southern Ontario, Canada where the climate ranges from very hot and sticky in the summer to bitterly cold in the winter when there is deep snow. In spite of the severe weather extremes, Kes manages to grow beautiful Hibiscus. In addition to a green thumb, his IT skills and formidable creative energy mean that Kes, our current President, is also the driving force behind the IHS website.

Whether you are a hobbyist or a serious hybridizer the answer is the same - in a word - YES! Nomenclature in its simplest form is little more than establishing a unique name for the new cultivar along with the parentage if it is known. But in truth, it is far deeper and definitely more important than is apparent in that statement. But why?

To answer that question we need only consider a human child whose parents are unknown which often is the case for an adopted child. In and of itself this presents few problems for the development of the child. Many of the traits of the child's parents might be obvious – height, hair and eye colour and a host of other things. What is not readily apparent are the potential health issues that might have been inherited from either parent.

As is the case with human reproduction, in hibiscus $\frac{1}{2}$ of the genetic material is contributed by the mother (pod parent) and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ by the father (pollen parent). And as in humans, each embryo or seed receives a slightly different mix of genes than it's pod mates.

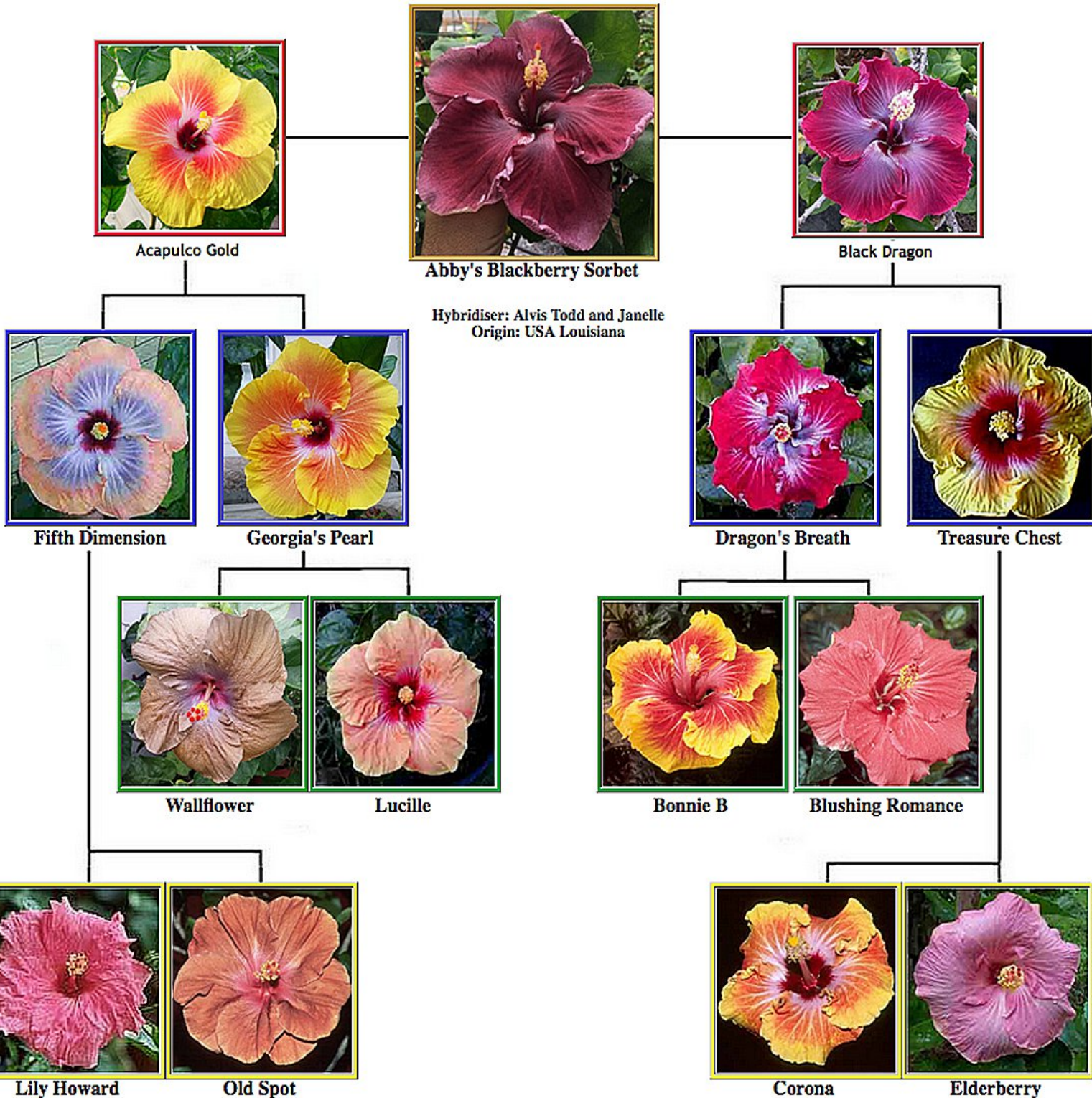


The cross above 'Moorea Abyss' x 'Tahitian Tau' produced the two blooms below which illustrates that siblings among hibiscus can be just as different as human children.



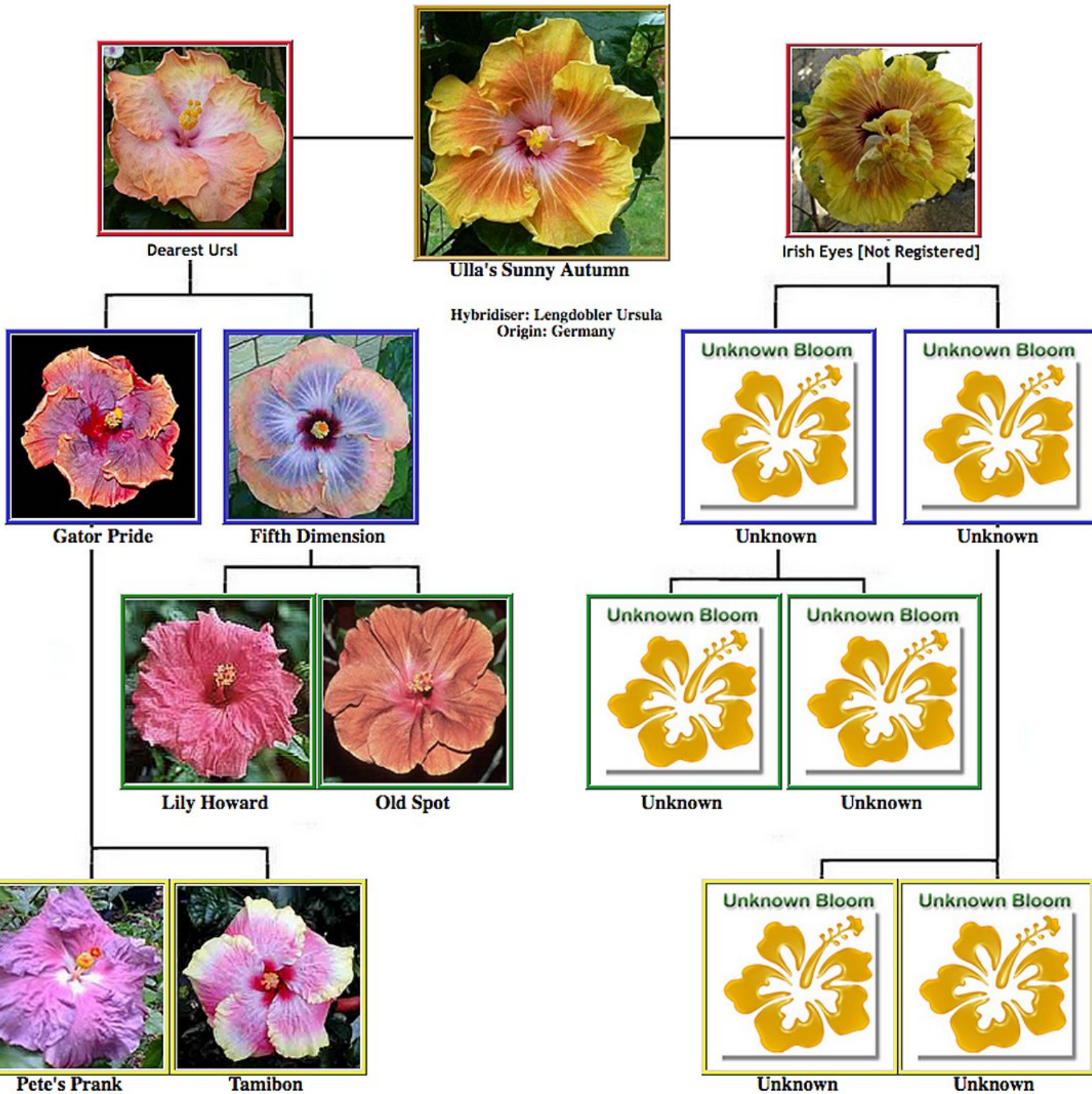
This is made even more important by the genetic depth of tropical hibiscus. This can be summed up in a single sentence: *If you don't know where you come from, you can't know where you are going!* This statement is as true for our favourite plant – hibiscus rosa-sinensis – as it is for a human.

Nomenclature in the hibiscus world provides a depth of invaluable information for all interested parties from the casual observer, the dedicated hybridizer or the scientific researcher. But the value of the information is dictated by its completeness. The genealogy or family tree below illustrates the wealth of visual information available when all the parental data is known..



© Copyright 2006 Joseph Dimino/International Hibiscus Society. Modified 2013.

And now look at the loss of knowledge when a cultivar is not registered but is used as a parent for a registered cultivar.



© Copyright 2006 Joseph Dimino/International Hibiscus Society. Modified 2013.

This lack of information could be easily remedied by the simple act of registering the cultivar. But the nomenclature records extend well beyond just the visual content above. Each modern record contains approximately two dozen pieces of standardized data that provide a consistent overview for each cultivar.

When this standardized information is combined with the powerful search engine, you have an extremely powerful tool that can provide in-depth insights and comparisons. These insights can help guide hybridizing decisions in an effort to achieve a particular goal.

For instance, a hybridizer might be trying to produce a cultivar with consistent rings of colour. By an analysis of the traits of cultivars that are available to be used as parents, a more informed choice can be made. Of course, there is no guarantee that this will achieve the desired results but it does hopefully increase the chances of achieving the desired goal. But one should always be prepared for unexpected surprises!

All modern records have information on colour, size, form and shape of bloom plus much more; all of which is useful to the hybridizer in selecting crosses to make. The more data available for consideration helps make better choices so it is equally important that optional data such as information on the seeding ability, pollen amount and the bush characteristics also be included.

So should I register ALL my new cultivars?

The answer to that question is NO! Below are some of the things that should be taken into account that influence your final decision.

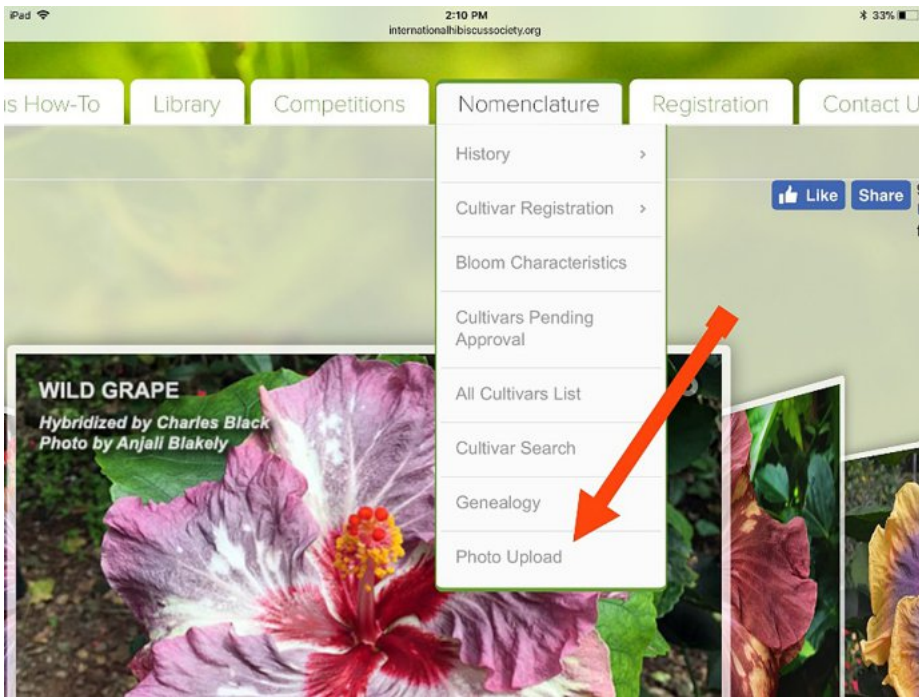
- 1. Has the cultivar been propagated by either grafting or rooting cuttings? Each new cultivar is a unique one-of-a-kind specimen. Registering a cultivar that has not been propagated and could easily become extinct provides little value to the nomenclature program.**
- 2. Has the cultivar been used in hybridizing as either a pod or pollen parent?**
- 3. Has the cultivar produced seeds that have or will be germinated and could be registered in the future?**
- 4. Does the cultivar possess traits that make it worthy of registration? Many well-known hybridizers discard those cultivars that don't meet certain criteria that they have established for themselves.**

If the answer to most of the questions above is yes, then the cultivar should be considered for registered. If however most of the questions can be answered in the negative, then one should give serious thought to the registration process. There is little to be gained by registering a cultivar that has never been propagated and could become easily extinct, that has never been used in hybridizing and has few if any worthwhile traits that set it apart.

The most important question that needs to be asked is simply this – **does the cultivar possess traits worthy enough of being passed on to the progeny?**

But in the end, there is nothing to prevent anyone from registering a new cultivar but one should always be prepared to consider the merits of each new cultivar and to make some difficult decisions. Although it is not a necessary part of the nomenclature program, a photo of the hybridizer is a valuable addition. It is always satisfying to be able to put a face to the name of the hybridizer. If you are proud enough of your cultivar to register it, then you should be equally proud of your achievements to provide a photo of yourself.

In order to make it easier for members to add missing or updated photos of hybridizers/growers, cultivars and leaf pictures, a new form is now available on the main menu (see below).



Click on this web link to go straight to the new form.

A screenshot of a web form titled 'Personal InformationUp'. The form is divided into three main sections: 'Cultivar Photo', 'Hybridizer/Grower Photo', and 'Leaf Photo'.
1. 'Personal InformationUp' section: Includes a date field (03-20-2018), a text field for 'Registrant's Name (Latin Alphabet ONLY)', and a text field for 'Registrant's Email Address'.
2. 'Cultivar Photo' section: Includes a text field for 'Cultivar Name' and a file upload button labeled 'Choose File' with 'No file chosen' text.
3. 'Hybridizer/Grower Photo' section: Includes a text field for 'Your name' and a file upload button labeled 'Choose File' with 'No file chosen' text.
4. 'Leaf Photo' section: Includes a text field for 'Cultivar Name' and a file upload button labeled 'Choose File' with 'No file chosen' text.
At the bottom right of the form are 'SUBMIT' and 'RESET' buttons.

As you can see, new photos can be submitted for addition to the database, thus improving the data available to all.

THE ART OF

黃豆才

(DRAGON HUANG)



Introducing Dragon Huang, of Taiwan, who has shared some of the most breathtakingly beautiful images of Hibiscus I think I've ever seen.

Huang takes beautiful photographs of Hibiscus plants and flowers and then embellishes them with delicate and highly artistic calligraphy. The calligraphy is actually poetry and is beautifully constructed not only to be visually gorgeous, but to enhance the viewers experience with a deeply thoughtful choice of words

I looked up the word 'poetry' and the description was: 'an art form in which human language is used for its aesthetic qualities'. By combining the beauty of poetry with the beauty of the visual arts, Dragon Huang achieves something which delights both the eye and the soul on many levels. Enjoy!





This web link will take you to Dragon Huang's Facebook page where you can see more of his art.





OUR NEW AND IMPROVED SEARCH ENGINE!

• MODERN, SLEEK AND SIMPLE LOOKING •

CV SEARCH ENGINE

Home Registration Form Genealogy Tree Registered / Non Registered CVs Registrations Pending

User Manual

Total CVs **20,712** Cvs in the database.

2,351 Cvs seen in last 12 months.

816 Cvs seen in the preceding 4 years.

17,545 Cvs not seen in last 5 years.

Cultivar	contains	Cultivar
Pod Parent	contains	Pod Parent
Pollen Parent	contains	Pollen Parent
Hybridizer	contains	Hybridizer
Grower	contains	Grower

Search

- All origins
- All sizes
- All colors
- All registration years
- All sighting dates
- Show available pics

BUT DON'T BE FOOLED BY LOOKS!

Our new search engine at first glance seems deceptively simple but nothing could be further from the truth. Its simple façade hides an extremely powerful and blazingly fast search capability that is impressive indeed!

The first thing that is apparent is the current number of cultivars that have a record in the database, both registered and non-registered and statistics on when they were last seen in cultivation by a grower other than the original hybridizer.

The search page is divided into two sections – a left hand column and a right hand column. The left column features the main search categories – cultivar, pod parent, pollen parent, hybridizer and grower. Searches in each category can be modified by selecting the location of the search term (see below).

Cultivar	contains	Cultivar
Pod Parent	contains starts with ends with	Pod Parent
Pollen Parent	ends with exact match	Pollen Parent
Hybridizer	contains	Hybridizer
Grower	contains	Grower

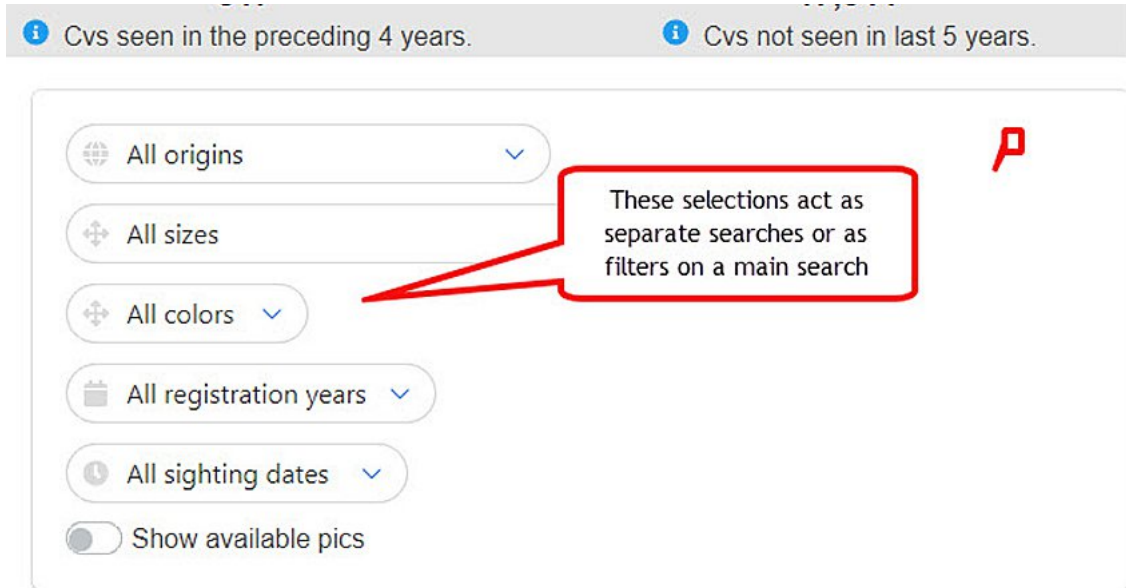
Search

Click on the web link to go straight to the new search engine.

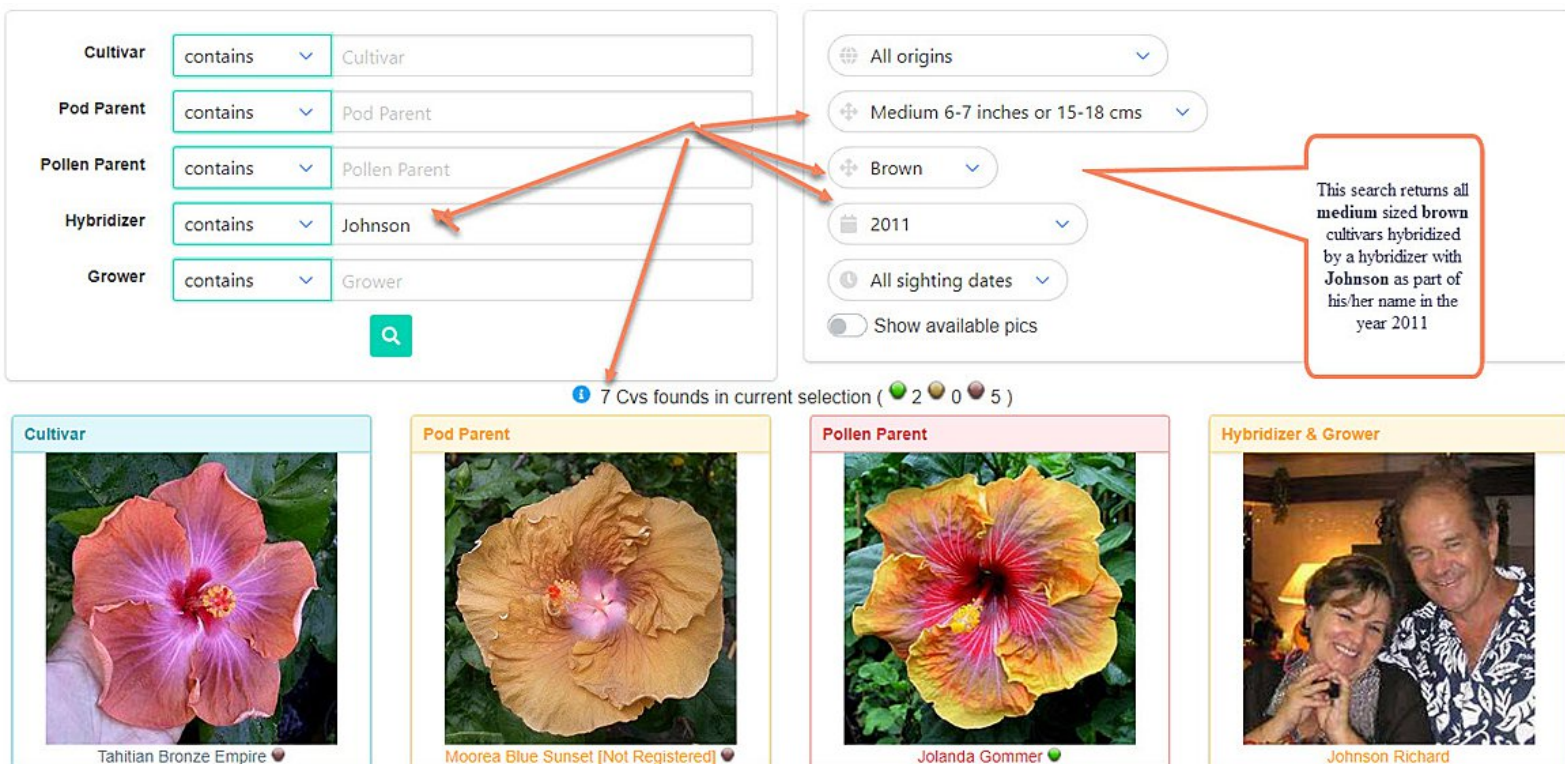


This feature assists in narrowing any particular search and should be used with care when selecting the default “contains” option. For instance, if the selection contains the word 'gold', it will return that phrase even if it is part of another word. In this case, cultivars with gold and golden would be returned, so use carefully.

The right hand column contains selections that act as standalone searches in their own right individually i.e. – all yellow cultivars.



The real power of the new search engine comes to light when the selections in the right column are used as filters in association with a left column search or in combination with each other.



Speed, simplicity and flexibility make this new search engine a welcome and valuable tool for everyone from the hobbyist to the serious hybridizer and more.

A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

A selection of fabulous photos shared by members of the
International Hibiscus Society



Grown by Edwin H. Veizaga Vargas

BABY BLUE

**(Dawn Baby x Creole Flame)
Hybridized by Brube-Acres
Photographed by Edwin Veizaga Vargas**

ALLURING DIAMOND

(White Diamonds x Allure)
Hybridized by Pushpa Suresh
Photo by Chris Chang



MOONSTRUCK

(Rainbow Christie
x Rainbow Christie)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Vláďa Ják





KAMOKUNA

(Suntan x Bayou Irene)
Hybridized by Nina Hrauda
Photo by Anjali Blakely



HVH DAISY MAE

(Saffron x Chariots of Fire)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Darren Eminian

FIBER OPTICS

((Paydirt x Fantasy Charm) x (Dark
Continent x Reme) x Irish Spring)
Hybridized by Sonny Stollings
Photographed by Anjali Blakely



MY WAY



(Fifth Dimension x High Voltage)
Hybridized by Mary Ann Dunn & Doug Hotelling
Photographed by Věra Miše Řehkova



CHRIS' OCTOPUS

[Not Registered]
(Moorea Heremoana X Moorea
Merveille Intensity)
Hybridized and Photographed
by Chris Chang

CREOLE LADY



(Gator Pride x Rum Runner)
Hybridized by Dupont Nursery
Photographed by Monica Trusca

TAIWAN NYMPH

[Not registered]
Parentage unknown
Hybridized and photographed
by Linda Lee



SEVEN SEAS

(Purple Pashmina x Bob Carran)
Hybridized by Shyamala Madappa
Photographed by Chiahao Chan



The Weird and the Wonderful

THE CURSE OF THE BAMBOO

"When the bamboo flowers, famine, death and destruction will soon follow."

(A traditional saying from the Mizo people of north-east India.)

In 1898 John Mitford Atkinson was the Principal Civil Medical Officer in Hong Kong and was battling a plague that had devastated the colony. He wrote of a Chinese proverb which states that when the bamboo flowers, it brings either 'pestilence or famine'. Could there be some truth in this old saying which is so similar to the one above from India?

Hong Kong plague

The bubonic plague epidemic reached Hong Kong from southern China in 1894, and the effects were devastating. The disease raged for 30 years and resulted in over 20,000 deaths with a mortality rate of over 90%. But what does this have to do with bamboo?

Attack of the rats

Many bamboo plants exhibit mass flowering at intervals of up to 130 years depending on the species. In Mizoram, Northeast India, bamboo forests of *Melocanna baccifera* cover over 26,000 square kilometres and flower en masse every 50 years. The flowering produces such a vast quantity of seed that the rat population explodes, resulting in a 'rat army' of mythical proportions. Once all the seed has been eaten the rats move onto crops, destroying local agriculture and causing widespread famine. This once in a generation event last occurred in 2004 and allowed scientists the opportunity to properly study the phenomenon which had previously only been heard of in anecdotes.

As a final weird fact, *Phyllostachys bambusoides* flowers at 130 year intervals simultaneously all over the world and in all climatic conditions .. and then dies. The mechanism of the in built alarm clock and the evolutionary cause are still a mystery.

Information from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew website.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

A cup of tea that changed my life.

In 2003 i was visiting my brother in Adelaide, and on a day trip to Victor Harbour we stopped at a tea house on the way. Outside in a container was a big, red hibiscus, my brother said "you can't grow them in England!". The challenge was on, and I just had to prove him wrong. The first step into a long encounter with hibiscus had begun.

I bought my first hibs in 2003 but lost them in the winter, so I had another go the following year. Then one morning an envelope arrived from Queensland - my brother had joined me up to the Queensland Hibiscus Society, so now I was getting some information in the form of news letters.

In 2005 i was already going to Brisbane to visit relatives so a trip to meet Gynith Whatmough, the President of Q.H.S., was arranged. They were doing a show in the city so it was a chance to meet other members as well, plus all the hibiscus on show. I wanted them all, but knew I was unable to take them due to customs regulations.

The following year Gynith came to England and visited for a couple of days then, the following year we stayed with her and met lots of great people including Greg & Julie Lindsey of Hibiscus Paradise as well as Fred Westerman - meetings I will never forget.

Now, as years move along, I have a computer and have lots of online friends around the world.

Just six words changed my life and gave me a very time consuming and interesting hobby. Thanks brother, you're a gem!

Pete Jenkins, England

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