

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

July 2011



Plumeria Potpourri

*The next meeting of The Plumeria Society of America will be held
Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park
1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas.
Anyone with an interest in plumerias is invited to attend.*



The July meeting of the PSA will be a slide show by Eulas Stafford and Mark Wright showing the highlights of their recent trip to Hawaii.

Koko Crater, O'ahu

from left to right: *Eulas Stafford, Lake Stafford, Sharon Wright*

In
This
Issue ...

President's Corner	Mark Wright	page 2
Hawaiian Adventure	Mark Wright	page 3
Announcements		page 5
Plumerias Are a Lot More Resilient ...	George Hadjigeorge	page 6
Family Tradition	Dan Teel	page 8
Back Page—Photos of Hawaii		page 12

President's Corner

by **Mark Wright, Texas**

email: wright5447@sbcglobal.net

The best time of my plumeria year is here—yard tours, plant sales, watering, and perspiring are a few of my favorite things. I can sweat without even trying, so that one is easy. Watering is not hard, and does not require great mental preparation or physical ability. Yard tours and plant sales are the fun part; you get out of them what you put into them.

Our first local show and sale is over. The second sale in Katy is coming up on August 13th. We could not do these sales without our talented sellers and dedicated volunteers. Many of our volunteers aren't even interested in selling plants. They love plumeria and love talking about them even more. Their service to the PSA is invaluable, and their efforts are always greatly appreciated.

As for yard tours, we have four scheduled for this summer, and their dates, locations, and other details are on page 5 in

this issue of *Plumeria Potpourri*. This year we hope to document these yards with photos, and have them available on our Website. Yard tours are where you can see that special cultivar you've been coveting and get a better idea if it's really worth it. Yard tours are where I have stolen or borrowed other people's ideas and put them to use in my yard.

Eulas and Lake Stafford (who were excellent tour directors), my wife Sharon, and I recently spent almost two glorious weeks in Hawaii. Our time was split between O'ahu and Kaua'i where we met many wonderful folks and saw a lifetime's worth of sights. I have been home long enough now that my trees are starting to look normal again. Hawaii was like a giant yard tour. Many of the multitude of pictures taken will be seen in this publication for awhile. I just don't know where I will fit them all in!

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Hawaiian Adventure

by **Mark Wright, Texas**

Spring and summer have never been a good time for me to take a vacation. Working in a seasonal business will do that to you. Hawaii was always a dream, but I always had too many excuses.

I guess my wife shamed me into going. Both of my knees had been surgically repaired, so I could endure the long plane ride (I'm 6'2"). Eulas and Lake Stafford are great friends and were planning a trip in May. We were asked if we wanted to go and said yes. Travel plans were made and away we went.

My wife Sharon and I, along with Eulas and Lake, arrived in Honolulu around lunchtime on a Thursday. We were planning on staying five days on O'ahu. We first headed

planting some new trees. There was a sign at the gate explaining the necessity of reducing the number of workers to save money. The cutbacks did not diminish the beauty of the gardens. The pathways were well maintained, and the bougainvillea were in full bloom as if to not be outdone by the plumeria. Lake and Eulas had arranged for us to rent a house on the north shore, and finding it before dark seemed like a good thing to do, so we left Koko Crater and headed back through Honolulu.

The next day we started early to meet with Dr. Criley for a tour of the Hawaii Experiment Station at Waimanalo. We were met by Fuzzy Moody and his wife Syl—they presented Lake and Sharon with beautiful plumeria lei that Syl had made. Dr Criley arrived and the tour was on! We spent almost four hours viewing the collection at Waimanalo. He gave us a brief history of the germplasm collection and reflections on different cultivars. After pumping Dr. Criley for all the information we could, we took him to lunch, where we discussed possible future plumeria studies. Eulas took the opportunity to give him a copy of the registration certificate for *Dwarf Rich Criley Rainbow*.

The next morning we met Jim Little for coffee. We talked about the goals of the PSA, and Eulas presented him with the registrations for *Doric* and *Dwarf Rich Criley Rainbow*.

I was finally beginning to understand what people meant when they said that



Sharon Wright enjoying Koko Crater, O'ahu

to Koko Crater to the botanical garden. Luck was with us as most of the plumeria were in full bloom. These huge trees were covered in flowers, and so was the ground around them. Plumeria fragrance was everywhere. The work crews had been removing branches and

plumeria trees really are everywhere there. The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, better known as the Punchbowl, has some wonderful specimens and lovely landscaping. The botanical gardens around the island are beautiful.

This being my first trip, we did some tourist destinations, food trucks, and out of the way spots. Lake and Eulas are seasoned Hawaii travelers and outdid themselves showing us plumerias and favorite places they had found on previous trips. There is life in addition to, or beyond, plumeria, and this was my opportunity to see it all.

The flight to Kaua'i was short, and the island is a botanist's and geologist's dream. To a road construction engineer, however, it would be a nightmare! In our search for waterfalls, plumeria, good food, and interesting people,



Mr. and Mrs. Duvauchelle

we met Ray Duvauchelle and his lovely wife. The beautiful red plumeria *Duvauchelle Special* was named after Ray's mother's tree. Ray's wife could not understand the interest people have shown in their tree. We found out while

talking with her that we have been pronouncing their last name incorrectly. Instead of the French pronunciation, they say it like "shell." I noticed an *Aztec Gold* near their driveway. On the island, its growth habit is wider than it is tall, unlike *Aztec Gold* in Texas. Mrs. Duvauchelle said the cutting was a gift from a lady in Texas. Believe me, the name is where the similarity ended.

Kaua'i is a plumerian's dream. Lake and Eulas remembered a softball field surrounded by many different plumeria trees between Ele'ele and Hanapépe. After a bit of searching, we located it and got out to look at the huge *Jeannie Moragne*, *Kauka Wilder*, *Daisy Wilcox*, and several unknown whites which were all in full bloom. The ball field turned out to be a senior's softball field, and the ball players who were getting ready for a practice session asked if we wanted to join them. We declined but stopped to talk for a few minutes, and most of them didn't understand our interest in the plumeria trees.

After more days filled with new sights, sounds, fabulous locally-made ice cream, and more and more plumeria, the day finally arrived to head home. Once back, my plumeria looked different: smaller, very insignificant. I had just visited one of the premier plumeria habitats in the world. Most people leaving there appreciate the beauty of the plumeria, but don't know what they are. I will never have trees wider than they are tall, but I am growing them in a place they were not intended to grow. I get hours of enjoyment and deep satisfaction from growing them. Sharon and I can't wait to return!



PSA Plant Sale—Katy, TX

We are now planning our second sale of the year to be held at the Merrell Center in Katy on August 13th. The growers' meeting will be held after the general meeting on July 12th in order to allow time for people to arrive. With your help, this will be another great year for our sales!

June 28—Commitment to sell on August 13th

July 12—Sellers' meeting (after the general meeting)

August 3—Provide list of plumerias to be sold

August 13—Sale in Katy at the Merrell Center

for more information, contact:

German Collazos

email: german.collazos@tic.toshiba.com

Luau 2011

Get out your grass skirt and start practicing your hula now—it's almost that time of year again!

Last year's luau was so successful that it's become almost impossible to be done in-house. This year we're working on having the meal catered professionally. Don't worry, it will still be held at Lake and Eulas' beautiful yard, and we'll still have the dancers afterward. This will just allow Sharon, Lake, Kay, and all the others who contribute their time and efforts to be guests too!

The date has been tentatively scheduled for October 15, 2011. Due to the cost for catering, there will be a \$10.00 charge for everyone. Other details will appear in the fall newsletter.

Houston Area Yard Tours

July 9, 2011 **9:00AM–6:00PM**
Home of Dr. Bryan and Carolyn Holland
1172 Rustling Wind Lane, League City, TX 77573

July 16, 2011 **10:00AM–3:00PM**
Home of John and Lara Carroll
757 Blueberry Road, Cove, TX 77523

July 23, 2011 **10:00AM–4:00PM**
1 Home of Mike and Janet Jansen
3026 Highlands Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77478

2 Home of Mark and Sharon Wright
2819 Carnoustie Dr., Missouri City, TX 77459

Please check the website
(www.ThePlumeriaSociety.org)
for any changes in dates or times
prior to the tours.



... along the Nawiliwili Road, Kauai'i

Plumerias Are a Lot More Resilient Than You Think

by **George Hadjigeorge, Sugar Land, Texas**

A while back I bought two *Atzec Gold* plumerias. As they grew older, I planted them into 25-gallon pots. They were growing about 4 feet per year and soon became too tall to store in my garage for the winter.

So every winter, I would trim them back to less than 8 feet in order to fit them in the garage. In the springtime, they grew back but they did not bloom much because the *Atzec Gold* plumeria blooms very early in the spring, and my plumerias did not have many mature branches in the springtime. I got tired of getting mostly leaves, so I left one outside and stored one in the garage for the winter, just in case I changed my mind. The one I left outside froze. I decided to let the other one in the garage die, so I could reuse the pot and potting soil for something else.

By Thanksgiving, when I moved my plumerias back inside the garage, this plumeria was still alive. The bark was shriveled and wrinkled, but white sap came out when cut. I left it alone till the next springtime. It was still alive, and again I left it in the garage for the rest of the year. By the second Thanksgiving, it was still alive. Note that it was never watered, and the soil was bone dry. However, it was still getting some light, because I have a 4-foot skylight in my garage. In the springtime, when I went to move my plumerias outside, that plumeria had a few leaves and was blooming!

I thought it was really amazing that it not only survived for two full years without water but also had the ability to bloom.

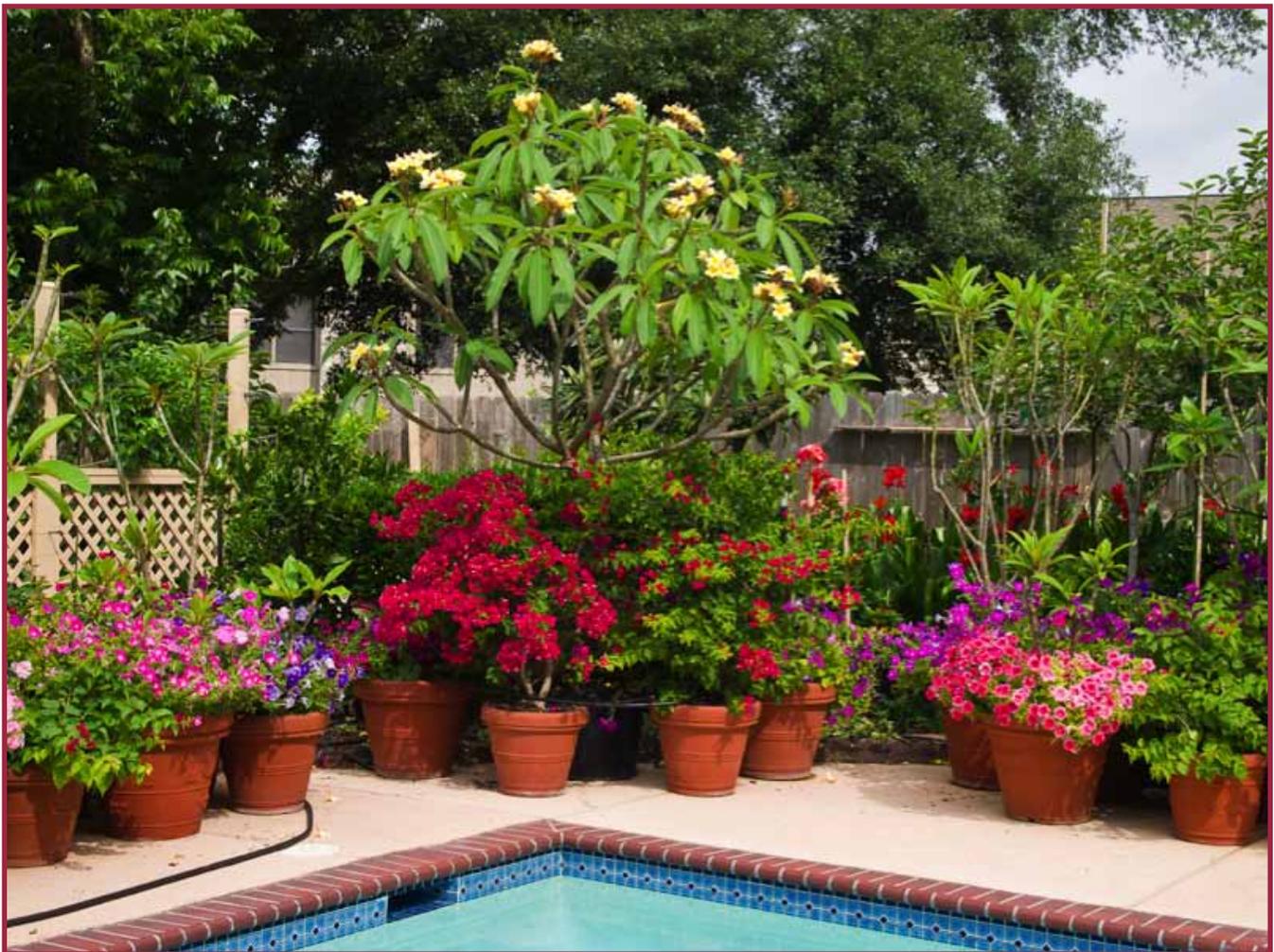
Plumerias are really amazing plants; you cannot kill them by under watering them or neglecting them. I was so wowed by this that I thought this plumeria really earned the chance to live. So I took it outside and watered it, and after about one month, I fertilized it. In the meantime, I had built a 12-foot high Lexan patio cover. In the winter, I run 4-mil clear plastic around it and store my tall plumerias inside. As a result, I do not have to cut that *Atzec Gold* plumeria back every year except for the odd branch that gets above 11 feet. It is so tall and so root bound that it only grows about 3 inches every year now.

Today that plumeria is thriving and is 11 feet high by 6 feet across and has 61 tips. It is my first plumeria to bloom starting in late April. As you can see from the picture to the right, it is really spectacular when in full bloom, and really impresses all of my visitors. It is very unusual to see such a large plumeria in an area that freezes in the winter.

You are probably wondering how I move a plumeria this large in and out of winter storage. Previously I used a normal dolly to move it. One year my son was helping me, and he wanted to move it. So I let him. Well, that plumeria rolled off the dolly and fell in the pool. With a 25-gallon pot soaked with water, it was quite heavy, and we had a hard time getting it out of the pool. After that, I decided to buy a more appropriate dolly for moving my large plumerias. So I bought a super dolly with 15-inch tires that is good for 1,000 lbs (see

Plumeria Potpourri

picture to the right of the size relative to a standard dolly and a 25-gallon pot). I modified it by adding two 18-inch long steel beams to the bottom plate (see picture), which gives me enough leverage to lift the plumerias onto the dolly. To avoid any chance of dropping large plumerias into the pool, I strap them to the dolly with a 2-inch wide nylon strap. Now moving large plumerias is really quite effortless.



Family Tradition

by **Dan Teel, Texas**

One weekend about 50 years ago, my sister, who at the time lived in Dallas, Texas, visited our brother in San Antonio. Saturday afternoon they decided to visit a flea market on the south side of San Antonio. My sister wandered from vendor to vendor until she came upon a man selling plants. She had never seen a plant like the ones he was selling and decided to purchase one of his plants. She paid him \$2 for a gallon pot with a plant that was about 10 inches tall. Since the man didn't speak English, it was quite a while before my sister learned that she had bought a plumeria plant. Over the years she learned from other people how to care for the plant, and it grew and grew. As it got bigger, she transplanted it into larger and larger pots. In the spring and summer, she kept it on her concrete patio. Each fall her husband would move it into the den area of the house for the winter. By this time she had moved the plant into a 50-gallon black plastic pot. That was when her husband put his foot down and told her that he would no longer move the plant in and out of the house if she put it in a larger pot.

One weekend about 35 years ago, my new bride and I visited my sister for the weekend in Dallas. My wife loved plants, and before the weekend was over, my sister had given her a cutting from the plumeria plant. This began a yearly ritual as we visited my sister, and we always came home with yet another plumeria cutting. We also learned that my sister gave all of her friends in Dallas

cuttings from the plant. We kept the plants, and with some instructions from my sister, we were able to keep the plants alive. Periodically, they would produce pink blooms which we enjoyed. As far as we knew, pink was the only color blooms available for plumerias.

About 20 years ago, my sister and her husband retired and bought a home in Atlanta, Texas. The house had a sunroom attached to the south side of the house. This sunroom became the winter home for her now large plumeria plant, and her husband continued each year moving the pot in and out of the sunroom. During these moves, sometimes limbs were broken off, and my sister would just stick the broken limbs back into the large pot and let them grow. She continued giving away cuttings.

In June of 2004, her husband passed away. That fall she called me and asked if I would assist her in moving the plant into the sunroom for the winter. With the help of a moving dolly, I was able to get the large plant into the sunroom. In the spring she called me and asked if I would assist her in moving the plant out of the sunroom. This plant moving became a yearly ritual for me. In 2009, my wife and I realized we had accumulated over a hundred plumeria plants as a result of gifts from my sister and broken limbs we had rooted. We retired in 2005, and the plants became an enjoyable hobby for us. In the spring of 2009, we joined the PSA to learn more about plumerias. We then discovered that

there were hundreds of colors of plumerias besides pink.

In the spring of 2010, while I was doing my chore of moving my sister's large plumeria plant from the sunroom, she made a request. She was 82-years old and didn't feel like taking care of the large plumeria and wanted me to take it to my home in Houston, Texas. She wanted to keep one small plumeria plant. We were in our 2003 Toyota Camry. I pulled the huge plant out of the pot along with 10 smaller plants growing around the edge of the pot. I then washed all the dirt off the roots and cleaned out the big pot. I had to severely cut the limbs back on the old large plant. It would not fit in my trunk or back seat. Using some styrofoam pieces and twine, I tied the main trunk of the plant to the roof of my Camry. I was able to put the other plants inside the Camry. Then off we went to Houston with the large main trunk tied onto the roof. People really stared at us as they passed us on the highway.

Once we got home, we potted the smaller rooted plants and cuttings. The stripped-down main trunk we repotted back into the 50-gallon pot. We were not sure if it would survive after the severe trimming and a windy ride back to Houston. When summer arrived, it came to life and put out leaves, but no blooms. The winter came, and I moved it into a shelter. The spring of 2011, I moved it outside and watered and fertilized it. It has now been outside for 2 months and is beginning to put out leaves. Maybe it will have blooms this year.

The plant, which is a *Slaughter Pink*, is over 50-years old and only 6 feet tall—the main trunk is 13 inches in circumference, and the rootball is about as big as a basketball.

There is no telling how many cuttings have been taken from it. Thanks to this old friend, my wife and I have a new love in our life—plumerias. When I am no longer able to take care of this plant, my son who is 37-years old and has become interested in growing plumerias will take it. Who knows how long this plant will live. Keeping it alive has become an enjoyable family tradition.



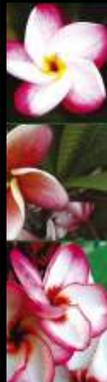


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Additional information concerning The Plumeria Society of America and culture of plumeria plants may be found on the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.ThePlumeriaSociety.org>

A listing of currently registered cultivars — Research Committee Bulletins — PSA By-Laws
Plumeria Care Bulletins — Photos from past events — Map links to meeting and sale sites
Photos of plumeria plants and flowers — past color insert pages in PDF format

Purpose of The Plumeria Society of America

- (1) Promote interest in and increase knowledge of plumeria hybridization, propagation and culture of plumerias.
- (2) Share this knowledge with hobbyists interested in plumerias.
- (3) Provide a register for recording, identifying and classifying by name new types and varieties of plumerias.
- (4) Encourage and unite plumeria enthusiasts around the globe, throughout America and across the seas.

Copy this page for all your friends who love plumeria or just want to know more about them.

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 22791

Houston, TX 77227-2791, USA

Dues are \$25 per year

PSA Calendar — 2011

- January 11meeting
- March 8meeting
- May 10meeting
- June 11 Show & Sale I (Seabrook/Clear Lake)
- July 12.....meeting
- August 13.....Show & Sale II (Katy/Merrell Center)
- October 11meeting
- October 15.....Fall Social

- All regular meetings are held at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m., workshops begin at 6:45 p.m.
- Bring your blooms. Bring your friends.
- Bring plants, cuttings, etc. for door prizes!! These can be anything, not just plumerias.
- Visitors are invited and encouraged to attend.

PSA Officers/Committee Members—2011

- | | |
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University of Hawaii Waimanalo Experiment Station, O'ahu

from left clockwise: *Sharon Wright, Dr. Richard Criley, Fuzzy Moody*



University of Hawaii Waimanalo Experiment Station, O'ahu

from lower middle clockwise: *Eulas Stafford, Lake Stafford, Dr. Richard Criley, Sharon Wright, Fuzzy Moody, Syl Moody*



JL Black Ruby



Jim Little receiving the registrations for *Doric and Dwarf Rich Criley Rainbow*.

from left to right: *Eulas Stafford, Jim Little, Mark Wright*



University of Hawaii Waimanalo Experiment Station, O'ahu

from upper left clockwise: *Fuzzy Moody, Dr. Richard Criley, Eulas Stafford, Sharon Wright, Lake Stafford*