

NEWSLETTER

PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

MEETING NOTICE

1982

DATE: March 9, 1982 - Tuesday
PLACE: St. Philips Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe (just off
Loop 610 west) ROOM 26
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

DUES of \$10.00 per year (or \$15.00 for a couple) are DUE. Mrs. Pili Oliver, 37 Stillforest, Houston, 77024, is Membership Chairman and will welcome your check prior to and at the meeting. We are open for new members so if you have friends interested in joining, please bring them to our first meeting.

BUSINESS

Changes to the By-Laws of The Plumeria Society of America, Inc. to be voted on by the membership have been recommended by our By-Laws Committee members, Pili Oliver and Sally Squire. The changes are attached to this newsletter and we ask that every member read and consider these changes before the meeting.

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc. has been given preliminary approval by the National Secretary and the International Director as the Registration Authority for Plumerias in the United States and world-wide. We must make application to be proposed and accepted by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta and the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. The next International Horticulture Congress is expected to convene sometime in 1982 at which time our application will be considered.

The Registration Committee has been working all winter to locate a color code for use by The Plumeria Society, as the Royal Horticulture Society's code is out of print and unobtainable. It has been recommended that we develop our own code but we need a guide to aid us. If any member has access to any of the horticulture color codes, please bring it to the meeting.

We have been notified by the United States Department of Commerce that the plumeria (frangipani) is now on their list for patenting. The Department has requested a list of known cultivars and new cultivars of plumerias. We have replied to the Department of Commerce that we do not yet have a list, that we are developing one, and that we hope to have such a list to send them by the end of 1982.

HORTICULTURE NOTES

The time is now - not to come to the aid of the party - but to the aid of your plumerias. Winter dormancy is coming to an end for your plants and for the growers. It is time to repot and begin fertilizing for profuse bloom. It is too early to take your plumerias out of winter storage as all long-time Texans know. We yet may have

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a hard freeze, despite the deceptively spring-like days. March 1st is a good day to begin feeding the first week with fish emulsion for good root growth, and the second week giving Br-61 or Super Bloom or the equivalent for bud set. Alternating these fertilizers for five to six weeks usually results in bud set by the middle or end of April, and bloom by late May.

Pruning for shape and for new plants can begin about March 1st. Remember that you will probably be removing dormant bud growth when you prune. You will possibly have blooms on your cuttings but not on the parent plant until next year, where you have pruned. Remember to cut at an angle and be sure to get some hard wood on your cutting. March, April and May are the months to prune. Remember to avoid too much wetness on your cuttings as they may rot if the soil is kept too wet.

For those members who are growing seedlings and would like to know what constitutes maturity-that is, how old or how large do the plants have to be before setting buds, the following observations were made last summer. The height of the plant is not important. Some plants 4 feet tall bloomed at two years and others were 8 feet tall when they set buds at 2 years of age. Thirty-five 2-year old seedlings bloomed last summer and the one uniform factor (outside of spring feeding) was the size of the root ball. A root system large enough to fill a 5-gallon container seemed to be the key. Several plumerias growing in 4-gallon containers merely set "nubs." If you are anxious to see what your new seedlings will look like, do feed them and repot if necessary more than once a year and your two-and three-year olds will show their colors. Since the new types come from seeds and the best of them are eligible for Registration, do encourage your seedlings to grow rapidly.

DEPARTMENT OF MISINFORMATION

There has been a proliferation of erroneous advice being given to new growers of plumerias. I have compiled from correspondence and telephone calls the following:

1. "Plumerias only come in one color." This comment was included several times. Giving the statement were nurserymen in all parts of the country to buyers.

2. "Plumerias only bloom when rootbound." Plumerias bloom poorly, if at all, when rootbound. They prefer to have their roots pruned and new enriched soil added, to being potbound.

3. "Root cuttings in water." The lady who reported this advice had been trying to root cuttings for several years-unsuccessfully.

4. "Plumerias must have full shade." This grower had done all the right things of repotting each year and feeding properly and still had no blooms.

5. "All plumerias must go dormant." An anxious grower called to report that one plumeria had dropped its leaves but a second plant had not, although they were side by side in the enclosure with the same conditions. A florist recommended that the leaves be pulled off or the plant be put out in 35° weather to force dormancy, or the plant would die! Her plant undoubtedly was one of the evergreen variety.

6. "Plumerias are very difficult plants to grow." As you know from EXPERIENCE, plumerias are tough-subject to few bugs or diseases. All they really ask is protection from freezes, lots of sun, a rich soil, and room in the container to develop a good root system.

It is obvious that The Plumeria Society of America, Inc. has an opportunity and obligation to educate the public as to the proper "care and feeding" of these wonderful plants.

ODE TO PLUMERIAS

(By a husband who wishes to remain anonymous)

How large a plant is your plumeria?
Well, just how large is your growing area?
Some will grow all the way to the ceiling,
Others just grow with a sense of free-wheeling.
They are likely to spread in all directions
And are as unruly to curb as an insurrection.
You can whack off a limb to make some space,
But then three others will take its place.
You can grow them in pots for more mobility
If you have a gorilla's strength and agility.
They're not for the weak or the namby-panby,
These awkward, willful frangipani!

ARTICLE V: STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

5.1 The Standing Committees of the Corporation shall be Publicity, Program, Membership, Newsletter, Registration, and Research. The chairman shall be appointed by the president, with the approval of the Board of Directors, at the first general meeting of the Board, following the annual general membership meeting. Committee chairmen shall be expected to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors with all voting privileges on matters requiring same. Committee chairmen shall be responsible for selection of members from the general membership to serve on each respective committee and each chairman shall submit a written report at the annual meeting in March of activities during the past year which shall be passed on to his or her successor.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, AND DUES

6.2 Honorary Memberships and Associate Memberships. Honorary memberships in the corporation may be awarded by the Board of Directors. An associate membership shall be available to those interested non-residents of Houston or its environs; distance prohibiting them from attendance at regular meetings. Dues for an associate member shall be \$7.50/yr. and said member shall have all rights and privileges as a regular member.

6.4 (delete last sentence, replace as follows): Any member who misses all three scheduled meetings in any given calendar year shall be automatically dropped from the membership roster at the end of the year.

6.5 Quorum. A quorum for regular meetings of the corporation shall consist of at least one-third of the total membership in good standing.