



Plumeria

Potpourri

THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

May, 1985

Notice of Meeting

Date - Tuesday, May 14, 1985
Time - 7:30 p.m.
Place - Hermann Park Garden Center
1500 Hermann Drive, Houston

Come hear plans for the year and meet your current board of directors. Have you a particular springtime cultivation problem? Let's discuss it.

Newly Elected Officers, 1985-1986

President: Mrs. Kenneth Duff (Mary)
Vice Pres.: John P. Oliver
Secretary: Ms. Marvy Marciel
Treasurer: Mrs. D. J. Glenney (Gloria)

Standing Committee Chairmen:

Membership: Mrs. Jeffrey Racz (Darla)
Newsletter: Mrs. John Oliver (Pili)
Program: David Kawika Emison
Registration: John P. Oliver
Research: Dr. Ken Duff
Publicity: Alton Marshall

The officers and standing committee chairmen comprise the board of directors for the ensuing year. They represent you in the work of carrying on the programs of the Plumeria Society. Each committee chairman needs your support. Volunteer to serve on the committee of your choice. Contact the chairman listed.

In addition, Ms. Dorothy Falkenberg has volunteered to serve as social chairman, a special committee by request of the president. She will have charge of arrangements for the society's meetings, its social hour and when otherwise called upon by the president. Your help on this committee will also be appreciated. Sign up now.

Congratulations and best wishes to those who have volunteered to serve.

Let us also extend hearty thanks to the society's outgoing president, Richard M. Eggenberger, and the board of directors for the past year. It was an active year and one of great accomplishments. Thank you for a job well done.

PAST DUE NOTICE! Annual membership dues of the society were due and payable in March. If you have let time slip by and forgot to send in payment, please do so immediately. Regular membership \$15.00; associate membership \$10.00 (individual or husband/wife). Make your check payable to the Plumeria Society of America and mail to Mrs. Darla Racz, 209 Lochnell, Houston, TX 77062.

ATTENTION ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: The summer meeting of the society is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9TH at 7:30 p.m. Why not include in your vacation plans a visit to Houston and attend this special meeting! Write membership chairman, Darla Racz, for further details.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The coming of spring is a joyful time. The cold nights of winter are recalled only when we tell about those frozen pipes, icy sidewalks and what might have happened to our Plumeria plants. Apparently most of them survived the cold quite well. Our love of the plumeria is enhanced now with the excitement of the season, another chance to grow, experiment and simply enjoy the beauty of frangipanis.

Many members are reporting an abundance of bud stems appearing on their plants in advance of leaf growth. Perhaps this is indicative of a very good year for blossoms ... maybe stringing a lei or two for summer socials.

In March the membership voted a change in the by-laws to provide for four, rather than three, meetings per year. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, followed by the summer meeting on July 9. This will give us an opportunity to keep in closer touch during the busiest time of plant growth and flower production. I urge you to bring an interested friend and prospective member to these meetings.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me to serve as your new president. I look forward to working with the other officers and committee chairmen. We are counting on your continued support, interest and participation in activities of the society. Much has been accomplished in our still young organization in past years, but it is only a beginning. Let's make every effort to move nearer some of the aims and goals set forth in the organization of the society. Come to the May meeting and learn of forthcoming plans for the summer!

..... Mary F. Duff

SOCIETY CONTRIBUTES TO PLUMERIA RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Research on plumerias in Hawaii has made great strides under the leadership of Dr. Richard A. Criley, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Criley has conducted numerous experiments in recent years and on the society's Hawaii tour in 1984, gave us a first hand look at their experimental grounds in Waimanalo.

Growers throughout the world will benefit from such documented research and it was with great pleasure that the society donated \$500.00 to assist Dr. Criley in his work.

We are moved by the response from the University of Hawaii and share excerpts from letters of appreciation below.

..... Richard M. Eggenberger
Immediate Past President

. . . "It was with great surprise that I opened your letter to find the donation of the Plumeria Society of America. Believe me when I say it is much appreciated in these days of tight budgets. There have been many things I have wanted to do but have lacked the "hands" to carry out the work. This donation will make some of this possible as it will provide some student help to set up and look after experimental plant materials and to collect data for me.

Please convey my gratitude to the members of the Plumeria Society of America and extend my best wishes to them in their further cultivation and promotion of the plumeria."

.... Dr. Richard Criley
- - - - -

Mr. Donald Mair, Executive Vice President of the UH Foundation, also extends "thank yous" for the generous contribution. He states that every contribution of \$100 or more qualifies the donor as a lifetime voting

member of the Foundation. Voting membership allows attendance and vote at all meetings and to participate in the election of new trustees of the Foundation. Its annual meeting is held in June of each year. The work of the Foundation is to provide the volunteer leadership necessary to help secure private financial support for the University's myriad programs and activities.

- - - - -

Dr. N. P. Kefford, Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, also extends thanks for the generous donation deposited into the Physiology of Flowering of Tropical Ornamentals Fund at the UH Foundation. States Dr. Kefford, "your support of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is greatly appreciated".

..... Introduction of an article on "HAWAIIAN PLUMERIAS" authored by members of the College of Tropical Agriculture, University of Hawaii, at time of print Dr. Donald Watson, James T. Chinn, Dr. Horace Clay and Dr. James L. Brewbaker

The plumeria was introduced to Hawaii in 1860 by Dr. William Hillebrand. Reportedly the original tree still grows today where it was planted near his residence in what is now known as the Foster Botanical Gardens of Honolulu. This specific plumeria, scientifically called Plumeria acuminata, is better known to most islanders as the 'graveyard' or 'common yellow' variety.

Plumeria rubra, an all red flower, was brought to the islands from Mexico near the turn of the century. It is believed that the first tree still grows near Keeaumoku and Heulu Streets in Honolulu. The P. obtusa or 'Singapore' was brought from the Singapore Botanic Garden in 1931 by Harold Lyon. It is also still growing at Foster Gardens. Two other species, namely, P. alba and P. bahamensis, were introduced in the 1950's from India and Nassau, respectively.

With Hawaii's tropical climate and excellent growing conditions, plumerias may

range in size up to 30 ft. in height or more. The tree can become ungainly in appearance due to its rapid growth. However, with a little judicious pruning desirable shaped trees and shrubs are easily maintained. It is not unusual to have as many as 60 flowers bloom on one inflorescence during a flowering season. And since each new branch may produce a flower stalk, the entire plant becomes a mass of blossoms.

While most of the plumerias in use in Hawaii today are descendants of the aforementioned introductions, natural hybridization also has contributed to great variation in flower size, color and scent.

...more in next issue of newsletter

INTRODUCING MADAME PRESIDENT --- --- IN HER GARDEN!

What better way to tell you about the woman chosen to lead the Plumeria Society for the coming year as its president, than to write this after an afternoon in attendance as she presided over her first meeting of the board of directors, followed by a garden tour at her lovely Tanglewood residence in Houston. Mrs. Mary Duff, together with her husband Dr. Ken, are avid plumeria growers, having some 150+ plants ranging in size from tiny seedlings in 4" pots to some at least 8' tall planted in the ground. The Duff's hobby of plumeria cultivation dates back eighteen years after purchasing their first plant from what was then the Courtade Nursery in north Houston.

Mary's plantings are interestingly situated in various areas of the yard around her house, so that a plumeria can be seen no matter where one is standing. Surprisingly she already has blooms on the 'Aztec Gold' with numerous visible budheads on other plants.

She and Ken joined the society's tour to Hawaii last June and brought back many seeds which they immediately planted. Today, near a back corner fence, the seedlings are nearly 6" tall.

The Duffs have shared many of their plants with family and this year are growing some at their Galveston Bay home in San Leon. When questioned separately as to their favorite variety, they both agreed it is the 'Aztec Gold', a large, solid yellow blossom with the fragrance of apricot, originating in Mexico. They have discovered two unique cultivars on their own which they have named 'Pandora' and 'Diana'. Hopefully we can share pictures with you at a later date.

As chairman of the Research Committee, Ken has sought to encourage members living in subtropical climates to grow their plants in the ground and use what he terms the "bare root" storage system during the winter months. This involves taking the plant from the ground, completely stripping it of all dirt and dry storing it in the attic, garage, or any area protected from freezing temperatures. Then, returning the plant to the ground the next spring. A tour through their garden proves this theory works.

Mary takes the reign as president with much knowledge of the Plumeria Society. She is a charter member and has served in the office of treasurer and secretary. She is also an active member and past president of the Tanglewood Garden Club. She is an artist and member of the Watercolor Society. Her artistical talents are reflected in the outstanding exhibits of plumeria arrangements at the Plumeria Flower Shows held in Houston in past years. And while a native Texan she is quite adept at stringing a plumeria lei.

Mary would be happy to share her experience in plumeria cultivation or answer your questions concerning the society. You may write her at 415 Shadywood, Houston, TX 77057.

Be it time of honors -- indeed.
Congratulations, Madame President!

.....Editor

