



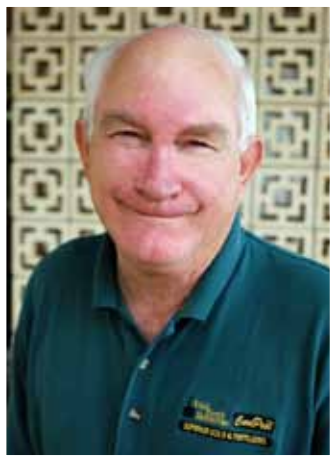
# Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

May 2010

The next meeting of The Plumeria Society of America will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston. Anyone with an interest in plumerias is invited to attend.

## Eddie Pearson PSA Guest Speaker May 11<sup>th</sup>



Eddie Pearson has been married to his bride for 44 years. They have two married daughters and three grandchildren—one boy and two girls. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1961 to 1965. The last year of his service

he worked at Headquarters Supply Company. This tour of duty came in handy at his first civilian job at Montgomery Ward, and later in 1968 when he started with Bunch Wholesale Seed Company, now known as BWI. He moved from the warehouse to sales in 1972. His sales that first year were \$250,000, and nine years later he became the first BWI salesman to reach \$1 million in sales. After 17 years at BWI, he worked for National Polymers, where his first year he took \$250,000 in sales away from his ex-boss (at BWI), and for 31 years he never paid attention to soil or water pH. Now he has been thrust into the position of paying attention to this important factor at the behest of Vital Earth Resources and Carl Pool Products.

<http://www.vitalearth.com>

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### President's Corner

by Mark Wright, Texas

email: [wright5447@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright5447@sbcglobal.net)

Spring is my favorite time of the year. There's so much to look forward to and so much to anticipate. I feel sorry for the folks in the southern hemisphere at this moment. I often wonder what it would be like to live somewhere that plumeria would not need protection in the winter. I would need a lot of property!

As my mind wanders around in these pursuits, I know plumeria grow in many places in this world. How does everyone do it? I know how I do it and have some knowledge of how others do things. There are people doing things right now we would all like to know about. Some people are very innovative, but not very talkative. Knowing most plumeria enthusiasts, it's not because they're shy.

I would like everyone with a different way, an easier way of doing things, to consider sharing with others. Email has made this a much smaller world. Why not take advantage of this closeness? Yes, there are wrong ways of doing things, but there are also lots of ways to do things correctly. My way is the best way until I discover a new "right way."

In this issue, the article on *Waking Up Your Plumerias* is a description of one member's spring protocol. Annette Fowler lives in a unique geographical area in a climate that is fairly demanding. The fact that she

is willing to share is great. At the recent workshop sponsored by the PSA, a number of our local members spoke on various topics. To hear Emerson Willis say he learned some new things was surprising as I have always respected his knowledge and expertise. This supports the exchange of ideas theory (or the old dogs and new tricks theory). Because of his willingness to listen to different ideas, Emerson is a sly dog, not an old one.

If you would like to share your ideas, my email address is above. I work hard to get things done, but am often short on original ideas. You could let me borrow your ideas in front of all of our readers. That way, I'd be forced to give you the credit!

#### *Special Membership Notice*

All of our members are welcome to participate on The Plumeria Society of America forum on Yahoo!® Groups. Because of a glitch in processing, some of you may not have access at this time. If you are not currently a part of this plumeria discussion group and would like to be, please contact me at [wright5447@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright5447@sbcglobal.net).

### *How about an International Plumeria Conference?*

Since no other society has had a plumeria conference, the PSA is considering having another one.

It would take place in June of 2011 at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas.

We need feedback ...

- Would you be interested in attending?
- What you would like to see covered if you do attend?
- What speakers would be interesting to you and what subjects might they cover?

The timeline is tentatively set for June 11<sup>th</sup> for the plant sale, followed by the conference June 12–15, 2011.

If you would be interested in attending or would like to be added to the update list, contact

Mark Wright

*email:* wright5447@sbcglobal.net

or

Eulas Stafford

*email:* estafford01@att.net

## PSA Plant Sales 2010

We are actively planning the 2010 plant sales. Our first plant sale of the year is June 12<sup>th</sup> in Seabrook, Texas, followed by the sale at the Merrell Center on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Please note the key dates summarized below. Following the practice we established last year, the growers' meetings will be held after the general meetings in order to allow time for people to arrive. Below is a timeline of important dates for our 2010 sales:

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### Seabrook (Clear Lake) Sale

- April 27 Commitment to sell on June 12<sup>th</sup>
- May 11 Sellers' meeting (**after the general meeting**)
- June 2 Submit list of plumerias to be sold at June 12<sup>th</sup> sale
- June 12 Sale in Seabrook, Texas

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### Merrell Center (Katy) Sale

- June 29 Commitment to sell on July 31<sup>st</sup>
- July 13 Sellers' meeting (**after the general meeting**)
- July 21 Submit list of plumerias to be sold at July 31<sup>st</sup> sale
- July 31 Sale in Katy, Texas

With your help, this is going to be another great year for sales!

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### Waking Up Your Plumerias

The first two plumerias I bought in 1999 were dead sticks. I should be such a good salesman. Joan Howie, a Master Gardener, promised me I would not be sorry and was she right. Upon her instructions, I took the sticks home and placed them in a cardboard box for the winter with instructions to wait until spring before I brought them out.

I took the Master Gardener class in 2001 in Aransas/San Patricio Counties, Texas and a plant propagation class in 2004 in Montgomery County, Texas. Neither of these classes prepared me for plumerias. They are not at all like other plants, but are they beautiful. I now have over 70 varieties and am always looking for more. I think what I have is called plumeriatitis.

*Waking Up Your Plumerias* is a misnomer. They actually wake you up. I don't know how they know, but in the early spring their tips become very moist and green. This happens after having no water all winter. When the tips start showing life, it is time to move them outside, provided your last average freeze date has passed. In Rockport, Texas where I live, the date is February 15<sup>th</sup>, although we had two back-to-back freezes in March of 2002. I usually start moving them out after the first of March but am ready to move them back into a protected area if a late freeze

by *Annette Fowler, Past President*  
*The Plumeria Society of South Texas*  
email: [aplumerias@yahoo.com](mailto:aplumerias@yahoo.com)

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is forecast. Don't take a chance at this late date of losing your plumerias.

At the time of moving them outside, they can be watered a little bit, but save heavy watering until about a week after moving them out. A few days after heavy watering, they can be fertilized either with fish emulsion, BR61, Dynamite, or a high middle number fertilizer like 8.38.15 or similar. After a few weeks outside, it is really good to top the pots off with 2–3 inches of composted cow manure (suggestion for the Corpus Christi area).

This is also a really good time to pot up your cuttings. *Never* put your cuttings in the soil deeper than 3–4 inches. For heavier cuttings, this might mean staking the cutting. I use a mixture of 50% potting mix, 25% perlite, and 25% composted cow manure. The mixture should be moist but not wet, and you should not water again unless your water meter registers *dry*. Plumeria are similar to succulents in that they will die from too much watering.

I do not use a rooting hormone on white or yellow plumeria cuttings but do use it on pinks and especially reds. Within a few weeks, you should start seeing leaf growth. Hold off on watering too much until you get 4 or 5 fully developed leaves. After this, watering regularly is OK.

## Plumeria Potpourri

Last year I received a phone call from a lady who had bought a red plumeria from our plant sale in 2008. It had bloomed after she had bought it but had not put on any leaves since winter. This was in May when she called and all her other plumerias had leaves on them. It was my suggestion to take it out of the pot, shake the soil off the roots, and check the roots. If they did not look good, cut them off until she reached white wood and then start over again as if it were a cutting. Too bad I didn't heed my own advice to her because I lost a Hilo Beauty because it had not put on leaves. When I checked out the tip it looked really good but no leaves. When it finally dawned on me what was happening and I took it out of the pot, the plant had started dying from the roots up to about 3" from the tip—too late for me to save it. So be aware, if your older plants do not put on leaves like the others, please check the roots.

On March 6, 2010, The Plumeria Society of South Texas will begin taking their plumerias out of the greenhouses at The South Texas Botanical Gardens in Corpus Christi. We have a display of over 100 plumerias that is quite spectacular and well worth the drive to see.

The PSST meetings are on the fourth Wednesday in January, February, March, May, and October. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting from 7:00–9:00 p.m. The address is 5623 Greeley Drive

(Garden Senior Center in Corpus Christi, Texas)—everyone invited. We always have a great program. Our plant sale is July 24<sup>th</sup> and our annual picnic is July 28<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to email me for more information at [aplumerias@yahoo.com](mailto:aplumerias@yahoo.com).

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### Time to Trim

by *Mark Wright, Texas*

If your trees are perfectly shaped and branched, I admire and envy you. For those of us who are not so talented, now is the time to trim. Wait until you see new growth and then cut. I say this because cutting with the new growth will produce more branching than cutting later in the year. Sure, some inflos will be lost, but the resulting increase in tips will reward you with more inflos later.



A container with a 50/50 water and bleach mixture to dip your clippers after each cut will help prevent transmission of most pathogens from infected plants to healthy ones. Although I have never personally seen a virus on a plumeria, I am a firm believer in prevention.

Make your cuts at an angle that will prevent water from accumulating in the depression that will form. Shape your tree as you desire.

Now you're going to have to make a decision about what you're going to do with

the cuttings. Please don't say you're going to throw them away! As a true plumeria lover, root your cuttings. Rooted cuttings make good gifts. They can also be sold or taken to your plumeria society meetings and given away as door prizes.

Rooting is a subject of great passion and has been known to cause some heated debates. There are many good methods and by and large, they all work. I guess it depends on how many cuttings you want to root and how hot it is where you live. I've found that the hotter it is, the better they root. Just remember to let them dry before rooting. After the cuttings have quit "bleeding" their sap, place them in a warm, dry place. I use my garage until it gets too



hot. A spare bedroom does well too but be sure to remove them if guests are coming (if you like them). I have found rainbows and reds take longer than the other colors.

Good luck and happy trimming!

### Our Valuable Volunteers

by *Thea Whitenton, Texas*

There have been two “Volunteer Opportunities” so far this year, and another coming up in May. Most of us know *one* benefit of participation—qualifying to sell at our plant sales! Less obvious are the rewards our members get from sharing their knowledge with visitors who stop by!

At the Home and Garden shows, we find some visitors have never heard of plumerias and are attracted by the photos, and some have questions about their own plants. We reconnect with old members, even garner new members, but *all* walk away with new info, solutions to try, or maybe just an enjoyable chat with someone who shares their interest! Speaking with plumeria lovers who stop by is no different than the conversations we share before the general meetings—it requires no degree in horticulture or experience in public speaking, just a willingness to ask questions and talk about what has worked for you or someone you know. At this year’s show, I was told by a returning visitor, “Thanks so much—you saved my plant!”

We held our first Spring Workshop in March. There are lots of criteria for calling it a success—we had a larger than expected turnout, signed up some new members, passed out lots of brochures, and gained a bit for the mailing list. But most surprising were the attendees who brought their

notebooks, pulled up chairs, and listened (most of them all day!) to the speakers. Many of the volunteers who were reluctant to “present,” soon found out that it is no different than sharing gardening tips with another plumeria lover. The members who did not speak asked great questions from the audience, or threw in their own do’s & don’ts, so that everyone went away wiser. One of our speakers was able to give a grateful attendee an email contact (for a Spanish-speaking grower) for her mother in South America who was growing a plumeria purchased at a PSA sale! It was a great way to socialize in a beautiful setting—I’m optimistic that the brand new members may see familiar faces, feel more welcome at the general meetings, and be willing to volunteer themselves.

The Oleander Festival, May 15–16, at Moody Gardens is another opportunity to volunteer. The PSA is just one of the plant societies represented, so there is ample opportunity to visit other booths and even make a day of it. It is always a busy, fun event and another opportunity to socialize!

We exist as a group because we share an interest. As a society, we want to inform others *about* our interest. Our volunteers are representatives of our society and affect our image as promoters and educators. Everyone has something valuable to contribute—please consider volunteering!

### Plumeria Collector

After being involved with plumerias for several years, I stumbled upon The Plumeria Society of America, Inc. John Murray was the first person I can remember to use the term “plumeria collector.” Strangely enough, I had never thought of it in those terms, but indeed it is ... collecting as in coins, stamps, butterflies, etc. I have known a few fellows who have even collected ex-wives. I’m very happy to say I remained focused on my frangipanis and Nancy. It was and is amazing for me to realize there are collectors worldwide. This wonderful addiction has very few boundaries—and they are almost all temperature related.

As time zipped by, I began to think I knew what I wanted in my collection: Everything! It didn’t take long to realize the average collector who lives, say, on earth, can’t have everything. Every little cutting and every tiny seed has a habit of growing into a tree. And to make things even more difficult, many people have trouble thinning out the herd. Adopting out “one of their babies” is akin to chopping off a finger and handing

it to someone. One has to learn to let go.

A bit later in my plumeria career, I was fortunate to learn of Elizabeth Thornton’s “one weekend a summer” plant sales, allowing me to add a few extremely rare beauties to my collection. Many of her cultivars are very compact and rebloom on short tips, making them ideal in my frosting zone which I refer to as the container world. Many collectors vary their approach, using pot culture, plunge potting, bare rooting, or a little of each as I do. By the way, those of you residing in a location where you are able to leave your plants in the ground the year around—I envy you greatly.

Through the years I have tried to spread the word of this benign madness. I carried Jim Little’s mail order forms to give away as Nancy and I traveled the country. Later, I was able to spare cuttings, then rooted cuttings, to give to future collectors. I still receive calls from people telling me how addictive these things are. Of course I will respond with, “Really, you don’t say?”


by *Emerson Willis, Texas*

*email: [theplumeriaman@aol.com](mailto:theplumeriaman@aol.com)*

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## Plumeria Potpourri

I have accepted the fact that if you have many, many pots or plants to store in the winter, a few are going to expire for whatever reason. Recommendation: If you own a cultivar you can't live without, you'd better back it up. If this is not possible, prune a starter tip as soon as it is large enough. I write this with clenched teeth because I dislike chopping on a young plant.

The larger trees of my collection are in the front beds with smaller potted plants in the back yard. When one of the pots bloom, it automatically is in the running to be moved to the front if it is nice enough. If so, I must decide which tree in the front is to be retired. Just in case you are curious about what happens to the rejected one, it is moved far out in the country with plenty of room and it lives happily ever after. (I am welcome to take a cutting now and then.)

All of this is what makes all of this so much fun! Hard work? Yes. Heartache? At times. Friends and fellow members to advise and/or assist if needed? Many. Will I continue down this garden path until I'm unable to bend over and pick up a shovel? *Absolutely!*

### *Special Notice*

The Plumeria Society of America will hold a special vote on a change to the existing By-Laws as follows:

7.1.b Associate membership shall be a person, couple or business who, with payment of annual dues, will receive all publications of the PSA but will have no voting rights.

This will change to:

7.1.b The PSA will no longer have an Associate membership.

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7.5 Renewal of Membership shall be made annually in December of each year.

This will change to:

7.5 Renewal of Membership shall be made in the month of your payment in the previous year.

This vote will take place at the May 11, 2010 general meeting. If you, as a member, are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to cast a vote, please mail your choice to:

The PSA  
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PSA Spring Workshop Photos



*Eulas Stafford presenting a door prize*



*Mark Terrill and Mike Janson*



*Greenhouse tour—a big hit!*



*Bluebonnets and Plumeria*

## Plumeria Society Website

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 — 2010

January 12 ..... meeting  
March 9 ..... meeting  
May 11 ..... meeting  
June 12 ..... Show & Sale I (Clear Lake)  
July 13 ..... meeting  
July 31 ..... Show & Sale II (Katy)  
October 12 ..... meeting  
October 16 ..... 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— 2010

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Irene Jones <i>Newsletter</i>	ijplume@sbcglobal.net 760-436-6885



Plumeria Potpourri



*Jeanne Moragne*



*Mardi Gras*



*Capalaba Pink*



*Bali Palace*



*Hawaiian Flag*



*Makaha Sunn*



*Ted Chinn*



*Edi Moragne*