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# Plumeria Potpourri

[www.theplumeriasociety.org](http://www.theplumeriasociety.org)

*Come to the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting!*

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas

*... anyone with an interest in plumeria is invited to attend ...*

## Growing Hydroponically

by Rick Martin of Texas Growers Supply

Hydroponic gardening refers to a branch of agriculture where plants are grown without the use of soil. Instead, the nutrients plants normally derive from soil are simply dissolved into water. Depending on the type of hydroponic system used, plant roots are suspended in, flooded with, or misted with a nutrient solution.

Texas Growers Supply was established in 1989 by owners Rick and Tiffany Martin and has become Houston's home for hydroponic gardening. They not only carry everything needed to start your own hydroponic garden, but a wide range of organic fertilizers and organic products. No need to worry about being a first-time visitor to their store. TGS's experienced staff can answer any question about hydroponics or organic gardening.

Not only do they grow many plants hydroponically, but they grow plumerias that way too, and Rick will be sharing tips with us on his process.

<http://www.texasgrowerssupply.net>

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

March 2017

## President's Corner

Although change is a part of life, we all know there are some changes that are good, and others not so much. The good change is we now have a new web host, and even though the website looks the same, things really are changing for the better. The instructions and application to register a plumeria are now available on site, and more pictures and archived newsletters are being added regularly.

For the not so good, we are implementing a Registration Committee consisting of myself, Paula Furtwangler, and Karen Babb. This is due to the sudden death of Eulas Stafford, our Registration Chairman, and long-time, tireless supporter of all things plumeria. As soon as possible (a matter of a few weeks), we will meet and review all submitted registration requests. We will also notify all applicants of the status of their submissions. Please send any registration correspondence to me at

Mark Wright, 2819 Carnoustie Drive  
Missouri City, Texas 77459

by Mark Wright, Texas (wright5447@sbcglobal.net)

Please be patient, as it will take us a short period of time to sort through the material we will be receiving from Eulas' family. Your registrations are very important to us, and we know how eager you may be to get them completed. We will process all applications as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at wright5447@sbcglobal.net.

The growing season is almost upon us here in the Houston area. This year will present us with many challenges. I have been a PSA member for 20 years, and many of my old friends—the hard working volunteers—are gone. I am thankful to have known them all. I guess this loss is what happens when one does anything for a long time. I am also thankful for the people who are still here, dedicating their time and efforts, and to the new members I am sure to meet. It's the plumerias and the people that keep me enthused about doing this.

*If you're on Facebook,  
join us at*

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
PlumeriaSocietyAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PlumeriaSocietyAmerica)

**Our site now has over 1,500 members from all over the world. It's a great place to ask a question or show off your blooms.**

**facebook**

**Your newsletter envelope label has your PSA membership expiration date, and page 19 of this newsletter has membership renewal information.**

## 2017 Houston Area Plant Sale Calendar

### Clear Lake Sale

- May 2 Commitment to sell at Clear Lake
- May 9 Sellers' meeting following the general meeting
- May 31 Cultivar list for Clear Lake sale
- June 10 Sale at Clear Lake

### Ft. Bend Sale

- July 4 Commitment to sell at Ft. Bend
- July 11 Sellers' meeting following the general meeting
- July 12 Cultivar list for Ft. Bend sale
- July 22 Sale at Ft. Bend

### Contact

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# Remembering Eulas

by Mark Wright, Texas

Eulas Stafford died Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the age of 73—much too young. He was a PSA member since 1999. He was a past President, past Vice President, and at the time of his death, head of Registration for many years.

Eulas and his late wife Lake attended Frangi Fest in Australia and were so impressed that they were instrumental in organizing the first IPC in Galveston, Texas in 2006. Also, Eulas was one of the driving forces in the second IPC in Naples, Florida in 2016. I have no idea how many garden clubs, plant societies, and civic organizations there were where they gave presentations about all

aspects of plumeria horticulture—I know it was many.

Eulas was someone who was very easy to like. The old saying, “what you see is what you get” comes to mind when I think of him. He was always himself—honest and easy going. In days gone by, he and Lake traveled the world extensively and made many friends while being ambassadors for all things plumeria.

The Stafford home and yard was the site of the PSA's Fall Social which was always a luau complete with Hawaiian-themed food and dancers. At first, Lake and Eulas prepared the food themselves. As the event became more popular and more members

attended, Sharon and I helped, as well as their daughter Wendy, and Tex and Kay. Eulas and Lake also hosted many summer yard tours and made many large, specimen trees. Mostly they had blooms—lots of blooms.

Sharon and I were privileged to go to Hawaii with Lake and Eulas a few years ago. He had the unique ability to remember where almost every plumeria tree they had ever seen was located. The few we did not find had probably been taken down or died.

Eulas helped lay the foundation for a better, more inclusive PSA. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

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## A note to Eulas from your friend, Emerson ...

*Thank you for the tremendous amount of work you did for our PSA over these many, many years. The list is endless: President, Registration, Board Member, and so many more positions and tasks, many of which I can't remember. I do remember the luaus in the fall that you and Lake hosted in your spacious, beautiful garden.*

*Thank you for your crucial involvement in both of our conferences—especially the auction in Naples. It will not be soon forgotten. I'm sure just the mention brings smiles to many faces.*

*Thank you for giving me carte blanche to your early spring blooms every Saturday morning until my plants began flowering. You knew I loved carrying blooms to my market.*

*You were a friend, a fine gentleman, husband, father, and grandfather—a stand up guy who never uttered a disparaging word about anyone. You were of the few whose heart and mind were open to all. You listened.*

*The last time we talked, you gave me a large Mardi Gras, which I will treasure. I knew this was our last visit, especially with my Florida trip approaching. How I wish I could have found the gumption to have told you even a little of what I'm now trying to write.*

*Without a doubt you are with Lake now and are truly happy once more.*

*I have no idea if you will ever see this note. Maybe, just maybe, I'll hand it to you some day.*





## Potting Plumeria



### Panelists

Mark Wright  
Paula Furtwangler  
Loretta O'Steen

**Growing in Pots** ... gives the ability for pots to be moved around, and picked up, and stored during the winter. Growing in pots also makes it easy to move a plant out of direct sun or rotate to keep a more symmetrical tree. Most plants purchased are in one-gallon black plastic pots. Mark mentioned he uses 1, 3, 5, 7, and some 10-gallon pots, but growing in pots means downsizing at some point as many plumeria grow too large to move. Clay pots are discouraged as water evaporates too quickly, and the pots absorb salt from fertilizer. The roots of plumeria also stick to the insides of clay pots. Squat pots are the best shape with a wide base and shallower depth.

**Soil** ... should be light, airy, and fast draining. Paula and Mark both mentioned rose bed soil mixed with coarse perlite. During the summer months, put a thin layer of mulch on top of the soil in pots; this helps moderate temperature of the soil and conserves

moisture. Remove the mulch when storing in the pot for winter to aid in evaporation of any moisture.

**Storing for Winter** ... Paula leaves smaller plants in pots for storage during the winter for the first 2–3 years. Once they have a full root system, she removes the plant from the pot for storage. She shakes the soil mixture (rose bed mix and perlite) off the roots and wraps the root ball in large, thick plastic bags and tightly seals them. Many trees can be stacked in smaller spaces this way. In the spring when ready to repot, there are viable roots already growing in the plastic bags.

**Keeping Pots from Blowing Over** ... some growers plunge their pots to keep them upright in windy conditions. Others mentioned clamping 2–3 pots together to help keep them from blowing over. Some growers also use rebar driven into the ground next to pots and then clamp the pot to the rebar to keep them upright.

**Ants** ... talked briefly about ants in pots and the use of Amdro® or Over'n Out® to get rid of fire ants.

**Fertilizer** ... talked about the use of balanced fertilizer, that is, 6-6-6 or 10-10-10 at one-third or one-half strength. Mark mentioned he rarely uses fertilizer on his established trees as they just don't need it.

**Epsom Salts** ... talked about the use of Epsom salts late spring and again in July to help protect from sunburn.



*Nebel's Gold*



*Phet Praya Lae*

# My Plumeria Journey

by Laura Jones, Virginia

Growing up in Virginia Beach, Virginia I fell in love with these beautiful trees during the summer of 2007 while watching the Gardening Channel—it claimed plumerias were easy to grow and would bloom that summer. I fell for it, and I bought the cuttings. Only a few rooted, and I thought I would stare at those sticks forever. Our nurseries around the mid-Atlantic area of Virginia do not carry any plumeria.

My son graduated from high school in 2008, and we took him to Oahu for his graduation gift. We visited Waimea and the North Shore for surfing. We also visited Punch Bowl Crater and Pearl Harbor, and that's when I knew I was going to try harder at growing these beauties. Driving down the roads, my neck was sore looking at all the trees the locals had in their yards. We visited Dole Plantation, and I bought some cuttings to bring home. They were only listed as red, yellow, pink. It didn't matter to me that they were unnamed varieties, because I was happy to have something from our visit.

Searching the Web, I came across a plumeria forum group on Garden Web—there we had a great group of wonderful friends willing to help and share their knowledge with new growers like me. One person that has been so helpful and is still a good friend of mine is Bill Spurgeon from Costa Mesa, California. He was so helpful and friendly and would send me cuttings just because he is a generous person and wants to see a person succeed.



Laura Jones and Bill Spurgeon

He introduced me to some of his friends, and we all met up for

breakfast at the South Coast Mall in Costa Mesa in the summer of 2011. That day changed my life, because I had the opportunity to sit next to Bud Guillott, and we shared stories about trees. Bud said the day was a memorable one for him, as it was the anniversary of the day he was shot down in his B-24 plane over Germany in World War II. He told me what he had ordered that day for breakfast before the flight. It was the same as he gave the waitress: “Two eggs over easy, bacon, and toast.” He looked at me and told me they only had this type of breakfast on bombing missions. He had no idea that day would be the day he would be sent to a concentration camp (Stalag 17B) in Austria.

I think that I was so taken with his stories that when he asked me what varieties of plumeria I had in my collection, I just lost all train of thought and said “I had a few.” We laughed, and I told him how much I loved planes, and I was in the airline business, and we just hit it off from there. He invited my husband and me over to his home later that day. It was a very special day for me.



My first plumeria varieties were unknowns, and the first named variety gifted to me from Bill Spurgeon was *Psycho* aka *Gardena*. This is a very special tree to me, because it came from Bill. Bud gave me a few cuttings from his yard. When he used his saw and made me help him take a cutting from



his huge *California Sally*, this became another favorite. It's all about where they come from, and the



heart that is shared in the giving to me of part of their tree. These are the best gifts of all. I still have these in my collection, and they will always be very special to me.

I have around 185 trees (I think) but don't tell my husband! I have many favorite plumerias, but my top favorite is *California Sally* and how it blooms here in Virginia Beach—Bud always asks me for a cutting (it was his cutting to begin with!). He just likes the way it blooms in my area.



I like to use a liquid fertilizer called Foliage Pro<sup>®</sup> by Dyna-Gro (9-3-6), and I also started last summer with one dose of Excalibur VI which is a 6-month time release fertilizer. I like the time release, and I also like using the Foliage Pro<sup>®</sup> in my watering can.

I mix my own soil to make a fast draining mix, and I adjust to my needs here in the heat of my summers. My ingredients consist of pine bark fines or fir bark in small pieces. I add perlite, or sometimes pumice, and I add a little Ocean Forest<sup>®</sup> potting soil by Foxfarm to allow for some peat base to the mixture.

I love to root in clear cups with the same light mix I make. I cut holes in the bottom of the plastic cups and place them on a heat mat, water once, and let them grow. I also cut styrofoam pieces and place them inside the cups to help keep the cutting stable so it doesn't move. You can see the roots grow with clear cups, and you have a better chance of not breaking the fine roots when checking for roots. I keep them on bottom heat until they have a nice root ball, and then I will pot up to one-gallon black pots.





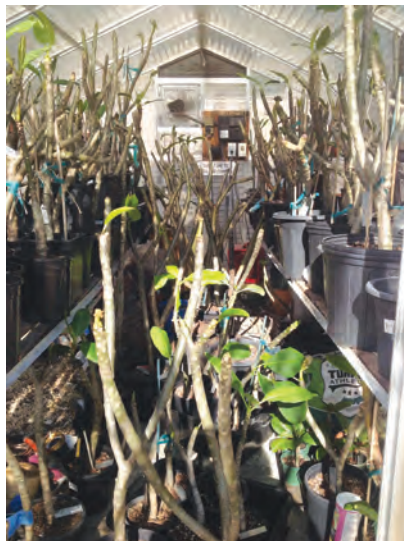
Living in Virginia Beach, Virginia, we start to see cold temperatures around the middle to end of October. Once the night time temperatures go down to 45° degrees F., they all come inside. It is the "March of the Plumeria." We do get snow!



I begin preparing them for the move weeks in advance. I let the pots begin to dry out, and I cut the leaves off, leaving about two inches from the main



stalk. These naturally drop off in a few weeks. I'll spray for bugs with Bayer Advanced 3-in-1 Insect, Disease & Mite Control and repeat in a week before I bring them inside my house or greenhouse.



Taking the leaves off helps me accommodate the number of trees I have to bring inside. It also helps with infestations of spider mites. This works for me since my dormant period is around 5–6 months. In the spring, I'll watch the weather forecasts, and once the nighttime lows are not predicted to drop under 50° F., I start to take my trees outside and place them under trees to acclimate them to the sun.

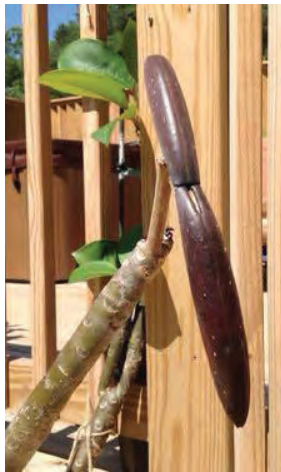
When I take them outside in the spring, they go on the side of my house to get acclimated. From there, I gradually start to place them where I would like them for the summer season.





If the sun is too strong, I take Reynolds Wrap® aluminum foil and place it around the base of the tree to protect the tree from sunburn until it grows more leaves—then it can naturally protect itself.

My first seed pod on my *J-105* began in June of 2014 and stayed on my tree until June of 2015. This was 12 months for this seedpod, and it held over during the dormant period inside my house. The seeds were viable, and I sowed some seeds and gave away the rest. I still have 14 seedlings. I can't wait to see what these beauties will surprise me with!



*J105* seedlings @ 12 months



*J105* seedling @ 16 months

I have been hand pollinating flowers this past season with a little success, and I now have four trees with seed pods on my trees from this method.

I love to graft, and I use the slant graft technique to take out huge sections of large, lanky trees. Some folks call it down grafting.

I have David Mora's V grafting tool, and it works great. And I have a grafting box from George Straw/Dan, and I'm looking forward to using this device too!

David Mora's V grafting tool



George Straw/Dan's grafting box



Having breakfast with a group of plumeria friends in Costa Mesa in 2011 started great friendships with many. I'll always be thankful for my visits out to California. Bill and Bud are my true mentors, and they know I think the world of them.



Bill Spurgeon, Laura Jones, and Bud Guillot

Watching Bud climb his tree and tell me I had to help get my cuttings simply made my day. My husband finally understood how much it meant to me as we drove away after I said goodbye to Bud. I wiped tears from my eyes. It meant so much to me.



# Stumping/Cutting Back a Plumeria Tree

by Dennis Schmidt, Thailand

The tree shown to the right was a huge *Celadine* that was 12 feet plus tall. I cut it back to just under six feet, and all this new growth (and flower) was on it the next season.

Stumping or cutting back a plumeria tree is done for a few reasons; usually it's due to the tree getting too big and protruding into a neighbor's yard or causing problems for your house. Personally, I do it so that all the blooms are at face height and not way up on top of a high tree where I cannot see or smell them. Another reason is to create an attractive growth pattern that enhances its beauty.

I like a tree that can be cut to grow wide; these also make a great centerpiece for the garden (also look great in a big pot). Shaping them is reasonably easy. Before you start cutting, you need to stand back and take a good look at the tree from different angles to work out the best cuts. Once you work out the shape you want to achieve, you are ready to start cutting. Begin by marking on the branches where you want to finish the cuts, then start removing the higher pieces that you want to either save, give away, or just stack on the curb. Keep them at a size that is easy to handle. Thinner branches can be cut up to a metre or so long, plus have more than one tip.

Once you have removed all the smaller growth, it is time to start cutting back the larger branches. You can do this in sections, or if possible, just drop a whole branch at a time. When you make the final cut on a branch, it needs to be a minimum of at least 6 inches from the join/start of the branch if you want the branch to re-shoot/re-branch. If you do not want it to branch where it is, you simply cut it flush to the main trunk/branch it comes from.

Work your way around the tree until you have removed all the wood to suit the result you hope to achieve. Then you can either paint the cut ends or use DAP® caulk on them. The end height will depend on the tree shape. Again, I like them to be a maximum of five to six feet high at most, so all the new growth tips will be producing flowers close



to face height. You can simply cut/trim the new tips to keep the shape and height of the tree as it grows and flowers.

The other thing you can do is create a multi-colored tree by grafting all the new growth tips with different colors. Make sure that the ones you use all grow at similar rates, so that the tree holds its shape.

If you simply want to lower the height slightly or do a general clean up on the tree, you need to remove all the “dead” wood first. In big trees you often find dry, hollow branches/sections that can become a home to ants which in turn cause more damage to your tree. You need to go through the tree and cut off all these dead pieces flush to the branch they are coming from. You also need to remove branches



that are rubbing on other branches, ones that are not big enough to reach the canopy, and those that are long and spindly. All the branches need to be a reasonable size and healthy. If they are marked badly, have aerial roots, or sunburn, etc., you are better off removing them. This also allows the tree to have better air circulation which is beneficial. Always cut to keep the canopy looking good and allow for the new growth from any branches you trim back. Again, either paint or use DAP® caulk to cover the cut ends, and do not be afraid to cut back hard if needed. Pumeria have strong survival instincts and can regrow very well.

The following season I grafted all the separate new tips with wood from the best of all our other trees, so that now there are over 50 varieties growing on this



*Celadine*. This is the shape I prefer for a stumped tree. I think the wider branching simply looks more appealing, but it is each person's preference.

photos by Dennis Schmidt



Jocelyn



P53



Coral Cream



## Gallon Pots Around Marathon

by Emerson Willis, Texas

Nancy and I have been driving our motor home to Marathon, Florida in the Keys for many years, all the while carrying a few potted plants to give to interested plumerialess beings (yes, Spell Check has informed me I just invented a word).

Most of these pots are destined for other areas of the country because so many visitors to the Keys are escaping Old Man Winter in the sunniest part of the “Sunshine State.”

However, I have planted more than a few up and down the Keys with many in Marathon because this area is “homebase.” I guessed correctly long ago the real eye catchers would spread if allowed to get to a decent size.

Please understand most of these pictures were taken in the wintertime when our trees had very few leaves and blooms. You will see a few which were taken in the blooming season and sent to me.

This *Singapore* is one of the few plumerias I have been allowed to place on Highway US-1. It is on Marathon Garden Club property. A large native tree has been dwarfing it for over 20 years. The *Singapore* keeps its foliage every three or four winters. Every trip I find many dried bloom stems, so it blooms very well. It just doesn't grow much.



We gave an apartment manager a *Guillot's Sunset*. This shot is the “source” tree. Eventually, it was on every corner of the grounds.



I didn't take *Sombrero Pink* to the Keys. I am certainly happy someone did, because I have shared it over the years along with the “names.”





I gave the fellow who bought this quaint little cabin several plumerias. He and I spent all day chipping holes the ground in which to plant them.



This is another shot which was sent to me. I planted the yellow tree in the foreground. It is a *Nebel's Gold*. I've always liked the shape of this one.



The dear lady who owned this place, may she rest in peace, wanted nothing but an *Aztec Gold*. Because they are so common in the Keys, I tried my



best to talk her into picking another, but she remained loyal to that "fresh peach" scent. We became close friends. The house

now might be a vacation rental. A pool has been added, the car had New York tags, and a gentleman allowed me to shoot this picture over a fence. I wish I could have continued my feeding program. Signs abound in this area reading "Keep out, trespassers will be tortured then shot!" You will be arrested even if you are using Florida Colors Nursery's Excalibur IX.

This is one of many successful *California Sally* plantings. It was becoming a little too large for the



homeowner's flower bed, so I trimmed it back for her. Of course, I even hauled the debris away.

I placed another *Bud's Sally* on the edge of a canal quite near Boot Key Harbor. This shot was taken in season and sent to me. It seemed to love where it was but sometime since last winter it died. There is absolutely no frost in this area, so all I can surmise is it couldn't tolerate the salt air/mist/spray.





The next three sets of photos are on the same property and show the trees both in dormancy and bloom.

This *Pu'u Kahea* is over twenty years old.



It took quite a while to convince the homeowners to try a *Jeannie*, because I explained how it could grow a little goofy, but the flowers were oh so beautiful.

This *Singapore* could be the oldest in Marathon. I gave it to the lady in a one-gallon pot. She planted it before the home was completed in 1995 (I think).





## The Beautiful History of *Butera Cocktail*

by Antonio Butera, Italy

This is the history of my beautiful, rare, and elegant plumeria that I call *Butera Cocktail*. It is a fascinating plant with huge flowers which are yellow, orange, and red in the center with red-wine veins in the outer part of the petals. It has huge leaves which are dark green. The plant is very resistant to cold. The large flower has a delicate smell of suntan lotion.

Many years ago I went to French Polynesia for a fashion shoot with a group of people from Italy. We were there a month. It was a beautiful day when we arrived in Tahiti after a 27-hour flight. The smell of tropical flowers surrounded us in the airport. The plumeria flowers were everywhere—in bars, in hotels, in shops!



We stayed at a wonderful hotel on the island of Moorea—a true tropical botanical garden with large trees of plumeria (called frangipaniers in the French language). I was crazy with happiness for a fantastic month. Each day I spent time hunting new plumeria trees (many *Celadine* and tricolor are on Moorea).

One day at a hotel bar, my cocktail came with one slice of pineapple and a huge plumeria flower. The plumeria was a very delicate yellow with light veins of red. With the help of the hotel staff, I discovered this huge plumeria tree with extra large leaves and big elegant flowers near a ylang ylang tree, famous for the essence of flowers. I harvested two mature plumeria seed pods, and put them in my baggage. I was not allowed to bring back a cutting of the original tree.

I planted the seeds in my house in Palermo, Sicily, Italy, and so 35 years ago were born my seedlings from Moorea—one of which is *Butera Cocktail*. At this moment, there exist 30 seedling plants. I have sent a few plants to passionate plumeria friends in northern Italy where they live in a greenhouse. I hope my *Butera Cocktail* will be registered by the PSA.



Antonio Butera with his *Butera Cocktail*



# World's Oldest Plumeria Festival

by Guadalupe (Fernandez) Turner, Mexico  
by Jack Turner, Mexico

May of 2017 will be the first time the residents of the village of Tetiz, Mexico will open their plumeria festival to the general public. This is one of the last primitive Maya rites celebrated, and we are proud to invite a limited number of guests to participate in the festival that lasts the entire month of May.

The festival is a series of celebrations of floral sacrifices that the local families make in their homes and in the afternoons carry to the local church for public display. In order to appreciate the floral displays, it is necessary to attend the preparation of the offering. It all starts long before the festival with people pledging the flowers of their trees to go to one of the local families that host the offering. Some pledge their flowers years in advance, which makes it hard to buy cuttings!

The host of the offering that day invites as many friends as they can recruit to participate in making the offering, and preparing and delivering snacks to the workers. Several days before the party, the host collects branches and banana stalks from the woods and brings them to their home. The hosts then tie all the branches together to form the main shape of the offering. The offering is usually a billboard-sized flat frame covered with



unpeeled banana tree bark—also tied to the tree branches.

The next step of the process begins at about dawn when the army of workers start delivering the flowers in large baskets to the host. The



flowers are then placed on the floor of the stone pilapa house in a cool shaded place, so that they can be continually sprinkled with water to keep them fresh for the day-long fiesta. When the men are finished tying the banana bark to the frame, they step aside, and the women come in and start punching tiny holes in the bark to hold the thousands of blooms to be placed in the holes.

Then the entire group starts stringing leis that are about 30-feet long to string along the pews of the church and all along the walls. There are literally thousands and thousands of blooms in the old domed Catholic church where the festival is held.

When the Spanish sent their armies to invade Mexico in the early 1500s, they destroyed most of the pyramids that the Maya had built in the Yucatan in southern Mexico. Those pyramids were the center of Maya civilization and were used for many purposes in everyday life. One of those uses was as a cemetery where the bottoms of the pyramids were where the Maya buried their dead. When the Catholic armies destroyed the pyramids, they often used the same base to build a new Catholic church for the Maya to be converted to the Christian faith. The Spanish soon learned that the pyramids that were converted to churches encouraged the Maya to attend,



but that free-standing churches were less attended. They then discovered that allowing the Maya to come to lay offerings for their dead was what got them to attend the church. The Spanish then allowed the Maya to start burying their dead in the floors of churches that were not built on top of destroyed pyramids, and that is how they got the natives to convert. In fact, Guadalupe Fernandez was born to



native Maya residents of the area, and her parents were buried in the floors of local Catholic churches.

The offerings are large, and are usually in the shape of angels or animals. Some are carried to the church in pieces and reassembled there. Others are carried whole and delivered to the church by 3:00 pm, to be admired that afternoon and early the next day.

There are daily parades where the offerings are carried by hand to the church, and that is where we enjoy watching the offerings pass along the streets. And then there are parades at night and the continued party at the home of the host for the day's fiesta.

The public is always invited to go to the church and see the offering, but this is a rare

opportunity to visit in the homes and learn much more about many things! Once I visited with a local medicine man, and he told us of all the uses of plumeria by the Maya, who call the plant *sac nicté*, or the modern Spanish, *flor de mayo*.

This is the first attempt to bring tourists to a place with no hotel and no restaurant! The people of the area have the lowest minimum wage in Mexico, which is now less than \$4.00 a day! We are missionaries by trade, and have a few rooms we are making available for rent. Merida is close at hand and can handle all those who can't stay with us, but we will attend to all room rental and transportation issues. "We" are Jack Turner and Guadalupe (Fernandez) Turner.

Airfare to Cancun is much cheaper than Merida. For example a round trip from Orlando or Tampa to Cancun is about \$350. Contact us at 863-212-6178 or [flamingojacks@msn.com](mailto:flamingojacks@msn.com) for costs associated with attending the festival or renting rooms. A ballpark estimate of costs, excluding air fare, would be about \$600 for a week with room, most meals, ground transport, and admission to all events.

Merida has a great night life, and lots of mercado shopping opportunities. There are many pyramids and much colonial Spanish history. This was the capital city for the invasion of Mexico in the 1500s, and the capitol of all Hispanola until the Spanish were evicted from Mexico.





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*Lucite Silk*  
 photo by Dennis Schmidt



Our new website is easier to navigate and to find information about plumeria care, cultivar registration, society news, events, and much more! Since the website is new, please check for updates and to see added features such as the flower identification database and a members only newsletter archive! Below is the current MEMBERS ONLY login and password information that will be needed to access the website's newsletter archive.

Log in: **psamember** Password: **Scottpratt93**

Twitter feed: **@plumeriasociety**

### Joining the PSA ...

[www.theplumeriasociety.org](http://www.theplumeriasociety.org)

Click on "Join the PSA" tab at the top of the home page.

To join by mail, select **PDF**.

To join online, select **Online Form (Paypal)**.

**When joining by mail, send a check to:**

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 22791

Houston, TX 77227-2791, USA

Dues are \$25 per year

### 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.

### When does your PSA membership expire?

Look on the newsletter envelope mailing label for your membership expiration date

### PSA Calendar—2017

January 10 .....meeting  
 March 14 .....meeting  
 May 9 .....meeting  
 June 10 .....Show & Sale I (Seabrook/Clear Lake)  
 July 11 .....meeting  
 July 22 ..... Show & Sale II (Fort Bend County Fairgrounds)  
 October 10 .....Fall Social (potluck) and meeting

- Meetings are held at Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas 77030.
- Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. You're welcome to come 30–45 minutes before the meeting for snacks and chat.
- We have a raffle, guest speakers, and more. Please join us to learn more about plumeria care and collecting.
- Non-members are always welcome!
- Bring your blooms. Bring your friends.
- Bring plants, cuttings, etc. for door prizes! These can be anything, not just plumerias.

### PSA Officers/Committee Members—2017

Mark Wright <i>President</i>	wright5447@sbcglobal.net 281-438-3653
James Goodrum <i>Vice President &amp; Membership</i>	j_r_goodrum@yahoo.com 281-799-0327
Karen Babb <i>Secretary</i>	kbabb4@comcast.net 713-721-4197
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Samirie



© Laura Jones  
Virginia Beach, VA  
'Penang Peach'

Penang Peach



Musk Rainbow



Katie Moragne



Lurline



Makaha Sunn



Jeannie Moragne



Desert Sunrise (JJ)



Saigon Moon



Hula Girl (JL)

Photos  
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Kapalua