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# Plumeria Potpourri

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

*Come to the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting!*

Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

## MEETING TOPIC: A Survey of Current Trends!

What is your favorite cultivar?

Do you rate your plumerias on ...

- frequency of bloom?
- size of inflo?
- fragrance?
- growth habit?
- size of the flower?

Do you grow your plumerias in pots or in the ground?



The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

May 2016

## President's Corner

The 2016 International Plumeria Conference is almost here. There will be, according to the number of registrations so far, a great turnout. If you are thinking of attending, there is still time to register, and the sooner the better.

We have a great lineup of speakers and fantastic workshops set up—all in a beautiful setting. This is turning out to be a once every ten year event, so try to make it if you can. This is a great opportunity to not only see old friends, but to meet people that you have read about in the newsletter, met online, or heard about from others.

Please try to make it to the next meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The topic of the meeting will revolve around a survey which will be handed out for you to fill out and give your input on current trends in plumeria preferences. A discussion will follow based on survey results. Also, there will be sign-up sheets for the numerous and much-needed volunteer positions at the two upcoming PSA sales.

### PSA Yard Tour

John and Lara Carroll

757 Blueberry Road  
Cove, Texas

Sunday, June 12, 2016

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

After the general meeting, the growers' meeting will be held and table assignments for the June sale will be drawn. If you will be selling, make sure you or a representative attend.

This will certainly be an event-filled summer. First the IPC, then two plant sales, and yard tours will make the next three months go by fast. The first yard tour of this year will be at the home of John and Lara Carroll. The Carrolls have a beautiful yard and a number of Elizabeth Thornton's original plumerias. Add to that Lara's culinary skills and the drive to Cove, Texas makes the yard tour well worth it.

### 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

### When does your PSA membership expire?

Look on the newsletter mailing label for your membership expiration date

Recognize this little fella? This is a longhorn plumeria beetle—its larvae eat the pith of plumeria branches. This particular beetle and his beetle friend arrived in California in a box from Hawaii. The cuttings had been prepared for shipping by a reputable seller. Always be careful when acquiring new cuttings and plants.





# 2016 INTERNATIONAL plumeria CONFERENCE

MAY 19-22 | NAPLES, FL, USA

Learn from expert growers from **Thailand Texas Hawaii Australia California Japan Florida**

## 4 Keynote Speakers

- Emerson Willis, Texas
- Dennis Schmidt, Thai Frangipani, Thailand/Australia
- Dr. Richard Criley, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- John Ingwersen, Jungle Jack's Plumerias, San Diego/Thailand

## 13 Workshop Sessions

- Plumeria DNA research findings
- Overview of all propagation methods with demos
- Review of species
- Growing seedlings successfully
- Expert panel Q&A
- Hands-on lei-making workshop
- Much more!

## Location

World-renowned Naples Botanical Gardens ([www.naplesgarden.org](http://www.naplesgarden.org))

- Home of the Nationally Accredited Plumeria Collection
- Over 500 plumeria plants and trees (372 varieties) on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast

## Registration

\$290

## Includes

- All conference keynotes and sessions
- Luau dinner with authentic island entertainment
- Plumeria Collection tour at Naples Botanical Gardens
- All lunches



Register Now!

[www.2016IPC.com](http://www.2016IPC.com)

**Also!** Day rate: \$100 per day

See website for travel information and discounts

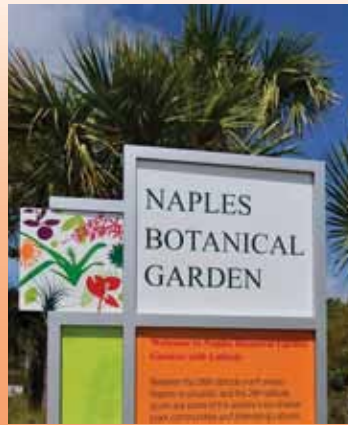
## Optional

Tour of Florida Colors Nursery— May 18<sup>th</sup>—\$50

- Nearly 1,000 plumeria trees plus 1,000s of potted plants
- Includes round-trip bus transportation, tour, lunch, \$35 credit at Florida Colors Nursery

*Details subject to change; check website for current details.*

# IPC16 Site— Naples Botanical Garden



# IPC16 Tour— Florida Colors Nursery

*Some of the flowers that will be  
blooming on the IPC May 18<sup>th</sup>  
tour of Florida Colors Nursery*



## What to Do with that Tall Tree

by Eulas Stafford, Texas



When that tree gets too tall for you to handle, then it is time to do something about it. Look at your tree and find the best looking top that could make a nice starter tree.

What can you do now? Cut that sucker; you can't hurt the tree. I use a Sawzall® with a metal blade to make a fine cut. Maybe you can take a second cutting if you really don't want that tree so tall.

To get your big cutting ready to plant, you need to let it callus just like a small cutting. Go ahead and cut all of the leaves off so all of the energy goes into rooting.

After you plant the new tree/ cutting, you need to stake it with at least 2 or 3 poles to make sure the tree does not move at all. These big cuttings root extremely easily and usually go ahead and bloom with all of the energy that is stored in them. Notice the mulch around the base. This helps maintain the heat to help with the rooting. Good luck and don't be afraid of your decision.



**Spring** is a word with many meanings, but for plumeria growers it is that wonderful season of the year when our plants show signs of awakening from their winter rest. The first tips of green leaves begin to push and unfurl. Here in Houston the time can be March; further north the month of April shows signs of green; and above the Mason-Dixon line the month of May means Spring. To plumeria fanciers it is the busiest time of the year. As soon as danger of the last frost is past, bring your plants out from the closet, attic, garage, or greenhouse. Whether stored bare root or in the container it grew in last summer, a renewal of good growing elements is necessary for a strong, healthy plant which will enrich the owner's life with the beauty and fragrance of that unique and wonderful plant—the plumeria. Whether planted in the ground or in a container, the basic steps are the same.

Examine your plant carefully, checking for dead or damaged branches and roots. Cut damaged branches at an angle above a leaf node and back far enough to be confident you have removed any damage or rot. If stored bareroot, examine for any damaged or broken main roots, cut cleanly, and remove. Secondary roots will probably be a tangled

knot among the main roots, and these need to be removed to give room for the new white brittle feeder roots which will begin to sprout as soon as the plant is given water, fertilizer, and planted in the soil. For those who plan to root prune and restore to the same size container the plumeria was growing in before dormancy, I recommend removing approximately two inches of roots and soil from the sides and the bottom of the root ball. When replanted, the plumeria will be sitting on two inches of new soil mix (add a small amount of a balanced fertilizer) and then add fresh soil and fertilizer (a time release fertilizer is best). Plumerias will bloom even though the root ball is no larger than a 5 or 7 gallon container.

To balance the large branched top of a plumeria that may have a spread of 10–12 feet, you can dig a hole in the ground and set the pot down in it about 6 to 10 inches. (If roots go through the weep holes into the ground, cut them off in the fall when you are getting ready to store your plant. It will not damage the plant).

*This information is copied from the memos of Elizabeth Thornton, 1987, and is just as good now as it was then.*

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## 2016 Houston Area Plant Sale Calendar

by German Collazos, Texas

The first plant sale for 2016 is June 11<sup>th</sup> at Clear Lake, followed by the sale at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please note the key dates summarized below. 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 2016 sales. Please contact me with any questions at **(713) 670-4064** or **german.collazos@toshiba.com**.

Clear Lake Sale—June 11		Fort Bend Sale—July 23	
May 3	Commitment to sell at Clear Lake	July 5	Commitment to sell at Fort Bend
May 10	Sellers' meeting (after general meeting)	July 12	Sellers' meeting (after general meeting)
June 1	Cultivar list for Clear Lake sale	July 13	Cultivar list for Fort Bend sale
June 11	Sale at Clear Lake	July 23	Sale at Fort Bend

# My Top Ten Plumerias

by Bud Guillot, Southern California

When I rank my plumeria plants, I am considering the entire plant from the top most blossoms, branches, trunk, and root system. If I had the most gorgeous and large well-shaped blossom but a wimpy structure, it would never make my list of ten best plants. My top three choices are pretty stable and seldom change over the years. The other seven will often shift in their ranking; sometimes up, sometimes down, and sometimes off the chart, depending on their performance at the time.

**Number 1** *Lemon Drop* has been my favorite plumeria, top of my list, for many years. It has so many outstanding qualities. It is the first plumeria to bloom each year and the last one to still have blooms in the fall. During its long-blooming season, the well-shaped tree will be literally covered with large, beautifully-shaped yellow blossoms. During the heat of summer, it has so many blossoms one cannot put their hand on the tree without touching a blossom. Several years ago many plumeria growers in Southern California got frost damage. I lost several plants and had moderate to severe damage to many others. There were two *Lemon Drop* trees growing in my yard near the frost-damaged plants—the frost did not damage a single branch on either of them.

Several years ago when I got rust on my plumerias, it started on one tree in the backyard on the north side of the yard. In about two weeks, the rust worked its way across my backyard covering each leaf of every plumeria tree except the two *Lemon Drop* trees. The rust then spread to my front yard and infested every plumeria tree there. Then the rust infested my neighbor's plumeria trees across the street. My two *Lemon Drop* trees were never affected by the rust. I never had to remove a single leaf because of rust. Those two *Lemon Drop* trees were in full bloom all that time.

When harvesting cuttings from plumeria trees, it is advisable to take a 16-inch cutting to get enough hard wood to ensure that it will root quickly and properly. Short, green cuttings will most likely not root. *Lemon Drop* cuttings are much different—there is a 90+ percent chance one can root a 2 to 3 inch cutting.





**Number 2** *Jeannie Moragne* is a consistent high performer in the plumeria world. It is a rapid, beefy grower. Caution: Don't plant it too close to your house where it would most likely push the roof



off your house in a few years. It needs a beefy trunk and branches to support that huge, magnificent canopy of large, gorgeous blossoms all summer. The blossoms are large and of good heavy texture, from 5 to 6 inches in diameter. The colors are from a deep orange to a brilliant red or a combination of the two depending on the temperature where it is grown. In my yard, two miles from the ocean, the blossoms on my tree are a beautiful orange. A cutting from my *Jeannie Moragne* is planted in my brother-in-law's yard 20 miles inland where it is much warmer, and his *Jeannie Moragne* blossoms are a brilliant red. Those big, beefy cuttings from a

*Jeannie Moragne* are easy to root and grow. It would require intentional neglect and abuse to kill a 16-inch cutting. Short cuttings from a *Jeannie Moragne* would all be new green growth and difficult to impossible to root. If Bill Moragne had only created one new plumeria and that one was *Jeannie Moragne*, he would still be worshiped by many as the icon of the plumeria world.

**Number 3** *Sally Moragne* has a spectacular growth habit with a near perfect umbrella shape. It is one of the heaviest bloomers in my collection. Each and every blossom is very large and symmetrical, 4 to 5 inches,

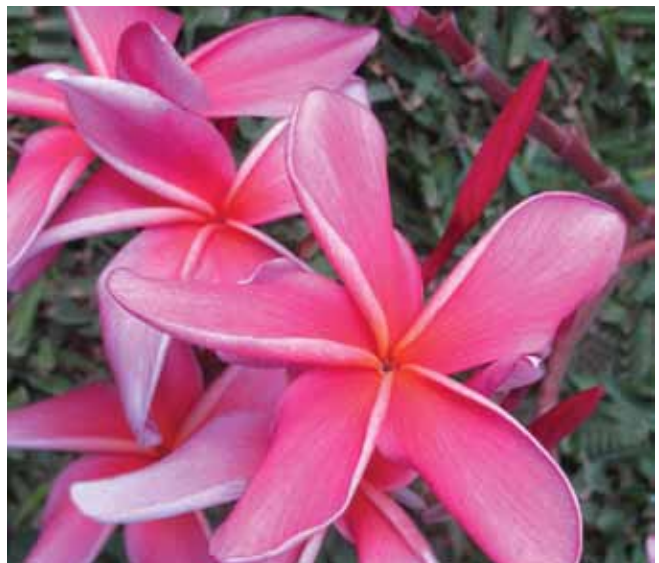


and most are a pleasing blend of a yellow/gold center blending with shades of rich pink with a deeper narrow band of dark pink on the outer perimeter of each petal. At the same time, the tree will have a scattering of extra-large white blossoms among the pink blossoms which makes the tree very appealing.

**Number 4** *Hanalei* does not have much history. It was discovered and collected by a friend on the island of Kauai. *Hanalei* has a strong, sturdy trunk with a mass of strong, supportive branches creating a near perfect umbrella canopy to support its many large inflorescences. The blossoms are about 3.5 inches—a dark burgundy red on the leading edge of each petal followed by a rainbow of cascading colors of orange and yellow. The blossoms are very rigid and of good-keeping quality.



**Number 5** *Dean Conklin* is an older variety and named in honor of Dean Conklin, long-time head of Hawaii’s Parks and Recreation. I think *Dean Conklin* is the most underrated plumeria out there. It has good, large strong branches and a vigorous growth habit like *Jeannie Moragne*. It is a heavy bloomer all season. The inflorescence is unique to this plumeria. Each inflorescence is made up of 8 to 10 inch stems with the blossoms sitting majestically



at the end of each stem. With these long stems the inflorescence is huge and each blossom sits alone, at the end of its individual stem, in its respective space without touching another of its sister blossoms. “Just beautiful!” This one has an extremely long-blooming season and loves hot weather. The hotter the weather, the more blooms.

**Number 6** *Wildfire* is a large, brilliant red blaze of color with a touch of orange in the center—resembling a wildfire. It has beautiful white veining on its back side. It's the first plumeria blossom a visitor to my yard notices and comments on. It is a strong, robust grower and should never be planted near your house. The branches are robust and strong. One detraction: The branches grow quite long before they fork—normally into three branches. To my taste, *Wildfire* is the most outstanding large red out there. In spite of *Wildfire*'s tall, unruly growth habit, it will always be welcome in my yard.



**Number 7** *Aztec Gold* is one of our oldest and well-known yellow plumerias. The variety probably goes back to the time of the great race of people it was named for. *Aztec Gold* was the first yellow I added to my collection of plumerias. I found my *Aztec Gold* growing in Key West, Florida near the long-time home and watering hole of the great and famous author Ernest Hemingway. *Aztec Gold* is a good, strong, vigorous grower producing an abundance of rich yellow blossoms that smell like fresh peaches. Cuttings from *Aztec Gold* are easy to root and will be good bloomers in two years. My



*Aztec Gold* and *Lemon Drop* are growing side-by-side. There are lots of discussions in front of them as to which is the best yellow. The strong peach fragrance sways many, and the name Thornton sways many.

**Number 8** *JJ Gina* is a newer variety with so many good qualities. It is rapidly moving upward as the favorite of many people. *Gina* is easy to root, and has a sturdy trunk and strong supportive branches. It has a nice symmetrical canopy to support its abundance of blossoms. The coloration is a beautiful transition of bands of colors ranging from a dark brick red through varied blended bands of red, orange, and yellow on nice large heavy-textured blossoms with a beautiful curled leading edge on each petal.



**Number 9** *My Valentine* has a beautiful name for a magnificent plumeria given to me by a good friend, the late Jim Clark. (Who I receive a plumeria from puts lots of prestige on a plant growing in my yard.) The blossoms are large and the dominant color is pure glossy white with a small gold center slightly feathering into the base of the blossom. There is a bright bold band of brilliant red on the trailing edge of each petal. Back side of the blossom is mainly white with a bright bold band of brilliant red on the trailing edge with nice

red veining leading through the white. Cuttings are easy to root and quickly mature into a strong-based plant with a near perfect umbrella-shaped canopy. *My Valentine* is a good heavy bloomer and has a long blooming season.



**Number 10** *Tropicana* has nice large blossoms harmonizing a select group of colors and blends of colors ranging from dark rich red bands to bands of orange, gold, yellow, then a blush of pale pink. The plant branches well. The trunk and branches are not large, but they are very woody and strong and require little if any staking. The plant has large full inflorescences. The plant is a heavy bloomer with long-lasting blossoms with good keeping quality.



## In the News



Nancy and Emerson Willis celebrated 50 years of marriage by renewing their wedding vows on March 4, 2016 on the ms Zuiderdam



## In Memoriam—Roland Dubuc

Roland Dubuc unexpectedly passed away on February 18, 2016. Roland was a past president of the Southern California Plumeria Society and served for five years in that capacity. Also he served on the Board as secretary and journal editor. His friendly and engaging personality was a major factor in growing the membership of the San Diego-based plumeria society and steering the society in new directions.





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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—2016

- January 12 .....meeting
- March 8 .....meeting
- May 10 .....meeting
- June 11 .....Show & Sale I (Seabrook/Clear Lake)
- July 12 .....meeting
- July 23 ..... Show & Sale II (Fort Bend County Fairgrounds)
- October 11 .....meeting
- October 15 ..... Fall Social and Luau

- 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—2016

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*Heart of the Night*, Kukiati Tanteeratarm seedling



*Dwarf Diamond*, Kukiati Tanteeratarm seedling



*Wasithee*

These new releases for 2016 from Kukiati Tanteeratarm will be available through Brad's Buds and Blooms ([www.bradsbudsandblooms](http://www.bradsbudsandblooms) or 407.349.9510) beginning late May