



The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

July 2013

## *Plumeria Potpourri*

*Next Meeting: October 8, 2013, 7:30 p.m.  
Clubhouse at Hermann Park  
6201 Hermann Park Drive, Houston, Texas  
Anyone with an interest in plumerias is invited to attend*

### *Come to the October meeting!*

Our speaker for the October meeting is Loris Garrett. Loris has been growing *Hemerocallis* (Daylilies) for many years. He is a member of many *Hemerocallis* societies, both locally and at the national level. He has been hybridizing since the late 90's. October is a great month to plant these herbaceous perennials. They also exist quite nicely with plumeria.



*In  
this  
issue ...*

President's Corner	Mark Wright	page 2
Luau Invitation	Sharon Wright	page 2
Overwintering Waxed Cuttings	Elgin Blackwell	page 3
What's in a Name	Mark Wright	page 4
Photos		page 8

## President's Corner

by Mark Wright, Texas  
email: [wright5447@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright5447@sbcglobal.net)

Fall must be here, or close. Hummingbirds have arrived by the dozens and leaves are yellowing and raining from my plumeria. Shorter days and less sunlight could be the reason; however, rust is likely the culprit.

In two months or so, we will be defoliating our plumeria, so in some ways, rust is my friend. Spraying with fungicides does little good. It is harmful to the environment, and I must admit I have never seen a plumeria die of rust. If rust would repel mosquitoes, it would be almost perfect!

Local elections are this Fall, and the PSA is no different. Late in October, ballots will arrive in the mail for all current members. To be counted, the completed ballots must be returned to the PSA's Post Office box by December 31st. Please take the time to vote.

The Fall Social and Luau is almost here (see the announcement below). A yard tour, catered dinner, and Polynesian dance show is a bargain at \$10/person.

Karen Babb has volunteered to help Eulas work through the backlog of plumeria registrations. Karen's computer skills will assist Eulas in faster registrations.

Those of you planning to attend the October meeting need to remember that we'll be at the temporary location. Our meeting will be held at the Club House at Hermann Park. This is the golf course club house across from the zoo. It's on the same road as the Garden Club but closer to the other end of the park. If you have any questions about the next meeting, call me (281-438-3653).

This will be my last *Plumeria Potpourri* as President. I could not have done this without the many people who have helped me. There are too many to name, but I will mention a few: Sharon, my wife, and Irene Jones, whom I have never met in person—both deserve a special place in heaven for putting up with me. They have both made me look smarter than I am. This is no small task. I am very grateful to both of them and all of you for being members and reading this publication. Also, a very special thanks to those of you who have spent your time writing articles when I needed help. I won't say goodbye, I'll say *Aloha!*

## Luau Invitation

by Sharon Wright, Texas

*Aloha!* Don your Hawaiian shirts, outfits, and leis and join us at our annual Fall Social and Luau, Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Once again, it will be held in the tropical garden of Lake and Eulas Stafford

at 2301 Primrose, Pasadena, 77502. Arrive at 6:00 p.m. to stroll in the gardens and chat. Dinner will once again be catered by Hula Mamas and will be served at 7:00 p.m. The program will be presented this year by Savea's Pride of the Pacific, who performed at the conference in Galveston.

Please notify me at 281-438-3653 or [wright5447@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright5447@sbcglobal.net) for reservations. We'll need to have an accurate count of attendees by October 11<sup>th</sup> to order the food. There will be a \$10.00 charge per person. Please send checks to Sharon Wright at 2819 Carnoustie Dr., Missouri City, TX 77459, or pay at the meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Overwintering Waxed Cuttings

by Elgin Blackwell, Texas

Last fall, I found myself in a bit of a jam. I really needed to take some cuttings, but circumstances beyond my control didn't allow me to take cuttings during the summer. Here it was October, and I was wondering whether to take the cuttings, or just wait until spring. I was really concerned about any cuttings I might take in the Fall even surviving winter storage.

A wild thought occurred to me, and I figured I'd give it a shot. I knew that rose bushes often have wax on the graft when they are purchased, and I knew that the purpose for that is to seal unwanted water out, as well as to preserve internal moisture. I was concerned about the moisture in fresh October plumeria cuttings going into storage, as being a wonderful environment for molds and fungi. I decided to try sealing my cuttings with wax.

When a man finds himself backed into a corner, and he has to resort to creative solutions, there is always the element of the unknown. "Will that boiling hot wax cook the cuttings? If it doesn't cook them, it will at least sterilize them, as well as seal them. I guess we'll see, won't we?" (swallow hard, press ahead).

Now, I live in a community where you could get surfboard wax quite easily, or get your eyebrows or your bikini line waxed, but grafting wax? Not a chance. Well, good ole Kroger's had Gulf Wax (household paraffin) for canning, candlemaking, and many other uses. I set up my fish fryer out in the back yard, along with a heavy foil roasting pan (one time use), and commenced to a'meltin' the wax.

I dipped the cuttings (and some of them were still dripping latex) into the melted wax, giving them three separate coats. I set the dipped cuttings upright into 5-gallon buckets, crossed my fingers, and into storage they went.

Well, some of those uncontrollable circumstances were still a factor in Spring, and it

was May 4 (2013) before I got around to bringing the dipped cuttings out of storage. A very high percentage of the cuttings looked really great. I'd say 90% of them looked like I had just put them away. The other 10% showed signs of desiccation.

In this instance, I waxed over 50 cuttings at one time. The picture below reveals a cutting with



the wax clearly visible, but with roots already starting to show. That picture was taken on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Some of the cuttings had a heavy layer of wax around the edge, so I chipped off some of the excess wax with my fingernail. With most of the cuttings, however, the swelling of the cutting had caused the wax to crack, and root buds could be seen underneath.

On these, I did nothing but put them right into sand in a large black plastic pot. I put a layer of



landscape fabric in the bottom so I wouldn't lose the sand through the drain holes. I use masonry sand because it doesn't compact, and it is very easy to take a water hose to displace the sand from around the new roots when you're ready to pot them. The



pictures showing the rooted cuttings were taken on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 41 days from setting them into the sand.

Needless to say, "I ain't skeered" to wax, if'n I have to!" By the way, my wife runs faster than I do, so I didn't get to try Gulf Wax for "bikini" purposes.



## What's in a Name?

by Mark Wright, Texas

*Her name was Magil and she called herself Lil, but everyone knew her as Nancy.* — Lennon/McCartney

Rocky Raccoon surely cared about her name, as did Dan. Everyone else, not so much. As modern humans, names are very important to us. Our names help define us, and they set us apart from others.

At one time there were 17 Mark Wrights in the Houston phone book. So much for being different! Unless you are an entertainer or sports star, you wouldn't consider changing your name. If you are hiding from the IRS or an ex-spouse, you are stuck. Naming plumeria can be just as complex.

Let's say that someone in your area has a huge tree that is a great bloomer. One day you stop and knock on the door. You tell the person answering the door that that is the best-looking tree you have ever seen, and he/she gives you a cutting. As you leave, you take a moment to look up in the tree. How many places do you see where cuttings have been made? How old is this tree? How busy is the street where it's located? Chances are that your find of a lifetime has many names. People love their plants and love to give them names, but not everyone knows that they must be named according to strict rules.

Let's say that you plant a batch of plumeria seeds and many germinate. One of them turns into

a real knockout. You are the only person with this tree and will only give cuttings to close friends. What will your friends do with them? They could give a cutting to someone who eventually decides to give it a name. This name problem just gets worse!

Many plant species can only be registered if both plant parents are registered. This rule solves many naming problems. As you know, naming and registering plumerias does not follow this rule. To complicate matters, the same variety or cultivar frequently does not look the same all over the world. The same plant can look different at different times of the year in your own yard, as many of you are probably seeing now. Temperature, humidity, moisture, and nutrients all play a role in how plumeria blooms appear.

Stop by a home improvement store or big box store in the summer. Sometimes there will be plumeria for sale. If you are very lucky, they will be tagged with proper names. More likely, they will have tags that say "pink," "white," "yellow," "red," and so on. What are the odds that even those designations are correct? Fifty-fifty would be a good guess. In my part of the world, many of these

come from Mexico, and they are priced to sell. If you can't resist naming it, use any name you like. Different cultivars that all look the same probably can't be registered anyway.

Why are there sometimes so many names for the same cultivar? I answered that question above. Once a cultivar is registered, that is its name according to the PSA. With "found plants," the first one there wins the naming prize. Plants grown from seed have a slightly different protocol. If you know the original owner, you must have their permission to name and register their tree.

On the PSA website, there is a form used to register plumeria. This form can easily be downloaded. For a \$10.00 fee, you can reserve a name for your tree for five years. Just fill out your information, the name you wish to reserve, and any aka (also known as) names, if any, and leave the rest of the form blank. That \$10.00 also covers the registration cost. If, after five years, you haven't used the name, the reservation of that name expires unless you renew it for another five years for another \$10.00 fee. The PSA offers this service to protect the name you want to use, not to make \$10.00. If you post a picture of a plumeria bloom on a social media site and give it a name, but haven't reserved the name or registered the plant, someone else could use that name. This has actually happened before. Before you protest how unfair that is, remember that the PSA has no law enforcement abilities, nor do they police the Internet. If someone tries to reserve a name we know has already been used, we will not do it.

Names ending with names of other plants, fruit, or plant matter cannot be registered according to the naming rules. *Penang Peach* has been around a long time. I've had one for quite a few years and have enjoyed its compact form and beautiful flowers which smell like fresh peaches. It cannot be registered by that name. Also, descriptive adjectives such as "huge," "giant," "brilliant,"

"beautiful," "cute," or "pendulous" cannot be used.

Many varieties of plumeria have what we call aka names. These names are regional or names the plant cannot be registered as. There are a few sellers who use this as a tool to sell plants. After all, if you liked it enough to buy it the first time, you might buy it again under a different name. Many years ago I ended up with two *Scott Pratts* with different names. I may be smarter now, but my wife might dispute that occasionally.

Many people have contacted the PSA about the fraudulent ads and photos they see on various Internet sites. Unfortunately, we have no ability to do anything about them. If you have any doubts about these sites, ask your friends, ask on social media, or your various groups. Get referrals. Colored petals such as lime green, baby blue, black, or zebra striped do not exist in the plumeria word—at least not yet. Rely on what members with knowledge and experience tell you. "If it looks too good to be true, it probably is."

Membership in botanical and plant societies worldwide has gone down in recent years. Our membership has held pretty steady for the last few years, but some of the Facebook plumeria groups have more members than the PSA does. After all, connecting with "friends" is what it's all about these days. The convenience of using whatever device is handy, whenever you want to, and not having to get to a meeting place and maybe being asked to work on a committee or hold an office is very appealing. The theme of fewer people doing more work may have started in the workplace, but the ripples are being felt in many other areas.

As the current President of the PSA, I receive a copy of the Southern California Plumeria Society's newsletter, and I exchange emails with the society in Australia. In doing so, I have found that the theme of fewer people doing all the work is not unique to the Houston area. We will continue to do so for as long as we can because we love the flowers.



**Brad's Buds and Blooms**  
 Your local nursery for  
 plumeria, heliconias, adeniums, gingers  
 and beautiful and uncommon tropical plants

**605 OLD GENEVA RD  
 GENEVA, FL 32732  
 USA**

T: (407) 349-9510  
 E: bradsbudsnblooms@earthlink.net  
 W: www.bradsbudsandblooms.com

Plumeria Musk Rainbow



**Sacred Garden  
 Frangipanis**

Australia's best range of Frangipanis  
 Specialist breeders, named varieties & rare species

Bare rooted plants carefully packed for  
 mail order worldwide

For a full color catalogue send 4 x 50¢ stamps to:  
 132 Silver Valley Road MS 415 Mount Garnet QLD 4872  
 Int. +61 7 4097 0065 Ph/Fax (07) 4097 0065

Email: prowesa@ Cairns.net.au  
 Website: www.sacredgardenfrangipanis.com



**OVER  
 40 VARIETIES  
 OF PLUMERIAS  
 AVAILABLE**

P.O. Box 9868, New Iberia, LA 70562-8868  
 www.stokestropicals.com  
 Phone: 1-800-624-9706 FAX: 1-337-365-6991

**Jim Little Nursery and Farms**

*"Leading the way in plumerias  
 since 1973"*



**Haleiwa, Hawaii**  
 www.theplumeriaworld.com

**Caldwell Nursery**  
 2436 Band Road, Rosenberg, Texas 77471  
 Phone: 281-342-4016 — email: salvia 123@emsn.com  
 1 mile west of Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds off Hwy. 36  
 (take US 59 South to Exit 36, left on 36 to Band Road)  
 website: www.caldwellhort.com

Great Selection of PLUMERIA, DAYLILLIES, ROSES,  
 UNIQUE and RARE TROPICALS and OTHER PLANTS  
 HOURS: 9:00–5:30 MONDAY through SATURDAY  
 CLOSED SUNDAYS EXCEPT SPRING 11:00–4:00

*Plumeria Paintings by Marcia*

**Watercolor  
 Fine Art  
 Giclées and  
 Note Cards**



Marcia Minnichhofer  
 P.O. Box 403  
 Lihue HI 96766  
 www.plumeriapaintingsbymarcia.com

**Florida Colors  
 Plumeria**




**305-258-1086**  
 www.FloridaColors.com

**Southwest Fertilizer**

BOB PATTERSON  
 5828 Bissonnet  
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77081  
 TEL: (713) 666-1744 FAX: (713) 666-8108  
 VISIT US ONLINE @ YARDGEEK.COM

**10% DISCOUNT for PSA Members**







*Bali Palace*



*Gina, aka Jeena*



*Triple One*



*Raspberry Sundae seedling*



*Engel*



*Bangkok Fire*



*Sorbet Ripple*



*Marci Diane*