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# Plumeria Potpourri

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

*Come to the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting!*

Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

**Speakers: Eulas Stafford and Bryan Holland**  
**Winter Plumeria Preparation**



Photos of Toba's Fire by Stuart Woodfin, Florida



**The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.**

**October 2015**

We had an excellent attendance at our July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Rick and Nan Stone gave a thorough presentation on drip irrigation. Rick brought examples of all the materials he uses on his drip irrigation system and demonstrated how he built, runs, and maintains his system. For details, see PSA Speaker Highlights on page 3 of this newsletter.

I want to thank Rick and Nan Stone for hosting a yard tour on August 1<sup>st</sup>. They opened up their yard and home and gave tours of their plants and how their irrigation system works.

I also want to thank Bryan and Carolyn Holland for hosting a yard tour on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Their entire backyard is a plumeria paradise.

On July 25, 2015, we had a second PSA plant sale at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds. There were 28 PSA members selling 226 varieties of plumeria. I think this must be one of the largest number of varieties of plumeria plants available for sale under

one roof. Both of our plant sales this year were very successful, but they were not as successful as last year's. This may be due to the four inches of rain we had on the day of our June plant sale and the 98 degree heat the day of our July sale. The other factor that may have affected our dollar sales figures is the down turn in the oil industry that has had a great impact on the greater Houston economy.

At our October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will get an update from Jerry Hurlbert on the PSA social to be held October 17, 2015 at the Golfcrest Country Club.

Also at the meeting, Mark Wright will be outlining the opportunities for our members to become candidates to serve on the Board of The Plumeria Society of America.

There will also be an update on the status of the 2nd International Plumeria Conference.

### Luau Invitation

Aloha! Don your Hawaiian shirts, outfits, and leis and join us at our annual Fall Social and Luau, Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The location for our luau this year is the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive, Pearland, Texas 77581.

Please notify me at **936-321-5151** or **arendbob@gmail.com** for reservations. Cost is \$15 per person. Also, there will be a signup sheet at the next meeting. We'll need to have an accurate count to order food. Menu choices include chicken, beef, or vegetarian.



At the PSA meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>, Rick and Nan Stone gave a presentation on drip irrigation. Nan began by showing how to sprout plumeria seeds: 1) place seeds between damp paper towels; 2) when sprouts appear, plant the sprouts in soil with the plump side down; and 3) keep moist in bright light.

Rick Stone suggested feeling the leaves of plumerias to see if the plants need water. Hot leaves are an indication that the plant needs water. If the leaves are hot but the soil is damp, the plant needs a larger pot. The goal is to economically provide water on a regular basis to the plants.

To set up a drip irrigation system, begin with the water faucet. A timer is attached to the faucet. A mister or palpitation timer is recommended. The timer is set on a cycle of one minute on and ten minutes off for six hours. (Rick's timer runs from 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.) The timer should be placed in the shade to prolong its life.

A filter is used to remove debris from the water. Add a manifold to the end of the hose that will include multiple outlets for tubing. Run tubing from the manifold. Add "T" connections to the tubing as needed to create additional lines for emitters. Attach emitters at the end of the tubing. Do not bury the drippers. Emitters are held in place with 6" hold downs.

To inject fertilizer into the drip irrigation system, a Dosatron D16 can be added. The cost is about \$250–\$400. HastaGro and SUPERthrive® are recommended fertilizers.

One source of drip irrigation parts is Irrigation Supply Outlet ([www.irrigationsupplyoutlet.com](http://www.irrigationsupplyoutlet.com)). The Sprinkler Warehouse ([www.sprinklerwarehouse.com](http://www.sprinklerwarehouse.com)) in north Houston is another source for drip irrigation parts. Additional notes from Rick:

- If you purchase supplies locally, buy the ¼ inch tubing from Lowe's as the tubing from Home Depot will turn hard.
- Use only high organic matter soil.

- Use ONLY brass fittings. Some fittings may look like brass, but are not.
- Keep your timer in the shade. If the timer is located in a sunny place, arrange for a cover.
- Do not mix emitter types on the same string.
- Check the dripper lines once a week for leaks. Manually turn on the timer and examine the lines for open tubing (maybe an emitter popped out) or for leaks.
- Use only ½ gallon per hour (red) emitters. Use multiple emitters in large pots.
- Keep line pressure at or below 25 PSI.
- For small starter containers, set them on a large container, place the emitters on the small containers and let the small containers weep into the large container.
- Use only well-draining containers (black landscape containers for example).
- It is not necessary to put gravel or sand at the bottom of the container.
- Set the timer so that water is regularly weeping out of the bottom of the container.
- Minimize main line flow restrictions.
- Use a screen strainer at the water source.
- If something is removed from the end of a tubing line, cut off the enlarged end before inserting another item.

### Joining the PSA ...

**To join online**, go to:

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

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

Join by mail (PDF) or online (pay with Paypal)

**To join 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**

# Plumies and Caterpillars

by Emerson Willis, Texas

Almost 49 years ago, Nancy and I purchased a corner lot here in LaPorte, Texas, and built our home. It is near, but not on Galveston Bay, and has pecan trees producing shade from the hot summer sun and a generous strip of city property encompassing our lot, providing us quite a bit of tax-free yard.

We didn't mind the older neighborhood and asphalt paving; we were told the drainage ditches carried away storm rains without a problem.

I checked with City Hall about the possibility of curbs and gutters in the future (and the assessments to the home owners) and was all but laughed at as I was told, "You will never see those type of improvements on your street." This information was fine with me.

Let us skip 48 years and one multi-million dollar FEMA grant later. The project was tearing out



our old street and burying an 8-foot storm drain, topping it off with concrete paving and 5-foot sidewalks on each side.

Because the new street was to be much lower, it would require tapering almost half of everyone's front yard down to street level.



Twenty-odd-years ago, we had concrete-bordered plumeria beds built across our front yard. The problem was that this property belonged to the City of LaPorte.

"I will give up my pruning shears when they pry them from my cold, dead fingers."

After the project began, the contractor was given orders to "work" with the homeowners concerning their front yards.



Other than a little cement dust, our plants were not harmed. Some of the fellows operating these huge machines could thread needles with them.

All's well that ends well. We have a new street with two sidewalks and 45 happy, bare-rooted plumerias still standing tall!



## Why Are Some Cuttings Better than Others?

by Carl Herzog, Southern California

This question has been asked of me many times, so I decided to find out why.

The answer is: "The Mother Plant." The health of the mother plant depends on the nutrients stored in it. A cutting must have a sufficient supply of root-building nutrients to get it started. Since a cutting takes time to develop roots, it must rely on stored water and carbohydrates in its stem and small leaves to develop vigorous new roots. I leave two or three small leaves, no longer than 2 inches, on each cutting. I have found this helps the cutting get started.

The nutritional requirements for a mother plant are considerably different than trees that are grown for flowers. The mother plant requires a balanced fertilizer to slow down excessive vegetative growth and increase the carbon to nitrogen ratio that will be stored in the cuttings. Too much nitrogen will cause the new tips to grow too quickly and produce soft tissue with poor carbohydrate reserves. Also, an

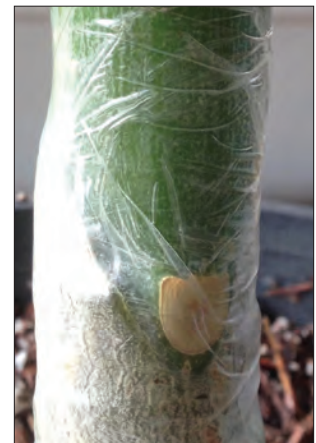
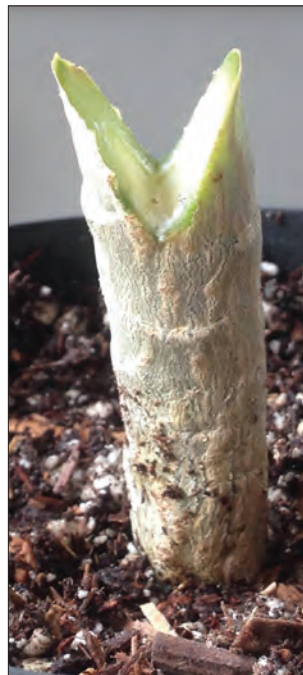
overabundance of nitrates will use up the reserves of sugars in the shoots, reducing the energy needed to produce new root shoots. This makes cuttings taken from new growth of overly vegetative plants weaker and more susceptible to rot when you are trying to root them.

The ideal fertilizer for the mother plant is one that is high in calcium. A calcium-rich plant will build thicker cell walls and a healthier vascular system. Strong cell walls will help the cutting improve its resistance to stress and disease. A fertilizer with humic acid and kelp extracts in a 5:2 ratio plus the addition of fulvic acid will help the mother plant produce strong cuttings.

Let's face it, we will never know what is in the mother plant when we get a cutting. A cutting should be a tip from last year's growth with a well-healed, hardwood base. Rooting conditions such as heat, time of the year, and rooting medium also play into this scenario.

To watch a video of David Mora demonstrating his grafting tool go to:  
<http://tinyurl.com/nze994s>

David Mora has modified a drywall tool (Wal-Board Tools Outside Corner Tool - 82-034) to make a grafting tool. David's modifications include bending the corner tool to a 45-degree angle and sharpening the edges. This tool works best on cuttings which are 1 inch or less in diameter. To hold the scion and host together, he uses a waterproof, transparent film called Opsite Flexifix, followed by green garden tape and cable ties.



## Fort Bend Sale

The PSA's sale at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on July 25<sup>th</sup> was a big success. Cindy DeLuna used one of the shopping carts to wheel away her new plumies.



## Remember This Stump?

In the May 2015 newsletter, there were photos showing Bud Guillot removing a plumeria from the ground. It was just a stump—very few roots; certainly no root ball. Here it is today, leafed out in a 5-gallon pot.



## Yard Tours



Elaine and Earl Williams

There were two yard tours this year. Rick and Nan Stone hosted on August 1<sup>st</sup> with a follow-up on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The focus was on drip irrigation.

Bryan and Carolyn Holland hosted on August 15<sup>th</sup>. These photos are from the Holland's yard tour.



*Duvauchelle Special*

Bryan Holland and Tom & Paula Furtwangler standing by *Paula's Pink* plumeria which Paula registered years ago.



Bob Arend,  
George Hadjigeorge, and  
Barbara Robertson



# 2nd International Plumeria Conference

Brought to you by Plumeria Society of America & Naples Botanical Garden

## Plumerians Worldwide Are to Gather at the 2nd International Plumeria Conference

The Plumeria Society of America (PSA) and Naples Botanical Garden are pleased to announce the 2nd International Plumeria Conference (IPC), tentatively scheduled for May 18–22, 2016.

The site of the 2016 IPC is the renowned Naples Botanical Garden in Naples, Florida ([www.naplesgarden.org](http://www.naplesgarden.org)). The Garden hosts the National Plumeria Collection, with over 500 plumeria trees. Field trips to other notable plumeria sites in the area are in the planning stages. More information coming soon!

Since the first conference in Galveston, almost 10 years ago, advances in plumeria cultivation and cultivar development have come fast and furious. The conference will gather the best minds in the plumeria world to share their knowledge and experience with plumeria enthusiasts—from hobbyists to vendors. The conference steering committee (Eulas Stafford, Hetty Ford, Tex Norwood, Karen Babb, and Mike Atkinson) is working closely with the PSA to craft an innovative, stimulating mix of workshops and presenters.

The conference will also feature a closing luau, and other fun surprises, including the introduction and auction of a new variety named in honor of the conference.

Make your plans to attend now! Go to the beginning of the conference website ([www.2016IPC.com](http://www.2016IPC.com)) and sign up for our email list for future news and notifications, including special conference rates at nearby hotels.

We hope to see you in Naples next year!



*JL Compacta Peach*



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<http://www.theplumeriasociety.org>

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 refer back often to check for updates and to see updated added features such as the flower identification database and a members only newsletter archive! See below for 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**



### 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.

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 22791

Houston, TX 77227-2791, USA

Dues are \$25 per year

### PSA Calendar — 2015

January 13 ..... meeting  
March 10 ..... meeting  
May 12 ..... meeting  
June 13 ..... Show & Sale I (Seabrook/Clear Lake)  
July 14 ..... meeting  
July 25 .. Show & Sale II (Fort Bend County Fairgrounds)  
October 13 ..... meeting  
October 17 ..... Fall Social and Luau

- Currently, meetings are held at Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas 77030.
- Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Please feel welcome to come 30–45 minutes before the meeting for snacks and chat.
- We have a raffle, guest speakers, and more. Please join us for the evening 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—2015

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*Mango Blush*



*Sariah's Curly Pink*



*Jonita*



*Evalani*

Photos by Dawn Sullivan, Southern California



*Mardi Gras*



*Ampol's Delight*



*Dawn Sullivan*



*Kim Shultz*