



# Plumeria Potpourri

www.theplumeriasociety.org

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Speaker: **Lan Shen**

## **President's Message**

by Bob Arend  
page 2

## **In Memorium— Lake Stafford**

page 3

## **PSA Speaker Recap— 1/13/15**

by David Holloway  
page 4

## **The Jeannie**

by Emerson Willis  
page 5

## **The Art of Shaping Plumerias**

by Barbara Randolph and  
Jerry Hurlbert  
page 6

## **Grafting Tips**

by Bud Guillot  
page 7

## **Trimming and Shaping Plumerias**

by Bud Guillot  
page 8

## **Back Page Photos**

page 12

## **Grow Nine Local Natives for Wildlife**

Before European settlement, most of Harris County was coastal tallgrass prairie with “seas of grass” as “tall as a horse’s belly,” teeming with wildflowers all year and islands of trees with their understory shrubs. Today, greater than 99% of that nature as well as much of the natural plant life is gone, decimating the birds and other wildlife that depended on those plants and habitat. If every one of us would plant nine or more **local** native plants in our home gardens, schools, public gardens, and parks, we can start to repopulate our lost native plants to benefit the wildlife that depend on them. Which nine? Choose from the palette that will be presented at the talk.

For many years, Lan Shen has been the coordinator for the Texas Master Naturalist, Gulf Coast (Harris County) Chapter's [native] Plant Propagation Program (GCMN-PPP). The GCMN-PPP propagates native plants to give to schools, public gardens, and community gardens. To learn about native plants, all are welcome to volunteer on work days on the second Thursday of the month, 9 a.m. to noon, at the pavilion next to 6520 Almeda.

Lan is also President of the Houston Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas, long-time member of the Native Plant Society of Texas and the Sugar Land Garden Club, and works part time on a native prairie seed collecting project for Katy Prairie Conservancy.

Contact: [Lan.Shen@txgcmn.org](mailto:Lan.Shen@txgcmn.org)



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

**March 2015**

## President's Corner

by **Bob Arend, Texas** (arendbob@gmail.com)

There was no space for the President's Corner in the January PSA newsletter, so this is my first opportunity in 2015 to communicate with all our members.

In early January, the PSA lost one of its most ardent supporters and one very active member—Lake Stafford. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing, working, or just being around Lake knows what a tremendous asset she was to the plumeria community (see page 3).



The luau in October was a huge success. Thank you to all who helped. The number of members and guests in attendance was the largest in several years. The luau dancers from Pride of the Pacific provided an exciting dance performance—particularly the fire dance.

The Plumeria Society of America is now meeting in the new Hermann Park Gardens. The Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion is a beautiful, spacious, new building where we will be meeting this year and in the future. Please join us for our upcoming scheduled meetings listed on page 11.

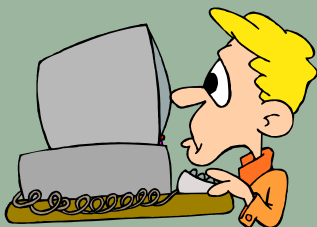
The Houston Home and Garden Show will be at the George R. Brown Convention Center, March 27–29. Sign-up sheets will be available at our next meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Houston area got hit with an early cold snap in November that caused all of us to put our plumerias into winter storage early. So far, the winter weather in Houston has not been too severe. We have had no freezing temperatures, but have had many nights with temperatures in the 30s F.

At our January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Donita Brannon used a wonderful PowerPoint slide show to tour us through the Rainforest Pyramid at Moody Gardens. She discussed and showed us all the plants and animals that live in the rainforest (see page 4 for a recap of the highlights).

Please join us at our March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to hear Lan Shen's presentation on native plants and flowering vegetation.

*LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL*



*YOUR LABEL HAS YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE!*

**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)

**or**

**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

## In Memorium—Lake Stafford

The former First Lady of the PSA, Lake Stafford, passed away in January. Lake was Activity Chairman of the PSA for many years. She was the wife of Eulas Stafford who was a three-term Vice President and a four-term President of the PSA. Two former presidents of the PSA commented that Lake and Eulas were a one-letter word. When one volunteered for an activity, you knew they were both going to show up and take charge. You never saw just one of them. They were a team.

Lake was an enthusiastic promoter of plumerias—from visits to Frangifest in Australia, speaking to numerous garden clubs all around South Texas, and to the International Plumeria Conference in Galveston, Texas—a five-day event which attracted attendees from several countries. Lake was a shining light and inspiration. She was loved by all plumeria enthusiasts from the outback of Australia to the bright, white sand on the beaches of Italy. Lake is probably the most recognized and loved female name in the plumeria world.



Also, she was well known for hosting the PSA's annual luau for 11 years in her lovely yard with her husband Eulas.

Three plumerias carry her name—*Lake's Pink*, *Lake's Plantation*, and *Lake's Passion*—a lovely remembrance of her, and her love of flowers which continues on through her husband, children, and grandchildren.



## PSA Speaker Recap—1/13/15

by David Holloway, Texas

At the PSA meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>, Loretta O'Steen introduced the speaker, Donita Brannon, Horticultural Exhibits Manager, Rainforest Pyramid, Moody Gardens, Galveston Island, Texas. Donita has worked at Moody Gardens for over 25 years.

The Rainforest Pyramid recently went through a \$25 million renovation after Hurricane Ike hit the area in 2008. The rainforest was saturated with four feet of salt water during the hurricane.

Upon entering the hallway leading to the rainforest, visitors enter the rainforest symphony where they are greeted with various animal sounds. The rainforest is then entered on an elevated walkway which provides an expansive view of the rainforest.

Donita presented a slideshow of the various plants and animals that live in the rainforest. She shared the following interesting information:

- For visibility, butterflies are contained within one area of the rainforest. The butterflies are native specific. It would be very difficult to obtain permits for exotic butterflies as they could escape and create havoc for farmers.



- The temperature of the rainforest at ground level is in the mid-80 degrees F. The upper level is about 10 degrees warmer.
- Although 25% of medicines come from rainforest plants, only 1% of rainforest plants have been tested for medicinal properties.
- No pesticides are used in the rainforest. Only biological control is used. Beneficial insects are released every other week.
- There is 21,000 square feet of greenhouse space outside of the pyramid to grow plants for restocking the pyramid.
- The rainforest is financed by the Moody Foundation.



Having never kept records of my Florida Keys' plantings and not caring for a fairy tale "once upon a time" opening because it reads a tad fictitious, I'm going to jump into this piece: Several years ago, I was given permission to plant a plumeria, frangipani in this locale, at a Wendy's on US-1 in Marathon, in the middle of the Keys. This in itself is quite a coup because usually shop owners, managers, etc. do not own this very valuable land. Hotels and motels usually do not landscape with our beloved trees because tourist prime time is in winter and the "dead man's fingers" appearance, to some, isn't very becoming. Because of this great location I chose to plant a *Jeannie Moragne*. It's fantastic beauty and rapid growth is just what was needed.

Years passed and my little one-gallon plant became head high, blooming, and branching. People had begun taking nips here and there—which was the plan from the beginning. I was pleased they at least waited until the tree was large enough to support pruning.

The next winter or the next (really don't have a clue), I asked Nan to glance at Wendy's as we pulled into town in our motor home. My stomach turned over when she said she could not see our *Jeannie* at all. Later we saw all new landscaping, palms, etc. I didn't ask any questions. I did not want to know what had happened. Plumeria heartbreak is rough. I'm sure, dear readers, you know what that is about.

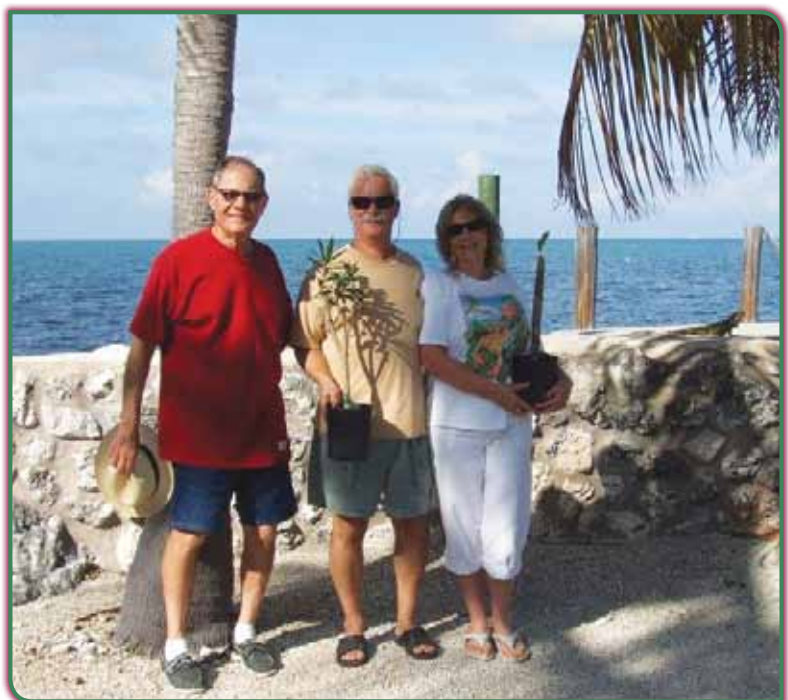
Time passes again ... Nan and I are pulling into Publix in Marathon while a lady behind us is blowing her horn trying to get our attention. She had seen the plumeria on the back of our car. We talked a bit, and we gave her a potted *Guillot's Sunset*. She asked if we had ever seen that stunning plumeria that used to be at Wendy's. She

said she would eat a burger, which she did not particularly care for, just so she could sit at the window and look at the huge flowers on this plant. I told her yes I knew a little something about this beauty because I was the fellow who planted it. I wrote its name on the back of my card and gave it to her.

More time passes ... this past fall we received a phone call from New York. It was this same lady. Somehow, she had just found my name and number. My card had been lost early on. She definitely wanted a *Jeannie* for a garden she and her husband were designing on their 1.5 acre homestead on a nearby island (key). So, the plant was shipped by motor home and then hand delivered to her beautiful home on the Gulf of Mexico.

By the way, this lady told me what had happened to Wendy's *Jeannie*. When Hurricane Wilma flooded the middle Keys, the salt water poisoned it.

The picture below shows this fine couple, their *Jeannie*, Mrs. Runge (my variegated oleander from Moody Gardens), a watchful iguana, and me.



# The Art of Shaping Plumeria

by **Barbara Randolph** and  
**Jerry Hurlbert, Texas**

How do we keep our plants so short and bushy? That's a question we're asked whenever someone new tours our garden. We shape our plumeria using a technique we developed in the early 1980s for making tree-sized, multi-tipped cuttings.

Seasoned plumeria growers were skeptical about our success and told us that plumeria were propagated by tip cuttings and that anything else had not and probably should not be done. Our naivete kept us from being restricted to smaller tip cuttings. So, we continued doing things our way, and the technique gained popularity through our demonstrated success. We've never lost a plant.

When a plumeria is too large to manage, or when it becomes misshapen for a variety of reasons, it's time to start over. However, don't start over with tip cuttings and wait four or five years to grow a nice plant. Start with tree-sized, multi-tipped cuttings. These cuttings may be three feet with a few tips or five feet with many tips. The size is up to you. Here's how it's done.

1. Move the plant out of storage in the spring and flush the roots with water for a couple of weeks. Survey the plant and locate a large, branched section that will have good symmetry when it's removed from the tree. Mark the cut point but reevaluate your decision several times before cutting.

2. Cut the section off the plant and trim the trunk to 12"–24". Remove leaves, if any, and let the cutting callous for a couple of weeks.
3. Dip the cut end in a rooting hormone and plant in a five-gallon pot using a good quality potting soil.
4. Stake and tie the cutting for stability. We use pantyhose legs to avoid damaging the trunk.
5. Drench the soil with water containing a root stimulator with B-1 hormone. This will activate the soil and stimulate root development.
6. Water when the soil feels dry two or three inches below the surface. A large cutting will need more water than a tip cutting, but don't over water.
7. Remove bloom inflorescences that may emerge to minimize stress to the plant while it's producing a root system. A large cutting is less forgiving than a tip cutting when the inflorescences remain on the plant.
8. Once the plant is fully leafed, begin a regular watering and feeding program.

It's nerve wracking to approach a prized tree with saw in hand and cut away a decade or more of growth, but the result is worth it. Your reward will be a short, perfectly shaped plant with blossoms within reach—and winter storage will be a snap.



# Grafting Tips

by Bud Guillot, Southern California

There are many ways to graft. These photos demonstrate a modified V graft. It's **essential** that the top of the host plant is **flexible**, i.e., new green wood, in order for the slit to expand enough.

Make a horizontal cut across the host plant.



Make a 1" straight slit down from the top of the host plant.



Make a V cut at the base of the scion.



Insert the V-cut scion into the slit in the host plant. It will be tight, and you'll need to force the scion into the slit.



The scion has been inserted and is ready for securing.



Use a rubber band or cable tie (or both) to hold the scion firmly in the slit. Lime paste can be used to coat the exposed surfaces.

... and it's growing!



Trimming and shaping plumerias is a cosmetic thing, dependent on the individual taste of the owner. There is no right or wrong way. It is strictly one's personal preference.

Some of the more important elements of trimming and shaping plumerias is to keep them healthy, appealing to the eye, and confined within the area you have allotted them. Branches that are pushing against your roof or protruding across walkways or driveways, or are too tall to see or harvest blossoms do require attention!

Plumerias can be trimmed any time of the year, however, it is advisable to trim them during March or early April when they are coming out of dormancy because the removed cuttings are in prime health for rooting and developing healthy new plants. Spread the joy of plumerias by giving extra cuttings to your neighbors, friends, city parks, or donate them to your plumeria society for door prizes, raffles, etc. (some people even sell them).

Another important reason for trimming and shaping your plants when they are dormant and leafless is that you have a better view of the basic structure of your plant and can better define and mark the branches you want to shorten or remove. After you have marked your plant, step away from it, study it, and make sure that's what you want.

Here are some basic rules about plumerias that must be remembered when trimming and shaping your plumerias.

- A. Check plants frequently and remove all dead or damaged branches.
- B. When removing a branch be sure to remember that if you want additional growth from that branch, you must leave at least a 6-inch stub. If you do not want additional growth, cut off the branch flush from its adjacent branch or trunk. Leaving a stub less than 6 inches creates a strong potential for damage or deformities to the plant.

- C. Make all cuts with a clean, sharp knife or a fine tooth, sharp pull saw. It is desirable to sterilize the blade before the cut. Never intentionally break off a branch—that damages the tree, and the branch will rot and die if you plant it without first making a clean, smooth cut.
- D. Wayward branches can be redirected in the direction you desire if you are patient and keep applying pressure in the direction you want the branch to grow. Pull the branch in the direction you want and secure it. Leave it in that position for several weeks until it relaxes. Keep repeating that procedure until the branch is in the position you want. Attention: All branches have a breaking point. Tender branches are more flexible and if moved too much at one time will break.
- E. You will only get blossoms from new branches that are at least a year old.

The *Jeannie Moragne* in my front yard was getting so large I had to get a ladder to pick blossoms and several of the branches were so low over the sidewalk pedestrians had to duck (see photo #1 below). I decided to “vase” the tree by



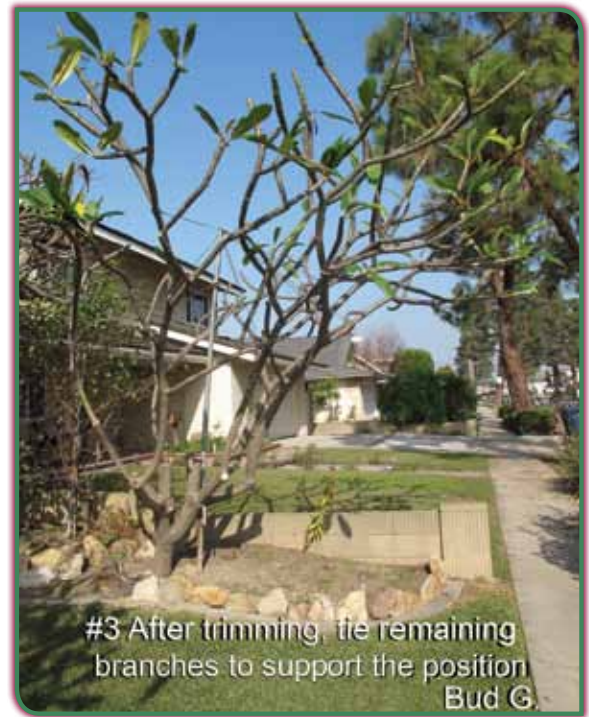


stubbing off four of the large center branches (see photo #2 below). I will get at least 10 or 12 new



branches from the four stubs I saved. By vasing the tree and removing much of the center growth, this will allow sunlight and fresh air into the center of the plant. The new branches will flourish and be my blossom producers in 2016.

With the remaining outer-growing plumeria branches, I lifted them individually to get sidewalk clearance and secured them to a center pole (see photo #3 to the right). These branches will provide me with an abundance of blossoms during the 2015 blooming season. After the 2015 blooming



season, all of those older, outer perimeter branches will be removed, leaving only the new center growth—the four stubs will be my new *Jeannie Moragne*. After this pruning procedure, my *Jeannie* has one-half of its original branches and the unchanged root system to feed fewer branches. 2016 should be a bumper crop of extra-large blossoms.

## PSA Sales for 2015

by German Collazos, Texas

The first plant sale for 2015 is June 13<sup>th</sup> at Clear Lake, followed by the sale at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on July 25<sup>th</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 time line of important dates for our 2015 sales. Please contact me with any questions at **(713) 670-4064** or [german.collazos@tic.toshiba.com](mailto:german.collazos@tic.toshiba.com).

Clear Lake Sale—June 13		Fort Bend Sale—July 25	
May 5	Commitment to sell at Clear Lake	July 7	Commitment to sell at Ft. Bend
May 12	Sellers' meeting (after general meeting)	July 14	Sellers' meeting (after general meeting)
June 3	Cultivar list for Clear Lake sale	July 15	Cultivar list for Ft. Bend sale
June 13	Sale at Clear Lake	July 25	Sale at Ft. Bend



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

605 OLD GENEVA RD  
GENEVA, FL 32732  
USA

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

Plumeria Moak, Singapore



**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**  
Haleiwa, Hawaii

*Leading the way in plumerias  
since 1973*

follow Jim Little on ...



Instagram



facebook

Contact: jimittleplumeriahawaii@gmail.com  
Ebay: jimittleplumeriahawaii

**Caldwell Nursery**  
2436 Band Road, Rosenberg, Texas 77471  
Phone: 281-342-4016 — email: salvia 123@msn.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

**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**

**Florida Colors  
Plumeria**



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



<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 Officers/Committee Members—2015

Bob Arend <i>President</i>	arendbob@gmail.com 936-321-5151
Jerry Hurlbert <i>Vice President</i>	newflora@swbell.net
David Holloway <i>Secretary</i>	d-holloway@sbcglobal.net 281-251-1478
Virginia McClosky <i>Treasurer</i>	v.mcclosky@yahoo.com 713-449-6424
Eulas Stafford <i>Registration</i>	estafford01@att.net 713-946-9175
Karen Babb <i>Director</i>	kbabb4@comcast.net 713-721-4197
Milton Pierson <i>Webmaster</i>	miltonp@mac.com 713-728-2413
Loretta O'Steen <i>Director</i>	LoFresh@aol.com 409-939-4765
Vicki Jenkins <i>Director</i>	LovePlumeria@aol.com
Liz Dethloff <i>Membership</i>	edethloff7@gmail.com 713-459-9462
George Hadjigeorge <i>Research</i>	ghadjigeorge@comcast.net 281-265-5945
Diego and Vicky Tristan <i>Social</i>	vtristan60@sbcglobal.net 713-433-0310
Trish Weeks <i>Publicity</i>	marinertw@comcast.net
German Collazos <i>Plant Sales</i>	german.collazos@tic.toshiba.com 713-896-5500 x2539
Irene Jones <i>Newsletter</i>	ijplume@sbcglobal.net 760-436-6885

### 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
- TBA ..... 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.

**Brad's  
Buds and Blooms**



*Fantasia*, photo by Kukiati Tanteeratam



*Curly Temple*, photo by Brad Willis



*Purple Serendipity*, photo by Kukiati Tanteeratam



*Betty Jean*, photo by Brad Willis



*Fire Blast*, photo by Kukiati Tanteeratam



*Edelstein*, photo by Kukiati Tanteeratam



*Vajrayana Maroon*, photo by Kukiati Tanteeratam



*Black Magic*, photo by Kukiati Tanteeratam