



Plumeria Potpourri

www.theplumeriasociety.org

Come to the May 9th meeting!

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Graftlings

Graftling Demonstration by Vicki Jenkins

Vicki Jenkins has mastered the art of grafting small pieces of plumeria. She calls these graftlings. The photo on the left is her first success from seven years ago. The middle photo shows a *Copperhead* graft, and the photo on the right is *Scott Pratt*. Come learn her quick and easy technique! The demonstration will be followed by a sellers' meeting for the Clear Lake sale on June 10th.



President's Corner

by Mark Wright
page 2

PSA Speaker

Highlights—3/14/17

by David Holloway
page 3

My Plumeria Journey

by Red and Marilyn
O'Laughlin
page 4

10 Common Mistakes to Avoid

by Paula Furtwangler
page 7

The *Mardi Gras*

page 8

In Memorium— Tom Morin

page 9

Propagating Plumeria

page 10

15 Favorites

by Lori Kilmer
page 12

Back Page Photos

page 16

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

May 2017

President's Corner

Once again the trees have been moved from storage in my garage to the beds. They've been planted in the ground in the front and in pots in the back as we have done for years.

Following George Hadjigeorge's method of spraying and bagging the trees which were planted last year, I did not lose a tip to rot. Close inspection in March showed a very successful winter storage, but by April when they were brought out and planted, things had changed. A rodent had moved into the garage and decided he had a sweet tooth for plumeria. To make it worse, he didn't like just any plumeria. Oh no, he definitely preferred red ones. Almost all of my red plumerias resembled Jim Little's method of letting the cuttings hang from the tree. *Black Ruby*, *Siam Red*, *Siam Ruby*, and *Lake's Passion* had the most damage. *Hurricane* was nibbled on, but it must not have been as tasty as the rest.

I will tolerate squirrels, 'possums, and humans that damage plants, but not rats. I have seen rats

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

strip the bark from young mesquite trees in bad winters when there isn't much to eat, but I had no idea something like that could happen in Houston, and not to my plumerias. Rat bait will now become an integral part of winter storage.

All systems are now "GO" for the registration process. We have three cultivars that will be registered in May, and another one pending registration. Remember to mail the form and discs with raw images to:

**Mark Wright, 2819 Carnoustie Drive
Missouri City, Texas 77459**

I hope all of you have a great growing season and lots of beautiful blooms.

I almost forgot—the rat would not eat cheese, licked the peanut butter off without tripping the trap, but could not resist a piece of sausage. This information could come in handy.

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join us at*

**[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
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**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.**

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**Your newsletter envelope label
has your PSA membership
expiration date, and page 15 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

German Collazos
german.collazos@toshiba.com
713-670-4064

Presentation: Growing Hydroponically

by Rick Martin of Texas Growers Supply

www.texasgrowerssupply.net

Advantages of growing plants hydroponically

- Growth rate is 30–50% faster than soil gardening
- Plant yield is greater
 - Extra oxygen in hydroponic mediums stimulates root growth.
 - Nutrients are being supplied to plants several times a day.
 - Hydroponic plants have fewer problems with bugs, fungi, and diseases.

Growing Mediums—the purpose is to aerate and support the root system and to channel water and nutrients.

- Growstones
- Oasis Cubes
- Perlite
- Vermiculite
- Sure to Grow
- Coconut Fiber
- Rockwool
- Other mediums—peat-based and organic soil

Types of Systems

- Active—moves the nutrients, usually using a pump
- Passive—relies on the capillary action of the growing medium or a wick
- Recovery—reuses the nutrient solution (also known as recirculating systems)
- Non-recovery—the nutrient solution is applied to the growing medium and not recovered

Nutrients—Hydroponic nutrient solutions

- Contain all elements plants usually get from soil
- Can be purchased at supply stores
- Most are highly concentrated (2–4 Tbls./gallon)
- They come in liquid or powdered mixes
- Liquids are slightly more expensive

Lighting

- Determine the plant area you will be growing in
- Know wattage/ft² for plants you will be growing
- Choose type of light
 - High Pressure Sodium (HPS)—usually used for flowering
 - Metal Halide grow light—usually used for vegetable growth
 - Many growers use Metal Halide spectrum for vegetative growth and switch to HPS for the flowering cycle
- Also includes reflectors and ballasts

pH

- Most plants grow in a pH range of 5.8–6.8
- A pH of 6.3 is considered optimal
- pH is tested using a kit and is essential in a hydroponics system



Photos from Carl Herzog's hydroponic set up for growing plumeria seedlings



My Plumeria Journey

by Red and Marilyn O’Laughlin, Texas

When and how did you come across your first plumeria?

My first trip to Hawaii was January 1971. I was on a navigation flight from California to Guam. We spent a night in Hawaii. We went to dinner at the Officer’s Club at Pearl Harbor, and I could smell a fragrance I could not identify. I went to each flower to see what was generating that aroma. It turned out to be several plumerias.

Later, we were stationed in Hawaii, and we had plumerias all around our home. We would make leis for visitors. We fell in love with them and brought a few back to the mainland. Every trip I made to Hawaii (navigational flights from California—as many as a dozen in one year), I would bring more plumerias back with me.

What variety was your first plumeria?

NOID. I didn’t learn about the different names until many years later when I joined the local plumeria society in Houston. I just called them by their colors.



Typical of many that I have in the backyard

Do you have a favorite plumeria?

I love the reds, but I truly love the ones that waft a strong smell as you walk by them.

Approximately how many plumerias do you have now?

Probably over a hundred. I’ve had in excess of a hundred in the past and lost some large percentages to weather-related events. I cut my basic stock this past winter to give me more (total) and easier to handle (less than four or five feet tall). I’ve had some over eight feet tall in the past—made it difficult to move during the winters.

Do you protect them during the colder months of the year?

Many years ago I covered them and left them in the ground all winter. The past three or four years I’ve been pulling them out of the ground and placing them in the garage.



Preparing for winter storage. I have four trash cans full like this one. Plus another eight or nine plants that won’t fit into a trash can.



Seed pod from last year

Do you need to protect them from too much heat/sun during the summer?

No protection at all during the summer. They have mid- to late-day sun and then it turns shady. The ones around the pool have sun longer, but they are much larger plants.

What fertilizer(s) do you use?

Organic only.

What soil mix do you use?

Organic mulch and compost.

What's your preferred rooting method?

No preference. Never used any.

Do you grow seedlings?

I have several packets of seeds, but never tried growing any. I want to, just haven't done it yet.

Do you graft? If so, what type of graft and root stock do you prefer?

I've attended some classes on grafting and want to try it, but have not as yet. It is something that I will do this year.

Any story about plumerias you would like to share?

We went to Cuba last year. I wanted to get some of the Cuban plumerias. We drove all over the Guantanamo Naval Station and could not find any growing in the wild. We saw lots of the typical tropical ones—many with full leaves in the winter. One tree was over 50 feet tall.

I saw one Cuban variety in the garden shop. The botanist told me that it germinates almost 100%. However, it doesn't take a graft well. The wood is so hard on this Cuban variety that it is extremely difficult to cut a notch and graft. Also, there are spiny bumps along the trunk and branches that interfere with grafting.

My favorite flower is the plumeria. My favorite tree is the coconut. We were in the Florida Keys earlier this year and saw many of both. I used to bring coconut



My tropical jungle—these plants are five to seven feet tall

trees back and grow them in Missouri City, Texas, but they would last a year or two and die from a variety of reasons. I lose very, very few plumerias as long as I have some level of control over them. The ones I've lost in the past were situations where no control was possible.

I had one plumeria last year with 27 branches and 18 of the branches flowering. We made five 48" leis this year for family and friends. We've given away many plumerias to friends who marvel at them.



Our first lei last year. We learned a lot about how to make them after not doing it for several decades.

Plumeria Trivia



sphinx moth resting on unrooted cutting



plumeria hair piece— artificial flowers



plumeria display on Bud Guillot's patio

10 Common Mistakes to Avoid

by Paula Furtwangler, Texas

1. Unless you have a greenhouse, don't try to grow plumerias indoors. The only time they like to be indoors is during dormancy to protect them from freeze. They prefer at least six hours of full sun for proper bloom production.
2. Do not just snap off a piece and "stick it into the dirt" like the Hawaiians will tell you. Use a fine tooth pull saw when making cuttings in old, gray wood at least 12" long. Sterilize cutting tools between cuts with alcohol.
3. Over watering is bad. No leaves = no water. Wait for dormancy to break before watering.
4. When no leaves are present, protect the trunk from sunburn; wrap aluminum foil around the exposed branch, shiny side out. If the main trunk is not vertical, wrap exposed area with foil.
5. If you accidentally break a branch, you can graft it right back onto the plant if you act quickly, especially if the branch is still hanging by the outer layer of skin. Align the branch back into place. Wipe away any excess latex and wrap tightly with grafting tape. Then cover the

Photos of exciting new varieties, with limited availability.

Photos courtesy of PSA members: George Hadjigeorge, George Straw (with permission from Sunchai Jenakom), Mike Kennedy, and Paula Furtwangler.



3.5" flower, cinnamon fragrance



3.5" flower, sweet fragrance



3.5" flower, sweet fragrance



4" flowers



4" flower, strong, spicy fragrance



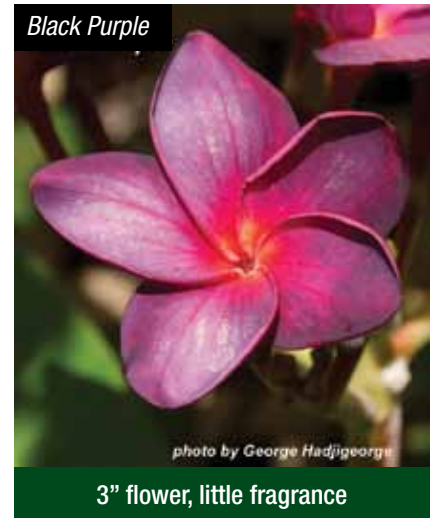
4" flower



SJ Midnight Sun

grafting tape with green stretchy tape to keep out sun and moisture.

6. Do not put pea gravel on the surface of the soil in pots. Many people think it helps to stabilize a plant, but it can cause sunburn and/or rot.
7. Do not use a saucer under the pot. Let the water run out by putting a few pavers under the pots to allow water to run out. Make sure you have enough drain holes, too.
8. Don't crowd the plants. Space your plumeria far apart to allow a breeze to flow through the leaves to cut down on the spread of rust.
9. Do not think a seedling will look like the mother plant. They are genetically different.
10. Go easy on nitrogen, which causes tall and rangy plants. Use fertilizer with lower nitrogen content.



The Mardi Gras



Our local "plumeria gurus"—Eulas Stafford and Emerson Willis ... photo taken December 1, 2017 when Eulas gifted his *Mardi Gras* plumeria tree to Emerson and Nancy.



In Memorium—Tom Morin

For many years, Tom was active in the South Coast Plumeria Society in Anaheim, California. He served as Vice President and headed up Sales. He was known for his generosity, especially in gifting cuttings from his *Samirie* tree which he originally found on Kaua'i. *Samirie* has been submitted for registration with the PSA.



Propagating Plumeria

Seedlings

Plumeria **seeds** can be self-pollinated or cross-pollinated. New plumeria varieties are created from seeds as each plant grown from a seed is unique—not a replica of the parent plant. **If you buy or grow a seedling, it probably will not look like its parent.** It could be a plain white or flashy red!



When ripe, a seed pod splits open. Usually, plumeria seed pods take 9 months to ripen on the tree.



Plumeria seeds can be germinated immediately or held for many months. Germination rates decline with older seeds.

There are many ways to start **seeds**. Possibilities are ...

- sprout seeds between layers of damp paper towels, then plant in soil
- sow seeds directly into soil, either in individual pots or in a gang pot
- float in water, then plant the sprouted seeds in soil
- aquaponically in tree tubes

In winter, added warmth and light aid germination and growth.



Seedlings becoming trees ...

A plastic covering creates humidity for seeds and seedlings.



Rooting Cuttings

Most plumeria are propagated by **rooting cuttings**.

Hardening the bottom of a cutting for 1–2 weeks before planting reduces the chance of the pith rotting.



A step better than hardening is callusing which both hardens and encourages root formation. When callusing, the bottom of the cutting is wrapped in plastic which increases humidity under the plastic. Placing the bottom of the cutting on a heat mat speeds up the process.

of the cutting is wrapped in plastic which increases humidity under the plastic. Placing the bottom of the cutting on a heat mat speeds up the process.

The main methods of rooting include ...

- individual pot rooting
- gang rooting
- plastic bag rooting
- burlap bag rooting
- water and callusing rooting

Rooting Tips:

When rooting quantities of cuttings or a "special" cutting, a bottom heat source and humidity provide an optimal environment. With a warm environment, rooting can be done in the colder months.

Temperatures of 60 degrees F. and up to 90 degrees F. are best for rooting.

Rooting Tips (continued):

Whichever method you use to root, check the cutting frequently by squeezing the stem to be sure it is firm and not rotting up the stem. A cutting can often be saved by re-cutting and trying again to root or by grafting the cutting.

The health of the mother tree is a factor in producing healthy cuttings.

Desiccated cuttings do not root easily.

Not all cuttings root. Experienced growers have losses too.

Gang Rooting



When rooting, various mixes can be used: potting soil, perlite, pumice, coconut coir, peat moss, etc. A heat mat with a thermostat maintains an even temperature. Eighty to ninety degrees F. is often recommended.

Water Rooting

Water rooting is another possible way to root. Not all people and not all cuttings are successful with water rooting, but it can work. When the cutting shows roots, plant it in a very **wet** mix. And plant before the roots get much size as water roots are different than soil roots and uptake nutrients differently. Also, longer roots are very brittle.



Callusing and Rooting Simultaneously

A cutting can be placed in a loose plastic bag or wrapped tightly with plastic to both callus and produce roots simultaneously. A warm environment speeds up the process of forming roots.



Rooting Cuttings

Rooting Tips (continued):

Semi-sun or semi-shade is best; too much sun can cause the stem to sunburn and/or rot.

Very little water is used in rooting; watering a cutting without roots likely will cause it to rot.

A plumeria can leaf and/or bloom on an **unrooted** cutting. When leaves are several inches high and have opened, it's likely that the cutting has rooted.

Removing inflos conserves the cutting's moisture and energy.

A large branch is less susceptible to rot than a small cutting as it has less pith to rot.

Individual Pot Rooting



Plastic Bag Rooting



Various rooting mixes can be used in a plastic bag: potting soil, perlite, pumice, coconut coir, peat moss, etc. Securing the plastic bag can be done with elastic bands or electrical tape. A heat mat with a thermostat (80-90 degrees F.) aids rooting as the bagged cuttings can be placed directly on the heat mat.

Burlap Bag Rooting



Supplies used are burlap, coconut coir, electrical tape, and a plastic bag.

When roots poke through the burlap, remove the plastic bag and electrical tape(s). Pot up by placing the burlap bag directly into a mix of 50% perlite and 50% coconut coir. The burlap will break down.

Newly rooted cuttings ...



Grafting

Grafting: A piece of a plumeria (a scion) is fused to a host plant, creating an **exact replica of the scion's parent**. Most growers in North America use either a **slant graft**, **V-graft**, or **horizontal graft**.



Plumeria growers in Thailand are excellent grafters. One technique used is placing a small leaf scar bud of a desirable plumeria variety into a V-notch on the top of a plumeria stem.



A similar technique is to insert a cutting into a V-notch of a host plant.

extracting the small bud from the leaf scar

Also, Thai grafters are expert at grafting small pieces of a plumeria stem to a host plant using a horizontal cut ...



... or using a V cut.

... or using a slant cut.

A branch with both a V-graft and slant graft ...

Fifteen Favorites

by Lori Kilmer, Southern California

Lori grows in pots and in the ground in Escondido, California—hot summers and cold winters. She began growing plumerias in the 1990s but lost most of her collection in 2007 when a rare freeze hit Southern California. Since then, her collection has grown to over 200 varieties. She is well known locally for her amazing floral designs and contributes to both the Southern California Plumeria Society in San Diego and the South Coast Plumeria Society in Anaheim, California.



Criteria I Use to Decide My Favorites ...

- Have more than one color
- Consistent bloomers
- Fragrance (a plus)
- Inexpensive plants, readily available
- Plants I have grown in my garden
- Heat produced color changes

1 *Jeannie Moragne*

- Beefy branches
- Smells great
- Large, gorgeous flowers that change color every day as the heat changes
- Easy to root
- Robust plant



2 *Aztec Gold*

- First to bloom,
- Blooms all season
- Smells like peaches or popcorn
- Floriferous
- Can be staked to be upright



3 *Celadine*

- Easy to root
- A great beginner's plant
- Smells wonderful
- Produces tons of flowers
- Flowers good for leis



4 *Charlotte Ebert*

- Big pink flowers (up to 5")
- Reliable bloomer
- Easy to root



5 *Desert Sunrise* (JJ)

- Love the colors—every flower is a different color, depending on temperature
- Fairly compact grower
- Readily available



6 *Hurricane Sunrise* (JJ)

- Love the color and how it changes
- May be hard to find
- Slow grower; very compact
- Doesn't bloom every year



7 *Gina* (JJ)

- Color is spectacular
- Petals are heavy duty
- Beefy plant
- Easy to find



8 *California Sunset* (JJ)

- Flowers change color with heat
- Blooms every year
- Easy to find
- Covered in blooms all season



9 *Pu'u Kahea*

- Love the color—pink and yellow; super when it's hot



10 *Jenny* (JJ)

- Easy to find
- Color is amazing



11 *Goldmine*

12 *Mary Nicholson*

13 *India*

14 *Teresa Wilder*

15 *Duke*



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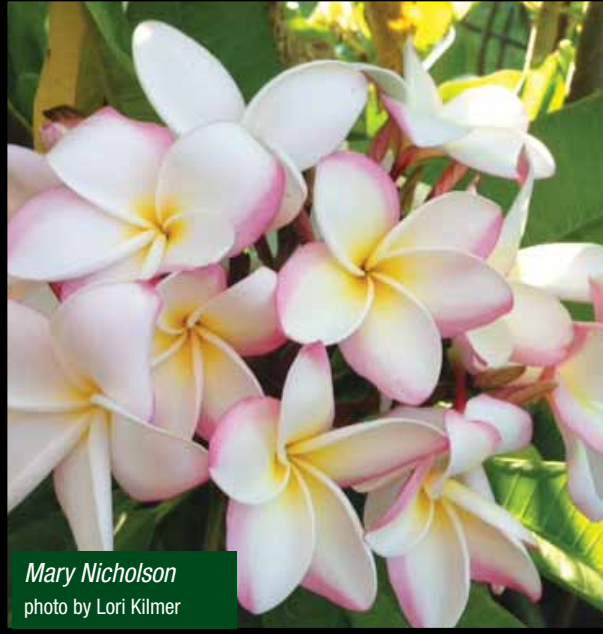
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Mary Nicholson
photo by Lori Kilmer

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

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?

Your newsletter envelope mailing label has your membership expiration date

PSA Calendar—2017

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

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Plumerias in Kona on the Island of Hawai'i—March 2017