



# Plumeria

## Potpourri

PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

DECEMBER 1983

### FINAL 1983 MEETING

The final regular meeting of the Plumeria Society for 1983 was held on September 13, at St. Philip's Presbyterian Church in Houston. Program Chairman, GLORIA GLENNEY, assembled an experienced panel consisting of two professional growers, RICHARD EGGENBERGER and ALTON MARSHALL and two amateur growers BETTY ANDREWS and MARY DUFF. JOHN OLIVER was moderator and directed a series of questions prepared by the program chairman at the panel. The questions were grouped into three major categories covering (1) the effects of the unusual weather patterns we have experienced in Houston on plumeria growth and blossom production, (2) how to propagate from seeds and (3) how to store your plants for winter. A very effective question-and-answer period followed the panel's presentation resulting in the exchange of much useful information for all in attendance. Thanks to those members who made this one of our outstanding programs of the year.

Thanks also to KEN DUFF and ELIZABETH THORNTON who donated the well established plumeria plants which were given as door prizes at the meeting.

### FROM AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

DON WALKER of Torrance, CA, writes he is having poor luck rooting plumeria this year. Southern California had a cool spring, breaking in late summer. Most of the wood cut in April has not rooted (out-of-doors, no bottom heat) he hopes to carry them over until next year. He also received 14 yet to be released cultivars from Hawaii that also have not rooted. A cold wet winter

is predicted and will not help matters, he writes. He says he assumes that plumeria does better in the Houston area than in Los Angeles although he is cutting wood from a 40-year old specimen similar to "Samoan Fluff".

Editor's Note: Can sympathize with your problem. Are you sure you let your cuttings completely dry out before planting? Have you tried dipping the root end in a commercial product called Rootone-F which assists in rooting cuttings? Be careful not to over water your plants. Plumeria do not like "wet feet". If you have been going from cutting to ground unsuccessfully you might try potting instead, to establish some root growth before planting in the ground. In this way you can move the plants indoors in inclement weather. The plumeria thrives on tender, loving, care regardless of area. Good luck, Don, let us know your progress. Sounds as though you have an up and coming garden of some lovely plumeria cultivars. Thanks for letting us share your problem with our members.

### HELP WANTED COLUMN

Your editor needs news items from the membership. Please share your garden experience and comments. We have many growers, some with many plants and others with not so many, however we all have different problems and encounter varied observations in the cultivation of the exotic plumeria. We need your help. Call the number listed below. The phone is on standby and waiting for your call!

David Emison  
Evenings 713-443-1156

Jack Frost has announced his arrival in some parts of the Houston growers area, and at this writing it would be best that all of your plants are protected for the winter season. You growers in the warmer climes are fortunate if you do not experience damaging temperatures.

A few suggestions for storage would be primarily to house plants in an area free of insect infection, clean, and with a thermal environment of no less than 40 degrees.

If economically feasible, 50 degrees minimum is preferable. Supplemental heat, if required should be a source free of harmful gases which may be hazardous to the plants and personnel. As to the very minimum temperature that a plant could survive, it would suffice to say that 32 degrees would be most disastrous. In the editors own case, I have experienced 28 degrees and did not lose the plants, however the following growing season was one of disappointment being a very low bloom production season. A good method to monitor the high and low temperatures in your storage area is to obtain a recording thermometer. Such a device is relatively inexpensive and is almost a must in the greenhouse.

During storage spare that water! Be miserly with the water. During the storage period, a plant in a 5 gallon container would probably only need a quart of water each 5 weeks. (rule of thumb)

For the evergreen Singapore plants the amount of water should be approximately 2 quarts each 5 weeks.

While stored, the leaves may all fall off your beautiful plant. NOT TO WORRY!! This is normal. In the early spring in Hawaii it is a common sight to see huge plumeria trees completely bare of leaves, however completely laden with a fantastic and bountiful display of flowers. Note: None of the foregoing applies to the Singapore variety. They should keep their leaves during all seasons.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Your Editor David Emison

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....

With adjournment of the fall meeting, the Society is now in recess until its first meeting in the spring -- Tuesday, March 13, 1984. Your board of directors are on call, however, to assure continuity of programming.

To those regular members unable to attend meetings this year, we truly missed you and hope to see your smiling faces in '84. I would also like to encourage more active participation, committeewise, from our membership. The committees are listed in your membership roster. Please give it some thought and plan to serve. We need your help!

In November I was visited by Helen and Ray Dees, associate members in Tucson, Arizona. It was interesting hearing of the challenge they have in raising plumeria there where it is extremely dry. I have seen photos, however, of their plant in bloom -- beautiful large majestic red. The Dees have recently bought a home in Nogales, AZ and have moved their plants there. With the vast difference in elevation we'll be anxious to hear of growth performance next year. Incidentally, Helen and Ray will come back to Houston next June and travel with us on the Hawaii tour.

I have also received some very interesting data on the origin of the plumeria from Guillermo Perez-Salazar an associate member in Mexico. Records he uncovered dating back to 1552 indicate the plumeria was once called "Cacaloxochitl". Thank you Mr. Perez-Salazar.

With the holiday season upon us let us be grateful for the joy and pleasure our plumeria have brought us throughout the year. I wonder if you are like I am, treasuring the last few blooms before the onset of winter dormancy.

Your board of directors join me in wishing you and yours a happy holiday season. May the new year bring you many hours of plumeria delight!

*Pili Oliver*

# Aloha

Let's not forget the Plumeria Society tour to Hawaii June 6-13, 1984. Your steering committee has been hard at work in an effort to make this a most enjoyable tour where we will gain much knowledge of the plumeria and its growth in these beautiful islands. We'll have two days of exclusive bus tours to botanical gardens and plumeria nurseries. We'll visit the National Cemetery of the Pacific where you can view Hawaii's playground from Diamond Head to Pearl Harbor. We'll drive up Nuuanu Valley and over to the windward side. While not watching the sights, we'll join in a little sing along. Fun!

Seven nights at the beautiful Sheraton-Waikiki....opportunity to enjoy festivities of the Kamehameha Day celebration... yet ample time at your leisure to spend as you wish.

Remember, the tour is limited to a maximum of 50 people. Thus far we have 34 signed up. There is still room for a few more. Guests are welcome. Call Pili Oliver (781-0230) or Marvy Marciel (896-9156, evenings 373-0231) for details. What an ideal Christmas gift!! Enroll now!!

