

# Plumeria Potpourri

February 2024



*Candy  
Stripe*

Presidents Corner P2  
Board Members P3  
Mark Wright P4  
Meeting Information P5  
Plunging P6-8  
PSST P9

March Meeting Keynote Speaker:  
P5 Andy Chidester.  
Medina Agriculture Products.  
March 10<sup>th</sup> 2pm till 4:30pm

# Presidents Corner February 2024

Presidents Corner

Wow, is it really 2024?

Let me first apologize for the delayed newsletter. It is 100% my fault, as the old saying goes "The Buck stops here" so I will shoulder all the blame.

We are excited about the coming year, our new meeting time and location (see meeting write up), our two annual sales and of course a year ending social event. Please make sure you read those articles.

We do have a new board, and I cannot express how exciting it is to have fresh ideas and creativity coming from the new members.

We will maintain the Cheri Flores location for January Finance meetings, May, and July Sellers meetings. Information for the sellers will be forthcoming. As we have in the past our sales are going to be held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E NASA RD 1, Seabrook TX. There will be many opportunities for volunteers and worker bees.

If you are an active member of your neighborhood Facebook Page, please send us a message at [events@theplumeriasociety.org](mailto:events@theplumeriasociety.org) I would like for you to share our meeting notifications and sale notifications when we publish them. Remember to add [events@theplumeriasociety.org](mailto:events@theplumeriasociety.org) to your email address book so you are receiving all our digital content!

Speaking of digital content, we have a new digital communications position. Lindsay Carlin, has graciously accepted the challenge to assist in notifying you all of what we have going on via digital platforms. These will include emails and social media.

One of the hot topics at our January meeting was and has been the website, the board has been discussing this matter; we are going to aggressively work towards Website improvements. Stay tuned for some long overdue updates to our website.

In closing of this edition of Presidents Corner, please bear with us as we work through some of the growing pains that we all experience when change comes about. In the end we will all be very happy with the refresh.

Please remember to add [events@theplumeriasociety.org](mailto:events@theplumeriasociety.org) to your email address book so you are receiving all our digital content!

Thank you all again for your support of the PSA.

John T. Burford

PSA President 2024-2025



# Plumeria Society of America Board Members 2024–2025

**President:** John Burford

Returning for his second term, John was honored to be reelected as President. He will have his hands full with the transition to The Plumeria Society of America Houston INC, as well as converting The Plumeria Society of America INC into a global board dedicated to Plumeria Enthusiasts globally.

**Vice President:** Kim Orsak

Kim is a breath of fresh ideas and enthusiasm; Kim has graciously taken over the position of handling all of our meetings. Kim's prior experience in education has shown herself to be of great value as she has already shown how well she can herd cats! Seriously, Kim brings over 30 years of Plumeria Experience and is the Queen of Organic Plumerias.

**Secretary:** Lori Powell

Lori returns as our Secretary, Lori has been extremely active for over a decade in several different areas of the PSA, everything from handing out tickets at sales, to meal service at meetings to her current position as Secretary.

**Treasurer:** Wendy Cane

Wendy returns as our trusted treasurer; you can rest assured Wendy knows where every penny is spent, and she maintains our finances with clarity seldom seen in a volunteer organization. In her spare time Wendy is very active in both the League City Garden Club as well as the Orchid Society.

**Director:** Donna Christy

Donna returns as our veteran Director; Donna is extremely active in The PSA in addition to The Orchid Society. As the queen of the Chicken Foot, Donna and John are huge Astros supporters and fans.

**Director:** Mike Atkinson

Mike has owned a Plumeria farm in San Diego's East county on Mt Helix with his lovely wife Stacy, for almost 30 years now. Mike's history of Marketing and Website creation is a huge bonus; we will lean heavily on Mike to assist with not only our Digital content but also our Social Media outreach.

**Director:** Lisa Meier

Lisa joins the board for the first time; many will know her from all of her volunteering at our meetings, sales, and every event in between. Lisa never hesitates to volunteer and get her hands dirty!

Combined, the 2024-2025 board presents over a century of Plumeria knowledge and experience. Every one of them has graciously volunteered to promote, enrich, and improve your plumeria experience. Next time you see one of them simply say thank you.

John T. Burford

President 2024-2025

# Bud Guillot Lifetime Service Award Recipient

## Mark Wright

Mark W. Wright

Mark was born in Louisville, KY, and lived there until he was 16. Although both sets of grandparents were farmers, his parents never seemed interested in gardening. Mark planted his first vegetable garden at age 10 using seeds. But it wasn't until after the family moved to the Houston area and he went to work for a local nursery in 1969 that his knowledge of plants really started. It was also the first time he saw plumeria.

Sharon had three plumeria when they married in the early 90s, but he didn't become aware of the PSA until the late 90s when he first attended a few meetings at the old Garden Club location. He didn't truly become interested until the late Thea Worthington took him under her wing, as she did so many others, making him feel welcome at meetings.

Mark was elected Vice President in 2008 under Paula Furtwangler, and when she began assisting her daughter with her marriage plans, became more active in his role. He was first elected President in 2010 and served two terms until 2014. During this time, he expanded his friendships with many of the older members, learning all he could about the many aspects of plumeria culture.

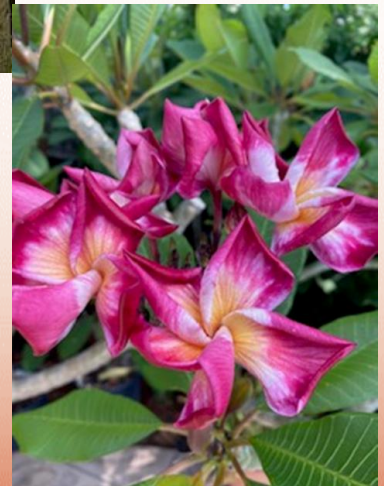
When no one would step up and agree to run for President in 2016, and the future of the PSA seemed to be in peril, his long-time friend and well known and respected PSA supporter, Eulas Stafford urged him to take on the job once again. He agreed to do so and served as President again from 2016-2018. When Eulas, who was the PSA Registrar died in early 2017, no one volunteered to take on that responsibility, so Mark began doing registrations with Karen Babb and Paula Furtwangler and continues to do so today.

Although Mark had long encouraged his wife Sharon to plant seeds (space permitting, of course) in 2018 he planted a seed from "Grace", formerly known as "Jack's Compact Yellow". This resulted in an impressive seedling which bloomed first just one year later. This seedling has been registered as "Double Take" and is a compact, prolific bloomer.

Although Mark had long encouraged his wife Sharon to plant seeds (space permitting, of course) in 2018 he planted a seed from "Grace", formerly known as "Jack's Compact Yellow". This resulted in an impressive seedling which bloomed first just one year later. This seedling has been registered as "Double Take" and is a compact, prolific bloomer.

A two-week trip to Thailand with a few other plumeria enthusiasts in 2019 changed his focus from just enjoying his plumeria garden into a desire to collect and sell many of the outstanding cultivars seen there at both Kukiat's and Nui's gardens.

Although Mark doesn't plant many seeds due to lack of space, he continues to import, appreciate, and sell many of the truly wonderful Thai varieties so many enthusiasts love.





# Plumeria Society of America March 10, 2024, Meeting Information

## 2:00 President's Message & Treasury Report

**2:15 Keynote Speaker:** Andy Chidester Spring Soil Prep: Get your soil ready for Spring planting. Medina Agriculture Products

**3:00 Mix and Mingle** (and enjoy an appetizer) A time to share experiences and learn from each other. What is going on in your garden? How long have you been growing plumerias? How many plumerias do you have? How did your plants do through the winter? When are you taking your plumerias out? What fertilizer do you use? Where do you get your plumerias? Etc., Etc., Etc.

**3:30 Hot Topics:** Demos and Discussions Recognizing and Caring for Freeze Damaged Plants Presented by Mike Kennedy

**Time to Wake Up:** Bringing Plants out of Dormancy (Discussion/Q&A) Presented by Kim Orsak & Donna Christy

## 4:10 Raffle

Thank you for joining us!



Bio: Andy Chidester, from Medina Agriculture Products, has decades of experience and expertise in the gardening industry. She began her passion for gardening at a young age making mud pies in her grandmother's vegetable garden. Andy started her career in the horticultural cultural industry in 1998 after deciding it was time for a career change.



*Gloria Schmidt*

# Does Pot Plunging When Planting *Plumeria rubra* Enhance Growth?

Brown Scale

Females produce  
eggs and crawlers

Donald R. Hodel, James E. Henrich,

Max F. Rothschild, Elizabeth Mendoza, and Diana Donnellan

Pot plunging refers to the practice of taking a potted plant and planting it in the ground without removing the plant from its pot. Anders (2001) listed several benefits of pot plunging plumerias:

1. It can be used to allow the plant to be dug and lifted more easily for indoor storage in cold-winter climates.
2. In extremely hot climates, by plunging the pots in the soil, it can be used to moderate root zone temperatures, which can also lessen plant water demands.
3. It is also an effective way to keep plants from falling over in the wind.
4. Finally, esthetic considerations support pot plunging because the pots are mostly covered with soil and mulch, eliminating numerous plastic pots sitting on top of the soil as an eyesore.

Some plumeria collectors pot plunge when planting for an entirely different reason. They say it enhances growth. Their technique is to pot plunge the plumeria in the ground for a season, and the following year dig it up, remove the pot, and replant the plumeria back in the ground minus the pot. They contend that the pot-plunged plumeria grows larger and sturdier and its root system is more extensive after the first year due to less root disturbance than a similar plant that was initially removed from its pot and planted in the ground.

Nonetheless, pot plunging seems contrary to standard horticultural principles and practices. Thus, we conducted a preliminary study to see what effects pot plunging had on shoot and root growth of *Plumeria rubra*, and our study showed no growth benefits to pot plunging plumerias (Hodel et al. 2023). Here is a short summary of our study.

## Our Research Study

We conducted our study at The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia, California. Because of a lack of space at a suitable site in The Arboretum, we decided to conduct the preliminary study entirely in containers in The Arboretum's nursery. In September 2022, we selected 18 uniformly sized plants of *Plumeria rubra* 'Synchronicity' grown in one-gallon nursery pots and generously donated by John Ingwersen of Jungle Jack's Plumeria and Tropical Plants in Vista, California.

Continued next page



At the Arboretum we randomly assigned the 18 plants into three treatment groups of six plants each:

1. Treatment 1: traditional planting, we removed the six plants from their nursery pots and planted them into two-gallon nursery pots using a well-drained, custom-blended, soilless potting medium consisting of equal parts by volume of commercially available potting mix and horticultural grade perlite (**Fig. 1**).
2. Treatment 2: pot plunging; we left the six plants in their nursery pots and plunged the pots into two-gallon nursery pots, using the same type of soilless potting medium as in Treatment 1 (**Fig. 2**).
3. Treatment 3: control, we simply left the six plants in their original one-gallon nursery pots (**Fig. 3**).

At planting, we measured stem diameter at six inches above the soil line, stem height, and quantity of leaves (only fully expanded leaves) for all 18 plants and then placed them in a completely randomized arrangement on an outdoor bench under 70% shade (**Fig. 4**). The plants received regular nursery care, mostly simply periodic irrigation. Fertilizer was not added. In December 2022, the plants were moved inside a temperature-controlled greenhouse for the duration of the study, maintaining the completely randomized arrangement.

After one year, in September 2023 (**Fig. 5**), we again measured stem diameter and height and quantity of leaves and removed the plants from their pots (**Figs. 6**), inspected their root systems, washed the potting medium from the roots (**Fig. 7**), and harvested, dried, and weighed the roots.

## Results

Treatment 1 (traditional planting) produced significantly greater stem height, stem diameter, and leaves per plant than Treatment 2 (pot plunging) and Treatment 3 (control) (**Table 1**). Root mass did not vary significantly among the three treatments.



Continued next page



**Table 1. Growth differences in mean stem height and diameter, quantity of leaves per plant, and root mass between September 2022 and September 2023 among three treatments in the pot-plunging trial of *Plumeria rubra* 'Synchronicity', The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Arcadia, CA.**

Treatment	Stem ht. (in.) P<0.01 <sup>z</sup>	Stem diam. (in.) <sup>y</sup> P<0.05	Quantity of leaves <sup>x</sup> . P<0.01	Root mass (oz.) <sup>w</sup> NS <sup>v</sup>
1 (traditional planting)	15.3	0.1	8.3	0.13
2 (pot plunging)	14.0	0.04	0.2	0.10
3 (control, no planting)	9.3	0.04	-1.8	0.13

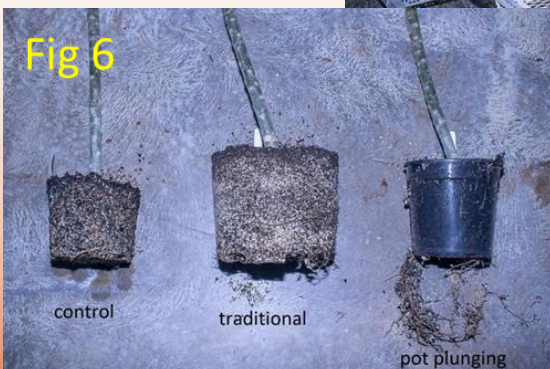
<sup>z</sup>P signifies the probability that the results are due to factors other than those imposed in the study.

Values less than 0.05 are considered significant.

<sup>y</sup>@ 6 in. above soil line.

<sup>x</sup>Only fully expanded leaves.

<sup>w</sup>Dried weight.





# Plumeria Society of South Texas

It's hard to believe 2023 is coming to an end. This time of year is always a sad for many of the plumeria enthusiast, it is time to store our plumerias away for the winter. Two Saturdays in November were spent at the South Texas Botanical Gardens where we have the PSST Plumeria Collection. The first Saturday was spent cutting off all the leaves and doing some trimming of the plumerias. The following Saturday, all the plumerias were dug up, all 85 of them and put into the greenhouse. We found out that we did not cut back our plumerias near enough, the greenhouse has either shrunk or our plumerias have doubled in size since last fall, it is the latter, it was a great year for growth. You will be able to see in one of the photos, there is not much room in the greenhouse for getting very far in and checking for any problems.

In December we had a great turn out for our annual Christmas Party. The decorations were beautiful, and the food was awesome, no one left hungry. We had cuttings from the grove for members, door prizes and also a White Elephant gift exchange that is always a hit. Everyone is looking forward to 2024 and a great plumeria season.



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Mike Kennedy  
Owner  
409-771-0308  
[gulfcoastplumeria@gmail.com](mailto:gulfcoastplumeria@gmail.com)



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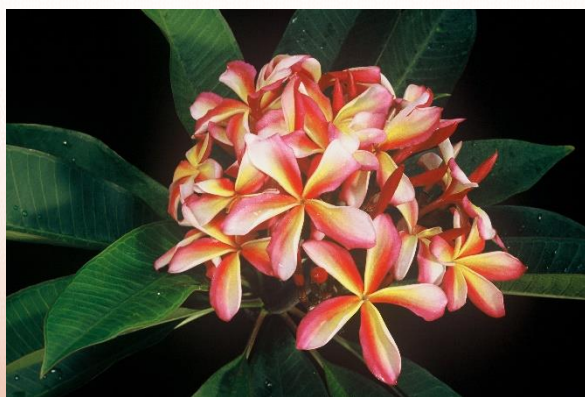


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**Please mention the PSA Ads when  
contacting Our PSA sponsors.**



The PSA is proud to announce Jungle Jacks in addition to all our New Sponsors. Please mention these ads when you purchase from them all!

A website banner for Jungle Jack's. On the left is a tall palm tree against a blue sky. On the right is a close-up of pink plumeria flowers. The central text area has a blue background. At the top left is a circular logo with a man's face and the text 'JUNGLE JACK'S PLUMERIA & MORE'. To its right is the text 'Jungle Jack's Palms, Plumeria and More! Offering Tropical Plants in California and Worldwide' with a shopping cart icon. Below this is a navigation bar with buttons: 'HOME', 'Browse Plumeria', 'Shop: Plumeria A-Z', 'Palms & More', and 'John's Blog'. The main heading is 'Palms, Plumeria & More' in a large, stylized font. Below it is a paragraph about plumeria fragrance and a quote from John and Christie Ingwersen. At the bottom is a button that says '2022 Season - Start with Seeds!' and a grid of small images showing various plant products.

Jungle Jack's Palms, Plumeria and More!  
Offering Tropical Plants in California and Worldwide

HOME Browse Plumeria Shop: Plumeria A-Z Palms & More John's Blog

## Palms, Plumeria & More

The fragrance of brightly colored Plumeria blooms evokes memories of tropical vacations and warm summer days in the garden. The colors of Plumeria (or Frangipani, as they are also known) range from vibrant rainbows to brilliant white, and each bloom emits a lovely fragrance. Renowned for their beauty, you can weave blooms into leis or gently float them in a bowl of water. Now you can grow your own exotic plumerias in a home garden or on your patio. We're proud to offer many amazing, unique hybrids grown from our own seeds in Thailand.  
*John and Christie Ingwersen, Jungle Jack's, Vista, CA*

2022 Season - Start with Seeds!

An advertisement for Enchanted Gardens featuring a close-up of a vibrant pink and white plumeria flower. The text is overlaid on the image in a mix of fonts and colors.

*Enchanted Gardens*

Specializing in Adendum and Plumeria  
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(281) 341-1206 or (832) 519-6192  
[peggymay@enchanted.com](mailto:peggymay@enchanted.com)  
[www.myenchanted.com](http://www.myenchanted.com)

An advertisement for a Facebook group. The background is a soft-focus image of white plumeria flowers. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts.

*If you're on Facebook, join us at*  
**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>**  
**The Plumeria Society of America.**  
Our Facebook page now has 4,970+ members  
from all over the world—a great place to ask a question or show off your blooms.

An advertisement for Danny's Plumeria. The background is dark with a large, bright pink and yellow plumeria flower in the center. The text is white and arranged in a list-like format.

Danny's Plumeria  
Advise: Support: Information  
& Plant Sales: Shipping and Pick Up  
Visit the Hundreds of Mature Ground  
Grown Trees in San Diego  
[dnkashou@gmail.com](mailto:dnkashou@gmail.com)  
Follow us on IG and Facebook  
@dannys\_plumeria  
Danny Kashou FB  
619-518-3356

An advertisement for Penang Peach. The background is a close-up of several pink and white plumeria flowers. The text is in a cursive script at the bottom left.

*Penang Peach*



## Join the Plumeria Society of America

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 \$35 per year**

All Memberships renew in December of the previous year.

Have you renewed yours?

### 2024 PSA Calendar

Next meeting is.

March 10<sup>th</sup> will be in-person and a zoom meeting:

Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E NASA RD 1  
Seabrook TX 77586

- Meetings begin at 2:00 p.m. We have a raffle, guest speakers, and more.
- Non-members are always welcome!
- Join us to learn about plumeria care and collecting.
- Bring plants, cuttings, etc. for door prizes! These can be anything, not just plumerias.

### 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.

**President:** John Burford [jtburf@swbell.net](mailto:jtburf@swbell.net) 281-796-7185

**Vice President:** Kim Orsak [orsak5@aol.com](mailto:orsak5@aol.com) 281-844-3630

**Secretary:** Lori Powell [lori.powell1573@gmail.com](mailto:lori.powell1573@gmail.com) 713-517-0683

**Treasurer:** Wendy Kane [wendy@wendykane.net](mailto:wendy@wendykane.net) 281-468-1839

**Director:** Donna Christy [deecce1111@jcorchid.com](mailto:deecce1111@jcorchid.com) 281-433-7129

**Director:** Mike Atkinson [mike@uneeknet.com](mailto:mike@uneeknet.com) 619-250-0133

**Director:** Lisa Meier [debarber48@gmail.com](mailto:debarber48@gmail.com) 713-205-4224

### Plumeria Society of America Committee Chairs for 2024

**Publicity:** Lindsey Carlin

**Activity:** Kimberly Orsak

Fundraising (Plant Sales): Renee Riley

Program (Meetings): Kimberly Orsak

Social: Donna Christy

**Membership Chair:** Joan Robertson

**Publication:**

Web Page: Mike Atkinson

Newsletter: Rebecca Cammack

**Registration:** Mark Wright

**Research:** John Burford

**Scholarship** – Jason Miller