# **Plumeria Potpourri**

April 2024

'Marci Diane' \$447 Registered with the Plumeria Society of America by Sharon Wright

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May Meeting Keynote Speakers: Shelby Dovzak & Texas Garden Guy "Destin Noak" Nelsons Plant Food. May 5<sup>th</sup> 2pm till 6:00pm

## **Presidents Corner April 2024**

**Presidents Corner** 

OMG, seriously WOW!!!

Just as we envisioned and planned for, our first meeting at the new location and on a more accessible date was a HUGE success. I would like to personally thank each and everyone who attended, our count was over 100 in attendance!

Over 100 attendees!!!

What a welcoming and warming sight it was to see all the new faces and, of course, it is always great to see our dedicated members from far and wide! I believe <u>Mary Jane Bator</u> <u>Fortney</u> was our closest member in attendance, and <u>Gary Gable</u> who lives in Pensacola FI, drove the greatest distance. If a member from Florida can attend there is <u>No Excuse</u> for those who live in the Houston area to not attend.

Our visitors found out about the meeting through various channels; some of which we pay for and some we do not.

Here is the breakdown...

Facebook Post: 28 attendees, Friend or word of mouth: 9 attendees, Community Impact ad: 18 attendees.

So, as you can all see, we do get results from the various forms of Marketing.

Please remember to add <u>events@theplumeriasociety.org</u> 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



## May Guest Speaker: Shelby Dovzak with Nelsons Plant Food and the Texas Garden Guy "Destin Noak"

Shelby Dovzak was born in San Antonio and grew up in Boerne, TX. She graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Studies, a minor in Horticulture, and a second minor in Urban and Regional Planning. Presently, Shelby lives in Houston working as Retail Specialist at Nelson Plant Food for the past two years. With a territory spanning from Beaumont to Kerrville and everywhere inbetween, Shelby has found her home in Houston, TX, and the thriving green industry that's cultivated here.





Shelby Dovzak Nelson Plant Food Retail and Distributor Sales



### My Dearest friend Bud, by Emerson Willis

Does anyone really know what constitutes a genuine gentleman? I fully believe I answered that question for myself. I've never met the Pope, an American President, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ghandi, or even the Dalai Lama. There was never any need. You see, 30 years ago, I met Oliver Ray Guillot, who at an early age was nicknamed Buster and later shortened to Bud. He was born April 16, 1922, in Shiloh, Texas. Not familiar with Shiloh? It's near Paris ... that's Paris Texas, of course. Please understand he was the finest man I have ever known ... A perfectionist, an artist, an author, a photographer, a master gardener, and a gourmet chef. I don't think he ever told a lie. He would not even exaggerate, and he was a Texan! Like another fellow we know of, he had never met a man he didn't like. I can honestly say I never heard him say a disrespectful thing about another person.

I'm a little shaky with the date, so some time around 1992 or 93, when I could still hear well enough on the telephone, I had been speaking "Plumeria" fluently with a couple of ladies in Southern California. In the course of the conversations both mentioned I should talk with an old fellow in Huntington Beach who was really big into plumerias and gave me his number. He was about 70 at that time. On the phone, Bud and I had many wonderful conversations about our families, interests, and plumerias ... mostly about the plants!! We were both very much hooked and loving every moment of it. We both were active in Don Herron's South Florida's Yahoo Group until Don pulled out. Bud invited Nan and I several times to visit, but we would decline. Traveling was just not our thing at that time, but a very big change was right around the corner.

The following year, 1994, Nancy and I purchased our first motorhome. Of course, our first long trip was to an RV park in Huntington Beach, quite near Bud's beautiful home where we finally met him and his gracious wife, Viola. We were there for his birthday and were there for the rest of his birthdays including the last, #99. This was a sad parting.

As he shook my hand, we both knew we would never see each other again in this life.

With plumerias, it could be very difficult to choose a gift for the "person who had everything". But Nancy and I earlier in our collecting had been fortunate enough to purchase several cuttings from the Thornton family. Some from Elizabeth herself and several from her daughter Bette Thornton Gipps. Our "Lemon Drop" was just large enough to give up a cutting for someone very special so we took it to Bud. Quite possibly it was the first for Southern California. It produced even better there than it did in the Houston area, and it quickly became his favorite. He would send us home with a pile of cuttings from his other trees but it was many years before he would prune his "Drop."

Both Nancy and I were overwhelmed with the size and quality of Bud's collection. When he pruned a cutting from the then 45-year-old "Guillot Sunset" we went upstairs and cut it while standing on the roof and was still looking upwards.

Bud told me the story of how he acquired his first plumeria. He would shop Army/ Navy stores in search of "bomb sights" and anything warplane related. By 1950, most of the really interesting items were gone. At an Army/Navy store in Culver City, California, he noticed a table stacked high with paraffin-coated cuttings resembling cucumbers but were listed as "plumerias" from the Philippines. He bought one for 99 cents with instructions "plant in ground". Scraping off the paraffin and getting the correct end up, he planted it in the shade where he thought a tropical should be. It rooted but just didn't seem to be happy for a couple of seasons. When he moved to his new home in Huntington Beach, he placed the little plant in sunlight telling it "grow now or die". Needless to say, it grew and then some. When it became larger and began blooming profusely, people would stop and want a cutting. To keep track, he was forced to name it … it was a wonderful sunset flower, and he was a Guillot. So go figure! "Guillot's Sunset" was named.

I assure you no vanity was involved in the naming. The "Sally" he had told me about on the phone wasn't the "Sally Moragne" I thought it was going to be. This huge fragrant 6-½" pink bloom was one I had never seen. I would refer to it as "Bud's Sally". In my yard you'll still see big thick stemmed cuttings with "BS" printed on them. Later, after Bud joined the PSA, he registered this wonderful cultivar naming it after his adopted state referring to it as "California Sally". He already had a tree named for himself, so he refused to use his name again. What did I say earlier about the lack of vanity? He has named several exceptional beauties in his career ... San Miguel, Saigon Moon, Makaha Sunn, My Valentine, and numerous others.

We would talk and talk, and I found him to be more interesting with every conversation. For example, he left Texas to go to work in California for the aircraft industry. When WW-2 broke out, the Army sent him a draft notice. His employer told him that building airplanes was more important than digging foxholes and he could be deferred. He chose to fight for his country not from a foxhole, but from the sky with a 50mm machine gun! Bud was in the Army/Air Corp serving as a machine gunner aboard a B-24 bomber whose group was currently bombing Nazi Germany. Statistics showed that ten missions were the maximum of which you might make it back in one piece. On his 11th mission his plane was knocked out of the sky after losing much of one wing. The pilot miraculously landed the plane in a farm field. The nose piece broke away but even at that, six of the ten-man crew survived somehow. They spent the remainder of the war in a German prison camp until he was liberated by General Patton.

Back in Huntington Beach, Bud and Vi for years were our personal tour guides in this beautiful part of our country. We toured Seal Beach, the Reagan and Nixon libraries, the Getty Museum, the Tar Pits, Knott's Berry Farm, and their wonderful fried chicken and so many more points of interest. At the Reagan Library, I couldn't help noticing there wasn't a word in print about the actress Jane Wyman, Ronald Reagan's first wife. Later, mentioning this aloud, Vi .. who was the quiet type spoke up immediately and said in her Angelic voice "Emerson, don't you think Nancy Reagan had something to say about what was included in the Library". Uh Oh!!!

During one of our trips, Bud had a terrible bout with shingles, but still hauled us around as though nothing was amiss. If you've had shingles, you know how painful it is. Many times, while we were visiting, someone would call him to come trim a tree he had planted for them years ago. So off we would go with a chainsaw, ladder and banana boxes. I would give grocery store stockers cuttings and they would give me boxes. Bud was keeping us supplied with plants .. some which I was distributing around the nation (including the Florida Keys). I must also mention. In my twenty years of selling at flea market's during the blooming season, we created many plumeria nuts. What I'm confessing is without Bud's help and generosity, there would probably have been no "Mr. Ambassador" award from our world famous plumeria guru, Jim Little of Haleiwa, Hawaii. The irony of all of this is Bud never, as in n-e-v-e-r SOLD a cutting.

One trip west years ago, I noticed Bud was wearing a large silver plumeria pendant around his neck. He told me a friend, Warren Bassett, created it for him. He put me in touch with Warren and I had one cast ... but in gold. Bud and I had a little routine we would do about how mine was gold and his was silver. A few trips or maybe the next trip the first thing I noticed was now HE was sporting a gold one. So, all I had left was "mine has a lower number". We had lots of fun with our friendship.

Some years ago, I can't remember how many, but I do remember what I called it: "The Library Caravan". Bud donated plumerias to his local library at Huntington Beach Central Park. Three huge trucks and a large crew of men dug up 23 of his very nice trees and replanted them at the library. I still have nightmares!

He was asked to speak at a school for the blind in Anaheim, which he did several times. He would carry a basket of blooms to demonstrate the difference in scents. A big hit also was passing hand-to-hand his gold pendant. It would enable one to feel the exact shape of a blossom. My thoughts on this were "what a brilliant idea" because it's my understanding Warren used several different cultivars to design his precious plumeria.

Bud's sweet Vi passed away December 2, 2013, after 64 years of marriage leaving him to grieve along with their son, Keith, their daughter, Gena, her son Craig and his wife Katie. Nancy and I tried for years to take Katie home with us, but Craig would have no part of that!

Over the years, Bud insisted that when the time came, I was to write his obituary. Maybe this, in part, is fulfilling my promise. In Galveston at the PSA conference in 2006, I had the privilege of introducing Bud to the group. I borrowed a phrase from a large corporation known worldwide, and now I'm going to borrow it for the last time:

### Lord Jesus, "THIS BUD IS FOR YOU".



## Thank you, Paula!

The PSA Board, Past, Present and Future would like to graciously thank Paula Borchers Furtwangler for her decades of being a Plumeria Ambassador. Holding offices ranging from President, Publicity chair to Seedling research the list goes on and on. If we needed a speaker Paula was always available. Paula has always graciously given her time to assist in promoting Plumerias across the Gulf Coast. Many of the beautiful images we use in our newsletter come directly from Paula's collection, for this we thank you, for allowing us to publish and share your passion.

The PSA Board 2024-2025

Paula has registered the following cultivars: Gardenia Glory #265, Joni's Jewel # 274, Paula's Pink #275, Lady Lois #318, Copperhead #328, Texas Longhorn #443.



## **Plumeria Society of South Texas (PSST)**

Welcome to Spring, soon everyone will be pulling their plumerias back out and either putting them back into the ground or repotting them. With the warmer temperatures here and having a pretty mild February and start of March, our plumeria collection was planted back into the ground on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to our membership and volunteers, 85 plumerias were planted. It's weird, but it looks some of them grew while they were in the greenhouse. Now we wait for the leaves to make a showing and see which plumeria will be our early bloomer this year.

Our collection really took a growth spurt last year even with the heat. Many grew 3'-4' in height and twice that in width. Some of our compact plumerias are over 5' in width, and the taller ones are 6'-7'. Most of our inventory was replaced after the 2021 freeze, many were in 1-gallon pots and it's amazing to see how much growth there has been in 3 growing seasons. We will have to do some selective trimming this spring for sure.

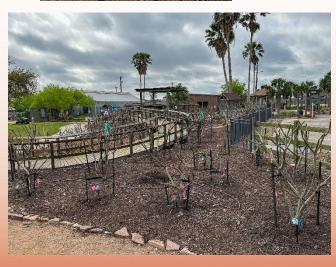
Our first sale of the year for the PSST will be Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The South Texas Botanical Garden's will have their annual Big Bloom Sale, which we always have a table at the event. We will be selling cuttings from our inventory and rooted plumerias, if available, that are donated by our members. There is always a rush to our table each year, and the cuttings go quickly. The Botanical Garden's has many beautiful plants and variety to choose from, also yard art, yard accessories and activities such as butterfly releases. It really is a big event, so if you happen to be in Corpus Christi that weekend, you may want to come out. It's from 10:00am – 5:00pm.

Hope everyone has a great Plumeria growing season!









## **BED PREP FOR GARDENING 101 Terminology**

## <sub>by</sub> Andy Chidester of Medina Agriculture Products

- 1. <u>Garden Soil</u> is typically a mixture of native soil (from the producer's area), organic matter/compost, may contain sands/silt and/or mineral rocks, a potential nutrient charge and possibly be inoculated with microbes. Garden Soil is not used in CONTAINERS.
- 2. <u>Compost</u> is a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land. The decayed organic matter may consist of composted hardwoods, animal manures (including fish etc.), and composted plant material.
- 3. <u>Potting Soil</u> is a blend of peat moss/coir fiber or a combination of both. It may contain vermiculite or perlite or both. Can potentially have a slight amount of compost. Often will contain a nutrient charge and potentially be inoculated with microbes. Potting Soil DOES NOT contain SOIL.
- 4. <u>Humates</u> are a combination of Humic and Fulvic acids and are a result of the decomposition of organic matter, the chelating of metals (iron and copper) and the stimulation of microbial activity. Humates are pulled directly from the earth and comprised of a combination of Organic substances. Humates are now recognized as the single most productive input in sustainable agriculture. Humates are the only known substance that can capture and chelate more than any other nutrient known to mankind. Chelating agents are microlight molecules that can trap and encapsulate other nutrients, then easily penetrate cells releasing the nutrients quickly into the roots and leaves. For your plants, that means more nutrient uptake.
- 5. <u>Molasses</u> provides a natural food source for the indigenous microbial populations in the soil. It is recommended for all types of plants, crops, and turf.
- 6. <u>Soil Activators stimulate organisms in the soil.</u> Some will have added macro and micronutrients along with humic and fulvic acids. Some Soil Activators may contain beneficial microbes in them that are not on the label.
- 7. <u>Macro Nutrients</u> are also referred to as primary nutrients consisting of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulfur.
- 8. <u>Micronutrients</u> also called trace elements, are essential plant nutrients required in very small amounts to sustain plant growth and development, especially enzyme systems related to photosynthesis and respiration. The main essential elements in this group usually include boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, and zinc.

9. <u>Expanded Shale</u> For flower beds with sticky or gumbo-type soil, Dr. Steve George of the Texas Cooperative Extension recommends putting down 3 inches of expanded shale on top of the area and tilling it six to eight inches deep. Also add 3 inches of finished, plant-based compost as well, which results in a 6-inch raised bed. Crown the bed to further improve water drainage. Dr. George also remarked: "Based on a two-year research study and six years of field trials, I feel that expanded shale will open up and aerate heavy, sticky clay soils faster than any material that I have ever tested. Due to its porous nature, it provides aeration from within the shale particles and, in poorly aerated clay soils, resulted in a more extensive and healthier root system than did other treatments being tested....Even though I dearly love finished, plant-based compost, if I were limited to only one application of one soil amendment with which to open heavy clay soils, I would take expanded shale and never look back.

10. <u>Mulch</u> a protective covering to keep plants moist and cool. To assist in weed control as a barrier. And to keep plants roots systems warm in the winter months. Mulch can assist with erosion control as well.

11. <u>Beneficial Microbes</u> may consist of bacteria or fungal microbes that keep plants healthy, assist in nutrient uptake, and moisture control. Think of them as a pre and probiotics for the soil and plant.

#### The Very Basics

Always begin with a soil test. This is your road map for success.

<u>Recommend labs</u>: Soil Testing Lab – Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory (tamu.edu) https://soiltesting.tamu.edu Texas Plant and Soil in Edinburg, Texas https://tpslab.com. Here We Go

<u>Raised Beds</u> – build your beds from lumber, concrete cinder blocks, masonry blocks or rock. Fill with your favorite garden soil. Pre-existing beds consider working 1 to 3 inches of compost into the soil depending on your soil test. If your soil test shows you need nutrients then be sure to add them.

<u>Native Soil</u> – you will want to turn in at least 1 to 3 inches of compost down to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. If you are dealing with heavy clay or sandy soil, consider adding a ½ inch to 1 inch layer of Expanded Shale to assist with drainage and water holding. You can lay the compost and expanded shale on top of one another and just turn the soil once. If your soil test shows you need nutrients then be sure to add them.

<u>Container Planting</u> – First choose a container for the job. Tomatoes will do better in a 10 gallon or larger container. You will still need to ensure they are caged. You can go smaller on cool season crops and some peppers. Do not hesitate to use your vegetable containers in patio areas intermingled with other containers.

Fill your container with your favorite potting soil. If your potting soil contains fertilizer, you may not need to add till later in the growing season.

#### Up Your Game

Once you have filled your raised bed, worked your native soil, or filled your container, moisten the bed/container before planting with Medina Plus. You may also use Medina Plus at the time of planting. Want to up your game plan even more than water plants in with a mixture of Medina Plus and Medina Beneficial Microbes.

Even though you added fertilizer at the time of planting consider foliar feedings. Use Medina Seaweed just a week after planting, then the next week use Medina Fish Blend. Then rotate between the two. Once flowering and fruiting season is near begin using Hasta Gro 6-12-6. Be sure to dead head flowers in the flower beds, this will promote more flowers. Be sure in the vegetable garden to regularly pick fruit often.





Upcoming Meetings: Doors open at 1:30 meeting to end close to 6PM

May 5<sup>th</sup> Guest speaker is Shelby Dovzak Nelsons Fertilizer and the Texas Garden Guy.

July 21st

October 13th

Sale dates: Sale starts at 9am and goes till 1PM

June 8<sup>th</sup>

July 13th





## Welcome to Maui Plumeria Gardens

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The tragrance of brightly colored Plumenia 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

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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.

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



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### 2022 PSA Officers and Directors

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 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.

Login: psamember

member Password: Scottpratt93 Twitter feed: @Plumeriasociety

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Joining the PSA... Purpose of The Plumeria Society of America WWW. theplumeriasociety.org 1. Promote interest in and increase knowledge of plumeria hybridization, propagation, and culture of plumerias. Click on "Join the PSA" tab at the top 2. Share this knowledge with hobbyists interested in of the home page. plumerias. To join by mail, select PDF. To join online, select On line Form (PayPal) 3. Provide a register for recording, identifying, and When joining by mail, send a check to: The Plumeria classifying by name new types and varieties of Society of America, Inc. plumerias. P.O. Box 22791 4. Encourage and unite plumeria enthusiasts around the Houston TX 77227-2791, USA globe, throughout America, and across the seas. Dues are \$35 per year President: John Burford jtburf@swbell.net 281-796-7185 Vice President: Kim Orsak orsak5@aol.com 281-844-All Memberships renew in December of the 3630 previous year. Secretary: Lori Powell lori.powell1573@gmail.com 713-Have you renewed yours? 517-0683 Treasurer: Wendy Kane wendy@wendykane.net 281-2024 PSA Calendar 468-1839 Next meeting is Director: Donna Christy deecee1111@jcorchid.com 281-433-7129 May 5<sup>th</sup> will be in-person and a zoom meeting: Director: Mike Atkinson mike@uneeknet.com 619-250-0133 Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E NASA RD 1 Director: Lisa Meier debarber48@gmail.com 713-205-Seabrook TX 77586 4224 Plumeria Society of America Committee Chairs for 2024 Publicity: Lindsey Carlin Doors open at 1:30 and the meeting Activity: Kimberly Orsak begin at 2:00 p.m. We will have a Fundraising (Plant Sales): Renee Riley raffle, guest speakers, and more. Program (Meetings): Kimberly Orsak • Non-members are always welcome! Social: Donna Christy • Join us to learn about plumeria care and Membership Chair: Joan Robertson collecting. Publication: • Bring plants, cuttings, etc. for door Web Page: Mike Atkinson prizes! These can be Newsletter: Rebecca Cammack anything, not just plumerias. **Registration:** Mark Wright Research: John Burford

Scholarship - Jason Miller