



Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

March 2010

‘Bout That Time!

by Thea Whitenton, Texas

The next meeting of The Plumeria Society of America will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston. Anyone with an interest in plumerias is invited to attend.

New plumeria growers have so many questions this time of year: “When should I put my plants out? Should I move it to a bigger pot? How do I make it bloom?” Whether they brought back sticks from a vacation spot, purchased a plant from a PSA Sale, or are already on their way to acquiring a collection, people seem to get more usable information from a visual demonstration or face-to-face question and answer session.

Our first-ever Spring Workshop is intended to help new and experienced growers alike to take advantage of our most important season. This is a great chance to further one of the PSA’s objectives—education! Our members are a wealth of information so please consider taking part in what promises to be a fun and informative day! If you have a subject you’d like to speak on or a technique you’d like to demonstrate within the general topics listed in the box on page 3, please let me know so we can schedule you. No “credentials” are required other than PSA membership—just plain talk and practical demonstrations of “what works for you”! We’ll schedule as many different methods and views as we can. The suggested times are only guidelines so that attendees can plan their day.

Members who wish to volunteer to help organize, set up, or assist are also needed! We will have our printed material and membership applications on hand. Reaching the general public will be important to the Spring Workshop’s success. If you have civic, church, garden, or other clubs or groups you would like to notify, the information can be sent to you in a form to forward or print out as flyers. Please help us “get the word out”!

As a new officer, I am excited we have an opportunity to extend the PSA’s reach—and another chance to socialize! I encourage you to participate, either behind the table discussing your growing methods, or in front of it enjoying the camaraderie of your fellow plumeria-lovers and the beautiful gardens so graciously offered for the day of Eulas and Lake Stafford!

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President's Corner

by Mark Wright, Texas

Eighteen degrees on January 9, 2010 ... five nights well below freezing, all in a row here in the Houston area. What a way to start the New Year "Ice Age" or "Global Warming"? You decide.

Winter can be a cruel time of the year for tropical plants in a semi-tropical environment. Around the world, extremes seem to be normal. When "What can I do?" becomes "What have I done?" we need to learn from our misfortunes. We don't deserve this _____ (you fill in the blank), but freezes, floods, heat waves, storms will happen. They always have and always will.

If plants were left unprotected, the prospect for recovery is bleak, at best. As a suggestion: Although Spring and Summer are my favorite times of year to take cuttings, consider taking cuttings before any disaster. What have you got to lose?

Now for the good news!

Remember how fast plumerias grow? How beautifully they bloom? Guess what, they still do! We do this for that reward. From a cutting to a blooming tree, we are there for every step. All the fragrance, beauty, mystery, and satisfaction make a complete journey. What we start, we can finish and enjoy the product. Watering, feeding, moving, protecting the plants ... it all



New President, Mark Wright with Past President, Paula Furtwangler

seems a small price to pay. The next time someone asks, "What are those sticks in your yard (or garage)?" remember they are your reward. You deserve it!

This is going to be a great year for the PSA. We have many goals, but they're realistic ones. The Board is working to speed up the plant registration process. Eulas is working on this project, and once in place, it will be much faster. Our Webmaster, Tex Norwood, does a magnificent job on the PSA site. We have heard your desire for a simpler, user-friendly format. This is in the planning stage. Being low-tech and digitally challenged, I will help with this change. If any time is left over, we'll work on climate control!

PSA Spring Workshop

Saturday, March 27, 10 AM–5 PM
2301 Primrose
Pasadena, TX 77502

10:00 AM

- Potting & Planting
- Pruning for Aesthetics & Propagation
- Grafting

12:30 PM

- Rooting Cuttings
- Starting Seeds

2:45 PM

- Watering, Feeding, & Treating

3:45 PM

- Photography for Fun
- Registration of New Cultivars

FREE ADMISSION!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.theplumeriasociety.org



PSA Plant Sales 2010

We are actively planning the 2010 plant sales. Our first plant sale of the year is June 12th in Seabrook, Texas, followed by the sale at the Merrell Center on July 31st. Please note the key dates summarized below. Following the practice we established last year, the growers' meetings will be after the general meetings in order to allow time for people to arrive. Below is a timeline of important dates for our 2010 sales:

Seabrook (Clear Lake) Sale

- April 27 Commitment to sell on June 12th
- May 11 Sellers' meeting (**after the general meeting**)
- June 2 Submit list of plumerias to be sold at June 12th sale
- June 12 Sale in Seabrook, Texas

Merrell Center (Katy) Sale

- June 29 Commitment to sell on July 31st
- July 13 Sellers' meeting (**after the general meeting**)
- July 21 Submit list of plumerias to be sold at July 31st sale
- July 31 Sale in Katy, Texas

With your help this is going to be another great year for sales!

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Plumeria Adventure Story

by *Elgin Blackwell, Texas*

“Where are we going?” my bride of 30 years asked as we exited I-10 in the middle of San Antonio. It was a clear, brisk, late October day as we enjoyed an impromptu weekend getaway in our favorite getaway town. Driving at 60 mph past a flowering tree that I did not recognize did not deter me from taking the next exit and executing a “U-EE” for a look see. After negotiating a couple of side streets, we found ourselves knocking on the front door of a complete stranger. “Hi, I was just wondering about that tree in your back yard ... What is that?” The fellow was more than happy to inform me about his backyard treasure. He said we were the first to knock on his door this year. Last year there were about 13 such inquiries. “It’s a silk floss tree ... from Brazil.” Well, that started what ended up being an hour long conversation that very quickly focused on the many plumeria he also owned. “I used to buy some from a man in Hawaii” “Jim Little?” I asked. “Yes,” he said, “Do you know if he’s still in business?” After I assured him I’d email him JL’s address, we went on discussing the plumeria business that used to be in Leander. We had both done business with it in the past. We talked about Eggenberger, Thornton, etc., and we talked about which plants we owned and which were our favorites, the good ones as well as the ones which had disappointed us in the past. As

our conversation began to draw to a close, our new friend asked, “You said you didn’t have JL Pink Pansy ... would you like a cutting?” To which I quickly replied “Sure!” A few minutes later he emerged from his backyard with some very nice cuttings from not only JL Pink Pansy, but also Dean Conklin, Bali Whirl, and a very nice unidentified rose-colored plumeria. We got his name and address and will be sending him some plumerias from our collection which he doesn’t have. You never know what a knock on a stranger’s door will bring ... but you sure meet some nice folks when plumeria are involved.

March 9, 2010 Meeting

Folks attending the March General Meeting will see a preview of the changes to our website. Tex Norwood will explain the process and ask people to log-on and give suggestions. Folks unable to attend will have this opportunity at a later time.

Air Layering Update

by Irene Jones, Southern California



Last October, Jim Little wrote an article for *Plumeria Potpourri* on the technique and benefits of air layering. The photos below were taken in late December and show the progress of the air lays on a Singapore White tree. The original cuts were wrapped with sphagnum moss without hormones or rooting compounds applied. Some of the air lays were made using transparent plastic and some with translucent plastic. Jim is noticing that the transparent plastic pouches have more roots than the plastic pouches made with the translucent wraps. He attributes this rooting difference “to a combination of both light and heat” stimulating quicker root growth in the transparent plastic wraps. These air lays were done on 6–10 foot branches and are a fantastic way to get a new plumeria plant quickly established.

Plumeria Society Website

Additional information concerning The Plumeria Society of America and culture of plumeria plants may be found on the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.ThePlumeriaSociety.org>

A listing of currently registered cultivars — Research Committee Bulletins — PSA By-Laws
Plumeria Care Bulletins — Photos from past events — Map links to meeting and sale sites
Photos of plumeria plants and flowers — past color insert pages in PDF format

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.



Copy this page for all your friends who love plumeria or just want to know more about them.

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 22791

Houston, TX 77227-2791, USA

Dues are \$25 per year

PSA Calendar — 2010

January 12 meeting
March 9 meeting
May 11 meeting
June 12 Show & Sale I (Clear Lake)
July 13 meeting
July 31 Show & Sale II (Katy)
October 12 meeting
October 16 Fall Social

- All regular meetings are held at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m., workshops begin at 6:45 p.m.
- Bring your blooms. Bring your friends.
- Bring plants, cuttings, etc. for door prizes!! These can be anything, not just plumerias.
- Visitors are invited and encouraged to attend.

PSA Officers/Committee Members— 2010

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Plumeria Potpourri



Bryan Holland's Yellow Seedling



JL Tornado



Pink Ruffles



Paula Furtwangler and Bryan Holland during his 2009 yard tour



Gold Coast Peachy



Bali Hai Gold