



The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

May 2012

# Plumeria Potpourri

*The next meeting of The Plumeria Society of America will be held  
Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 7:30 p.m.  
at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park  
1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas  
Anyone with an interest in plumerias is invited to attend*

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**Come to the May meeting!**

**We will discuss the pros and cons of grafting.**

**There will be demonstrations of grafting techniques including down-grafting.**

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**Slant Graft**



**V Graft**

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## President's Corner

by Mark Wright, Texas  
email: [wright5447@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright5447@sbcglobal.net)

If knowledge is power, then teachers are very powerful. Just a few short years ago, working a home show or other venue with plumeria “sticks” drew piercing stares and blank looks. People would look at you as if you were inviting them on a snipe hunt.

This past weekend, I spent part of two afternoons working at the PSA booth at a local home and garden show. I was surprised at how many people who stopped at our booth had so much knowledge of plumeria planting and culture. My curiosity was aroused as to where this knowledge came from.

I know that many people vacation in Hawaii. Last year, we bought facial tissue in boxes decorated with plumeria flowers. I know

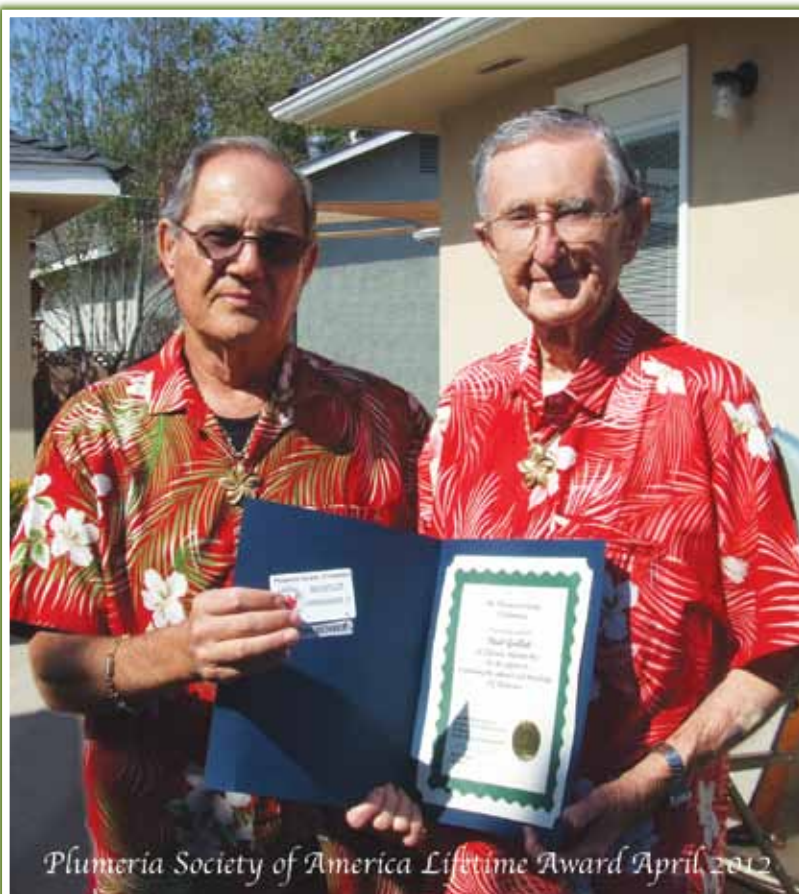
a fellow in our society (many of you know him too, or have heard of him) who, with his wife, travels I-10 every year from Houston to Florida and California, distributing plumeria to places like campgrounds, fast food establishments, and gas stations. He will even return each year to feed and trim them.

Plumeria societies have workshops, sales, and shows each year to promote this tree. Most of them have websites which are available all day, every day, to supply information about all aspects of plumeria. All of these things spread knowledge of and interest in plumeria.

None of these tools, however, would be successful without people. People relate the knowledge in a story to humanize the

information. Anyone that speaks to a garden club, Master Gardener group, church group, or any gathering or organization is promoting us in a good way. Stopping to talk to someone admiring the trees in your front yard is even better. We don't spend very much time thanking all the people that promote the “Frangi Trees” because there are too many of them.

There is one person that does all these things, writes accounts of his experiences, and is a real gentleman. His name is Bud Guillot. He is The Plumeria Society of America's newest Lifetime Member. The Board members of the PSA want to take this time to thank Bud for all he has done, and what we know he will continue to do.



**Emerson Willis (left) presenting the PSA's  
Lifetime Member award to Bud Guillot (right)**



Working the Home Show (from left): David Holloway, Thea Whitenton, German Collazos, Sharon Wright

### Plumeria Workshop

The PSA will give a workshop sponsored by the Galveston County Master Gardeners on **Saturday, May 19, 2012** from 1–3 PM. This will be held at Carbide Park at 4106 Main Street in La Marque, TX 77568. The workshop is open to the public, and there is no charge to attend.

### Yard Tour and Workshops

Our first Yard Tour of the season will be **Saturday, June 23, 2012** at the home of Eulas and Lake Stafford. Some workshops will be held during the day. The address is 2301 Primrose, Pasadena, TX 77502. The hours will be from 10 AM–6 PM. The phone number is 713-946-9175.

The 2012 plant sales will be upon us before we know it. Our first plant sale of the year is June 9<sup>th</sup> in Seabrook, Texas, followed by the sale at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Please note the key dates summarized below. The growers' meetings will be held after the general meetings in order to allow time for people to arrive. Below is a time line of important dates for our 2012 sales. Please contact German Collazos with any questions at 713-670-4064 or [german.collazos@tic.toshiba.com](mailto:german.collazos@tic.toshiba.com).

Seabrook (Clear Lake) Sale—June 9		Fort Bend County Fairgrounds Sale—July 14	
April 24	Commitment to sell on June 9	June 26	Commitment to sell on July 14
May 8	Sellers' meeting (after general meeting)	July 4	List of plumerias to be sold on July 14
May 30	List of plumerias to be sold at June 9th sale	July 10	Sellers' meeting (after general meeting)
June 9	Sale in Seabrook	July 14	Sale at Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds



## Optimal Cutting Angle for Rooting Plumeria

by George Hadjigeorge, Texas

Experts recommend cutting plumeria branches at an angle when taking cuttings to root them. The theory is that an angle-cut contains more surface area than a square-cut, and as a result more roots will develop from an angle-cut than in a square-cut.

Will an angle-cut really lead to a more vigorous root system than a square-cut cutting? Experiments were done to quantify this.

Rooted cuttings at various stages after planting were dug up very carefully so as not to damage their fragile root systems, and then their rooting habit and root systems were examined.

The pictures below show two different square-cut plumeria cuttings about five weeks after planting in mulch. This shows very clearly that most roots, and the most vigorous roots, emanate from the bark bottom and callus over the woody part evenly around the perimeter of the cut. A few weaker roots emanate from the healed center white core.



The next picture shows an angle-cut plumeria cutting about five weeks after planting in mulch. Amazingly, there are roots only at the very tip of the cutting. This is not an isolated case. All the angle-cut cuttings I have looked at developed roots at the tip only.



It seems that all the cutting energy is directed to the tip. Additional evidence for this is the graft (at a relatively steep angle) in the picture below that was left wrapped air-tight with a plastic tape for eight weeks. The graft developed roots in mid air under the tape,



where the humidity was 100% and favored root development. Only the very tip of the cutting developed roots. Many of my grafts develop roots like this when they are left wrapped for

more than six weeks. All of them have roots only at the bottom tip of the cutting.

The following picture shows side-by-side, relatively green cuttings cut at an angle, which were dried in air (left) and healed in mulch (right) for three weeks. The air-dried cuttings show a lot of damage—both the bark

and the soft, white center have pulled back from the thin, woody part. On the contrary, the cuttings healed in mulch show no damage.



The following pictures show these air-dried cuttings after rooting for eight weeks in a perlite/soil mixture. All the roots emanate from the bottom one third of the tip of the cuttings. There are no roots in the top two-thirds of the cut or the center white core. The wood that protrudes out in the picture above in the air-dried cuttings is visible in the rooted cutting and appears to be dead. The big gap between the center white core and the wood



visible in the air-dried cuttings in the picture is still there. However, the center white core is growing out and there is a significant growth on the outside of the dead wood as well (between the bark and the woody part, at the cambium line), so in time the dead wood would be totally encapsulated by growth. It is really remarkable that these air-dried, green cuttings which showed so much damage after drying have recovered so much after rooting them for eight weeks. So, do not worry, if dried cuttings look badly damaged, most likely they will grow when planted.

The next pictures show the two slanted cuttings healed in mulch after rooting for eight weeks in a soil/perlite mixture. Similar to the



air-dried cuttings, the roots emanate from the bottom one-third part of the tip of the cut. Unlike the air-dried samples though, there are a few roots coming out of the center white core of the cuttings. However, the top two-thirds of



the perimeter of the cuttings has essentially no roots.

It is remarkable that for both of these sets of cuttings, dried in air and healed in mulch, besides some small differences, the roots are very similar in the two sets of cuttings (same amount of roots and coming out at the tip only). There really is not a significant difference in where the roots emanate. There is no question that the cutting's energy is directed to the tip of the cutting, and that is where all the roots emanate. Thus, it really does not matter how the cuttings were rooted—angle-cut cuttings only develop roots at the tip of the cuttings eight weeks after planting.

The next pictures show two different square-cut cuttings about eight weeks after planting in soil/perlite mixture. The root



system is vigorous and located all the way around the perimeter of the cut. Nearly all of the roots emanate from the bark of the cutting

(cut bottom, not the side of the bark) or from the callus over the woody part but none from the center, soft white part, which is clearly visible. There is no question that eight weeks after planting, the square-cut cuttings develop a more vigorous root system and more evenly around the whole perimeter of the cut compared to the angle-cut cuttings which develop roots only at the tip (about one-third of the cross-section).

The following picture shows the root system of a three-year-old plumeria grown from a cutting. The whole bottom is covered with vigorous roots. Initially, when plumerias first root, the roots emanate mainly from a circle around the perimeter of the cut. As the plumeria ages the bottom heals completely and more roots develop from where the soft, white core was located. In addition, roots develop from the side of the bark. It does not appear that for a three-year old plumeria anyone will be able to tell at what angle the original cutting was cut.



The bottom line is that long term (after a few years) it really does not matter at what angle a plumeria cutting was cut, and no one will be able to tell a difference in the root system between square-cut and angle-cut cuttings. However, in the short term, a square-cut plumeria cutting initially develops a better

root system (vigorous roots all around the perimeter of the cut) versus roots just at the tip of the cut for an angle-cut plumeria cutting. It seems that all the plant energy is directed to the tip of the bottom cut, which is the whole perimeter for a square cut cutting and only to

the very tip for angle-cut cuttings. None of the energy is directed to 70% of the area of the cut.

Based on this study, despite what experts recommend, I prefer square-cut plumeria cuttings for rooting rather than angle-cut cuttings.

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### Additional Information on Using Mulch for Callusing

With respect to the mulch I use, I like a finely ground hardwood mulch. A finely ground mulch holds moisture better than a coarsely ground mulch and does not dry as quickly. The most important variable in rooting plumeria cuttings is the moisture content of the mulch. If the cuttings are kept too wet they could rot. The beauty of this method is that we can control very well the moisture content of the mulch by mixing in dry mulch to get the right moisture level. In other words we can create the perfect environment to callus the cuttings and prevent rotting.

What is the right moisture level? What I do is the following. The day after I bury the cuttings in mulch, I take them out and examine them. I always examine them in the morning, because in the afternoon, the heat of the day evaporates some water in the mulch, which condenses on the cuttings, and the cuttings will look wet, just like in the two following pictures.



If in the morning when you examine the cuttings, they look wet like in the pictures above, then the moisture level of the mulch is too high. The cuttings should be dry like in the picture to the right. If the cuttings are wet, the moisture level is too high. In that case, I mix in more dry mulch and do it again until the cuttings are not wet. Remember, the function of the mulch is to keep the cuttings at 100% humidity to callus the ends as opposed to drying them in air where they shrivel and get damaged. In the hot summer months, we can easily



prevent shriveling by burying most of the cutting in mulch and leaving only the tip of it exposed to the air.

In the Houston/Dallas area, look for the following brand of mulch: **Texas Native Hardwood Mulch distributed by Austin Wood Recycling of Cedar Park, Texas and sold at Lowe's.**

**George's Tip to Prevent Rotting:** With respect to rooting cuttings, it helps a lot to prevent rotting if after you cut them, you dip them immediately into rooting hormone, without wiping the end. The sap/latex combined with the rooting hormone makes a wet cake that when dried becomes hard and seals the end of the cutting.

## Are You Hooked Yet?

by Sharon Wright, Texas

In 2004 when I decided to try my luck at planting plumeria seeds, my husband Mark thought I was crazy. One of the reasons he thought it was a crazy idea is because we have a small yard totally taken up with beautiful registered cultivars that catch his eye. By the time my babies graduated into larger pots in 2006, my son had moved here from San Diego and generously agreed to keep them in his yard in Sugar Land (about a 15-minute drive away).

A few years later when my *Slaughter Pink* (SP) and *California Sally* (CS) seedlings were 4–6' tall sticks of varying thickness crowned with large green leaves, Mark couldn't resist making fun of them. As luck would have it, my first gangly tree to bloom was a totally unremarkable SP seedling. Of the eleven seedlings from that seed pod, none were worth saving and certainly none were worthy of being registered. You can probably imagine what Mark had to say about my poor babies. As might be expected, some quickly became good grafting stock!

In September of 2007, my first CS seedling bloomed and was much more promising. We hope to register CS#2 as *Lisa*

*Ann* and CS#6 for my son *Jay* this summer. As these two seedlings bloomed in successive years, Mark finally began to see what my fascination with the gamble of seedlings was all about; much less kidding, more tentative approval.

My 2007 crop of seedlings included eight from *Mardi Gras*. MG#7 bloomed in 2009. When it bloomed again in 2010 and was seen by PSA members, Mark cut two of its three branches off to give away and was singing the praises of seedlings. Wow, what a change in attitude! MG#7 will be registered as *Marci Diane* this summer (it too has an inflo).

My son moved back to San Diego this past November, leaving me with the dilemma of where to put my growing family of seedlings. Fortunately, I was able to relocate them to a neighbor's yard close by. Not only that—one of my 15 *Lava Flow* seedlings planted in 2009 has an inflo. One nubbed off last year so I'm eager to see what seedlings from such a colorful plant will bring. Do you think I'm hooked on this seedling stuff or what? We've still to have a truly astounding seedling, but who knows what will bloom next.



## Plumeria Registrations

by Eulas Stafford, Texas

We are pleased to announce that all of the registration slides have been scanned into digital format. With this task accomplished, completion of the registration process is a lot more streamlined, and we were able to complete the backlog of registrations. Registrations were submitted from California, Florida, Hawaii, Texas, Australia, and Italy. The newly registered plants are listed below:

Copperhead	328	CR	2012	Paula Furtwangler
Col's Cooktown Sunset	368	CR	2012	Frangipani Society Australia
California Beauty	369	CR	2012	John Tarvin
Diana's Rainbow	370	CR	2012	Diana Holland
San Diego Sunset	371	CR	2012	Leah J. Pack
TJ Booker	376	CR	2012	Ken Johnson, Australia
Vinti Quattro	377	CR	2012	Hetty Ford
Doric Alison	378	CR	2012	Jim Little
Hawaiian Fire	379	CR	2012	Jim Little
Richard Criley Dwarf Rainbow	380	CR	2012	Jim Little
My Joey	381	CR	2012	Helio Scott Baker
Phyllis Jane	382	CR	2012	Helio Scott Baker
Sierra Jane	383	CR	2012	Helio Scott Baker
Coral Coast Gaocoyne Gold	390	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Amazing May	391	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Desert Fire	392	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Pammy Q	393	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Blushing Bride	394	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Carouselle	395	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Ducko Wheelock	396	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Dainty Dwarf	397	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Pink Pearl	398	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Bali Freckles	399	Hold		Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Palatial Pink	400	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Old Rosy	401	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Coral Coast Tropical turbin4	402	CR	2012	Paula V. Pugh Schipp, Australia
Riviera Rainbow	403	CR	2012	Hetty Ford
Linda Jean	409	CR	2012	Richard Samples
Razzleberry	410	CR	2012	Thea Whittington
Winnie F	411	CR	2012	Richard Samples
Hot Lips	412	CR	2012	Richard Samples
Gussie B	413	CR	2012	Richard Samples
Phyllis Jean	414	CR	2012	Richard Samples
MetaK	415	CR	2012	Richard Samples
Richard's Star	416	CR	2012	Richard Samples
Jessie Rae	417	CR	2012	Richard Samples
Renaissance	418	CR	2012	Joe Malinak
Joe's Legacy	419	CR	2012	Joe Malinak
Kylie's Smile	420	CR	2012	Deric Gomez
German's Pink	421	CR	2012	German Collazos
Emmanuel Sunset	422	CR	2012	Elgin Blackwell
Resurrection	423	CR	2012	Elgin Blackwell
Ken Ames	424	CR	2012	Jim Little
Antonio Butera	425	CR	2012	Antonio Butera, Italy

Our thanks go out to all of the people who submitted registrations and for their understanding of our problems during this change over of our procedures.



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## The Plumeria Society of America 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.

### The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

**P.O. Box 22791**

**Houston, TX 77227-2791, USA**

**Dues are \$25 per year**

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

### PSA Officers/Committee Members—2012

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### PSA Calendar — 2012

January 10 .....meeting  
March 13 .....meeting  
May 8 .....meeting  
June 9 ..... Show & Sale I (Seabrook/Clear Lake)  
July 10 .....meeting  
July 14 .. Show & Sale II (Fort Bend County Fairgrounds)  
October 9 .....meeting  
open ..... 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.



# Newly Registered Plumerias

*Clockwise from top right:*

Antonio Butera registered by Antonio Butera

Riviera Rainbow registered by Hetty Ford

Joe's Legacy registered by Joe Malinak

Linda Jean registered by Richard Samples

Razzleberry registered by Thea Whittington

Ken Ames registered by Jim Little

Coral Coast Carouselle registered by Paula V. Pugh Schipp

