



Plumeria

Potpourri

THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

April, 1987

Notice of Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 1987
 Time: 7:30 p.m.
 Place: Hermann Park Garden Center
 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston

Guest speaker for the evening's program will be Mr. John M. Koros, Director, Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Come to learn more about this fascinating development, its present status and plans for the future.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At its annual meeting in March, the following members were elected to office for the year 1987-88:

Ardell Broussard -- President
 Abe Schonier -- Vice President
 Mary Vanya -- Secretary
 Al Munson -- Treasurer

In addition the following have been appointed to serve as Standing Committee Chairmen:

Darla Racz	-- Membership
Lee Jacobs	-- Publicity
Joe Minahan	-- Program
Dr. Ken Duff	-- Research
Pili Oliver	-- Newsletter
John Oliver	-- Registration
Fay Beery	-- Social

The above, along with the immediate past president, John Oliver, who will serve also as Registration chairman this year, comprise the board of directors through March of 1988.

Their positions as chairperson are strictly voluntary and each committee should have at least four working members to assist in promoting the goals of the society. During the social hour at the next meeting make it a point to introduce yourself to the standing committee chairmen and volunteer to serve.

 SINCERE THANKS While it is a pleasure to congratulate our incoming officers we also offer thanks to the outgoing board of directors. Headed by John Oliver it was a good year. An overwhelmingly successful flower show and sale, the acquisition of a new society owned slide projector complete with member produced plumeria slide show are highlights of the past years accomplishments along with the presentation of the very first Honorary Membership to Mrs. Elizabeth H. Thornton, founder of the society. A job well done indeed. Thank you!

PAST DUE NOTICE!!

Membership dues for 1987-88 were due in March. Perhaps you have let time slip by and forgot to make payment. We value your membership and want you to remain on the roster of one of the most fascinating horticultural societies active today. Dues (individual or husband/wife) are \$15 regular membership, \$10 associate membership.

Send your check or money order payable to the Plumeria Society of America, c/o Mrs. Darla Racz, Membership Chairman, 209 Lochnell Dr., Houston, TX 77062. Be sure to indicate whether your membership is individual or husband/wife. Thanks.

.....It's always good to hear from ELIZABETH THORNTON. She writes

A new treatment for rust (coleosporum domin-gense) that holds promise for eradicating this disfiguring disease, has been sent by Dr. John Popenoe of Fairchild Tropical Gardens near Miami. The chemical is called oxycarboxin and is used in a fungicide called Plantvax. I have been unable to locate a supplier thus far but have several contacts checking it out. If any growers know of a source of supply, please share it with us. I understand it has been used by large nursery growers to combat rust on carnations and geraniums and has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for garden use.

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Upon request, we are pleased to reprint an article previously published on how to bring in plumeria cuttings when travelling out of the country.

"Members of the society who plan to travel abroad and desire to bring back or mail home plumeria cuttings, seeds or plants are encouraged to obtain beforehand a USDA import permit. Having a permit will minimize problems with clearing customs on your return.

The process is quite simple. Merely call the nearest U.S. Dept. of Agriculture office (in Houston their phone is 229-3541) and request an application form for an "Import Permit for Plants and Plant Products". Complete this form listing Plumeria (family Apocynaceae) as among those plants you will be importing. Also list from which countries you will be importing these plants.

Mail the completed form to the designated address of the USDA headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area and in 10-12 days you should have your permit complete with instruction booklets on how to use the permit and the enclosed mailing labels. Also advice on packaging for mailing. Please note that plumerias when imported must be defoliated and bare rooted.

There is no charge for the permit and it is valid for five years."

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ABOUT THE MORAGNE SEED PROJECT:

During the past year, members of the society in the Houston area in conjunction with the Research Committee under the direction of Dr. Ken Duff, chairman, have been working on a research project known as the "Moragne Seed Project". Seeds were sent to us from Hawaii which originated from seed pods off of plumeria cultivars developed by the late William Moragne. While the research committee is compiling more detailed records of activities, a quick telephone survey to few of the members was made to see how this project is progressing. Comments are interesting. In brief,

MERRILY LABARTHE reports 11 seeds successfully germinated, however, she has since lost 4 seedlings. She indicates lack of water (for which she takes full blame) may be the main cause of loss. The remaining 7 plants are growing well, about 5 inches tall and showing leaf growth.

GLORIA GLENNEY has 16 plants growing, about 4" in height. While devastated because an insect decided to eat the top off of one of her babies for lunch one day, she continued providing tender, loving care and it survived and is putting out leaf growth.

GENE DINTELMAN now has 7 plants growing standing about 4" tall. Her main observation as far as growth of these particular seedlings is that their trunk seems much thinner by far than other seedlings she has cultivated. Her seedlings appear no bigger than a pencil. She should know when she speaks of comparison as she has cultivated over 200 seedlings.

On a rather sad note MARY SCHONIER reports a complete loss. Her seed lot did not germinate at all. "It was as if something caused them to disintegrate. There just was nothing there when we pulled the seeds apart for examination."

"It was disappointing" says BETTY ANDREWS. "While 3 out of 24 seeds sprouted the 3 seedlings did not live long after even though I used the recommended soil mixture."

While DARLA RACZ successfully germinated 16 seeds and had all 16 seedlings growing at one time, all but 4 survived. She attributes the failure to the fact that she did not

start her project until late last August and feels there was not enough summer warmth around long enough to promote good growth before the fall and cooler temperatures set in.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gotcha. Gotcha! and that she did (mother nature). Got the tomatoes, got the begonias and got the plumerias too if you didn't dig them up again or bring them inside. And she did this twice in one week speaking here, of course, in the Houston, Texas area. You can consider yourself a TRUE lover of plumerias if you did all the dragging in again and again.

By now all plants are outside in full sun, have been fed fish emulsion, repotted if needed, had a spring feeding of Bone Meal and have started a regular diet of feedings of BR-61, Super Bloom, or whatever works best for you.

In a message by the immediate past president John Oliver, he suggested taking blossoms to share at the office or with friends. I'm sure we've all done this from time to time. If they didn't know what plumerias are one only needed to mention the "lei flower" and watch for eyes to light up with that familiar sparkle.

If you had any breakages this year while taking plants in and out so often, start the new cuttings as gifts. You know as well as I that one plant leads to another and another and they're hooked! The search is on! And a new enthusiastic member is acquired.

Before joining the Plumeria Society, my dad, who had moved to Hawaii, sent me several state certified cuttings. I had them in large pots for three years and they never bloomed. The fourth year I planted them in the ground in the garden and they bloomed with the most beautiful red blossoms. Along came a freeze and dumb as I was they froze. All I have left is a couple of pictures. Little did I know all I had to do is

jerk them out of the ground for the winter. That will never happen again.

That's my story let's hear yours. Pili Oliver, chairman of the newsletter committee, is always in need of news items. Let her know how you got "hooked" on plumerias.

Ardelle Broussard
President



Newly elected officers (l. to r.): Al Munson, treasurer; Mary Vanya, Secretary; Ardelle Broussard, President; Abe Schonier, V-President.

NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. If any "associate" members are travelling this way at that time you are cordially invited to attend.

Meanwhile word has reached my desk that plans are in the making for a summer social in August. Perhaps there will be more said at the meeting on Tuesday.

See you then

Ed.