



Plumeria

Potpourri

THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

MAY 1990

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Tuesday, May 8, 1990 - 7:30 p.m. - Hermann Park Garden Center

The meeting on July 10, 1990 will be held at the Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Be sure and mark your calendar accordingly.

MAY PROGRAM: by Sven Bors Koefoed

Sven will speak on importing plants into this country; all the aspects of getting permits before you start on your travels. He will also answer questions on plumeria in general.

NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

President - Sven Bors Koefoed
Vice President - Joe Minahan
Secretary - Abe Schonier
Treasurer - Jay Harris

Did you notice our all male board??????
We think it's great.

We will try to have another garden tour this year, possibly in July, or August. If you would like to include your garden on the tour, please let Sven or Lee Jacobs know as soon as possible. We possibly will have a bus this year to go from one garden to the other.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Since moving to Friendswood in December, I am dealing with the frustration of placement of flower beds in a yard devoid of any beds. The yard has been too wet from all the rain to move any soil; the wheelbarrow tire sinks in the mud when loaded. It is no easy task finding a new home for 100 plus girlfriends (my plumeria). My frustrations are intensifying now that the unplanted plumeria are budding out with this year's blooms. Hopefully the yard will be ready for the tour of yards in July.

Our research project for this year includes each and every one of our members. I would like for each member to try to root different colored plumeria in water. We need to know if one color roots faster than another color. Just dip the end of your cutting in rooting hormone and place in a jar with about one inch of water in the bottom. Check periodically for evaporation and add additional water as needed. Be sure to record the date started and the length of time until you see roots forming. Let us know of your progress as soon as all of your plants have rooted.

Houston area growers need to let me know of any unusual blooms, (color, formation, size of clusters, new flowers from seedlings, etc.) I would like to video them for a possible program later this year. See you at the meeting!!!!

Sven

The Farmers Almanac for 1990 states that grafting should be done in the first quarter of the moon in Cancer or Pisces. Plumeria grafting has been done successfully by some. If you have been successful in this area, do let us know about it.

Forever flowers via the microwave:

Experiment with drying your plumeria blossoms in the microwave. First you need a drying agent like silica gel or kitty litter. Pick your favorite flower and cut the stem to half an inch. Select the container deep enough so the flower will be completely covered by the drying agent.

* put an inch of agent in the bottom of the container. Insert the stem so the flower is in an upright position. Carefully sprinkle the drying agent over and between all petals, keeping the petals in the position you want. Continue sprinkling until entirely covered.

* microwave on high for 2½ minutes, rotating every half minute.

* remove container, set aside and do not disturb for 12 hours while the moisture from the flower is being absorbed.

* carefully remove the flower and tap gently to remove the drying agent. Attach a false stem.

* do only one flower at a time for best results. Save the drying agent for further use.

PLUMERIA HIGHLIGHT - JAPANESE LANTERN by Lee Jacobs

Japanese Lantern (Flower Basket) is the plumeria that we are highlighting for May. It is described in the bulletin 158, Plumeria Cultivars in Hawaii by Chinn and Criley as moderate strong red with small, brilliant yellow center: narrow, elliptical, pointed tip petal twisting downward with a strong red band on back; 3 inches in diameter with a slight sweet scent. It is suitable for landscaping with its sprawling, dense branching and bears from March to November with heavy flower production.

In my yard the flower basket has measured 14 inches across and 11 inches from top to bottom. This plant produces clusters that continually produce buds during its bloom period, which makes the basket increase in size as it grows. The bloom stalk hangs downward producing the flower basket effect, whereas most other plumeria flower stalks stand up facing the sky. The fragrance, to me, smells like fresh honey. This is one of my favorite plants in the red family.

A different cultivar will be featured each newsletter. If you have a favorite that you would like highlighted, send us your request.

We will continue to have the bulletin board for cuttings or plant exchange. If you have cuttings now that you would like to trade bring them to the meeting.

Membership dues are now overdue. If you want to receive your next newsletter, send those dues now. \$15.00 for local and \$10.00 for associate members.

May 1990