



The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

January 2012

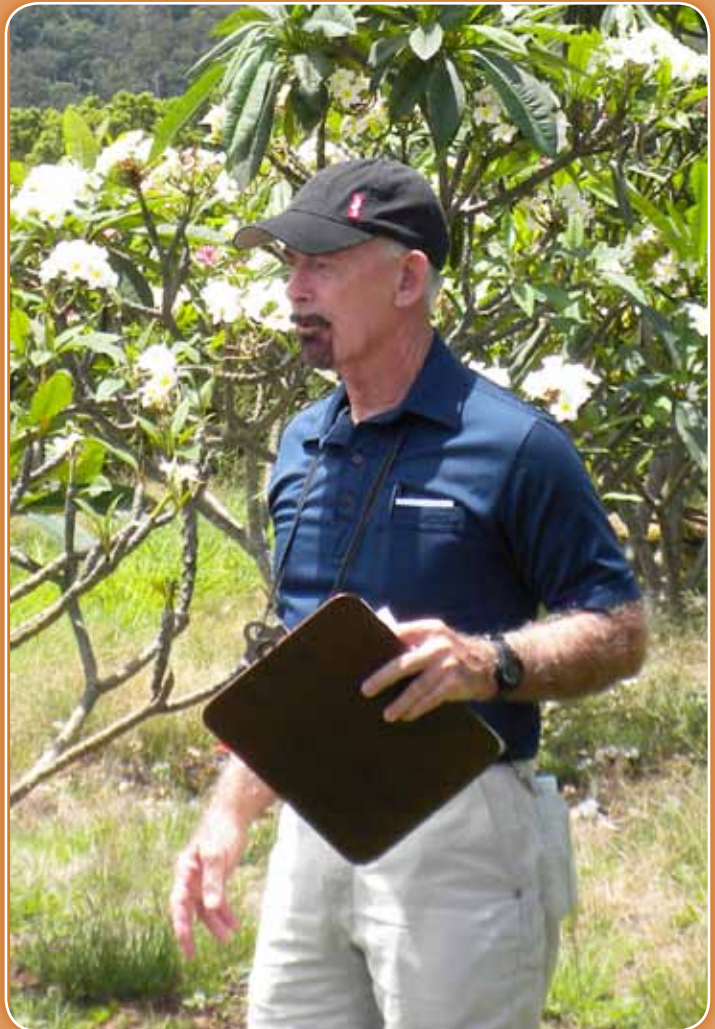
# Plumeria Potpourri

*The next meeting of The Plumeria Society of America will be held  
Tuesday, January 10, 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.*

**Come to the January meeting! It will include a recorded slide presentation on propagation that Dr. Richard Criley sent us, and has graciously allowed us to use.**

**Richard A. Criley, Ph.D.  
Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa**

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/bio.aspx?id=CRILERIC>



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## President's Corner

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

Happy New Year! I hope this year brings all that you need; if not what you want.

To bring everyone up to speed on what is going on here would be an essay on what I do and don't know.

Believe it or not, all of the old registration slides have finally been converted to a digital format. The PSA has purchased a computer and color-corrected monitor dedicated to the registration of new plumeria cultivars. It is a dream that was long in the making.

Six registrations have been completed. Three are from Australia, two are from California, and one is from Texas. The remaining 35 or so waiting for completion, will be done by the end of January. With a very rare exception, registrations are done in the order in which they are received.

If you would like to register a plumeria, but have been hesitant due to the long wait, now would be the time to consider submitting your materials. All the information needed to register a new variety is available on the PSA website.

At this time, I don't know the names of the new varieties, or the registrants. The March issue of *Plumeria Potpourri* will contain information on the new cultivars. In case

you're wondering, all of the registration pictures will end up on the website. We are working at "unpaid volunteer speed" to put more information on the PSA site. This will all be done, but when is not known.

I have read that postage is going up, and delivery time of mail will take longer. Also, printing costs keep going up, and delivery time is increasing too. We are dedicated to producing as good a newsletter as we know how. I will continue to get *Plumeria Potpourri* to you in a timely fashion five times a year. I will also continue to beg and plead for members to contribute articles. Some of you may have already guessed that I was not a journalism major in college. Therefore, the articles you contribute are more important than you can imagine. The new slate of officers will be posted in the March issue.

By the time you read this, it will be 2012. The new year will be what we make of it. I don't know how much luck will have to do with it, but I'll eat my black-eyed peas and greens with ham on New Year's Day just in case, for good luck! I know how much I love plumeria. With good luck, I might be able to think of what to do with all of the ones I have now and all the ones I would like to have.

### **Plumeria Societies Around the World**

The Plumeria Society of America, Houston, Texas, USA, [www.theplumeriasociety.org](http://www.theplumeriasociety.org)

Southern California Plumeria Society, San Diego, California, USA, [www.socalplumeriasociety.com](http://www.socalplumeriasociety.com)

South Coast Plumeria Society, Huntington Beach, California, USA, [www.southcoastplumeriasociety.com](http://www.southcoastplumeriasociety.com)

The Plumeria Society of South Texas, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, John Balcar (361.779.3181)

Valley of the Sun Plumeria Society, Phoenix, Arizona, USA, [www.azplumeria.org](http://www.azplumeria.org)

Frangipani Society of Australia, NSW, Australia, [www.frangipani.org.au](http://www.frangipani.org.au)

## I Am in Heaven

by Matilde De Mattia, Italy

On a sunny afternoon in September, while we were flying to Paros, a small Greek island of the Cyclades, I wondered if I had done well to insist on Joseph, my husband, going on holiday



Joseph at the Paros Airport

there. I felt drawn to meet Kostas, a plumeria addict like me, but as for my husband, would he find the conditions to enjoy a nice holiday by the sea? After all, even around Sicily there are so many beautiful islands where you can enjoy the sea!

Upon landing in Paros, I immediately recognized Kostas by the photos I'd seen in the PSA Yahoo!® Group, and his welcoming smile dispelled my doubts and

immediately put us in a good mood. As soon as we had picked up the luggage, he escorted us to the house that he had decided to give us for our stay in Paros.

After driving for a few miles by the seaside, we got into a 3 hectares property crossed by several paths flanked with frangipani trees of all colors. I could not believe my eyes. I wanted to stop and look at them closely, but my husband continued to drive to follow Kostas' car. After a while we stopped under a beautiful palm tree in front of a blue and white patio lush with frangipani and bougainvillea that led to our house.



As soon as I got inside, like Alice in Wonderland, I smelled an intense fragrance and, as my eyes became accustomed to the gloom, I saw plumeria flowers scattered in every corner of the house.

I was holding in my hands the last issue of *Plumeria Potpourri*

(to be recognized at the airport). I had the sudden urge to take a picture of it among some flowers elegantly arranged on a shelf in the living room.





I had brought with me several plumeria cuttings to gift Kostas and his friend Peter from Athens. Until the last moment before leaving Palermo, I had asked Kostas what varieties he wanted me to bring. Since I had no response, I brought my two registered plumerias, *Palermo Princess* and *Palermo Fahrenheit* as well as some typical Sicilian varieties. Offering my few poor cuttings in comparison to all those wonderful varieties around me, made me feel slightly embarrassed, but



Kostas immediately put me at ease by accepting my cuttings with great joy.

The next day Peter arrived, and he gifted me a wonderful plumeria lei from his plants in Pilos (Pylos). We immediately began to talk plumerias as old friends, and we didn't even realize that Kostas was shooting this picture. (Peter is on the left, and Joseph is on the right.)

The week in Paros just flew by like a dream. In the morning I would get up very early and, while my husband was still asleep, go exploring the plumerias, taking pictures and recording the names. At about half past ten we used to go to the sea for swimming, snorkeling, and fishing. Usually, we were back home at sunset. Kostas and Peter would come to visit us, and the three of us would launch endless discussions about our plants, until Joseph, feeling hungry, would recall us for dinner!

Now, let me talk about the amazing plumeria varieties I saw in Paros. In addition to those known throughout the world (most of the well-known registered American ones such as *Rimfire*, *Celadine*, *Madame Poni*, *Singapore White*, all the *Moragnes*, *Daisy Wilcox*, *Miami Rose*, *Plastic Pink*, etc. and many of the Thai ones such as *Elsie*, *Leela*, etc.), there are plenty of very rare cultivars that Kostas and Peter have brought back from their travels around the world. These were often tagged with the name

of the place where they have been found, like the purple *Ralley Beach* or the pale rose *Laguna Beach*.



I found the plumerias in Paros to be very healthy even if they are not in a tropical land. Although they are not constantly fertilized like mine, they bloom in abundance with very big flowers. Kostas claims that they

could use more water, but I don't think they show a lack of water. Obviously they may be a little bit stressed by the warmth of the summer midday Greek sun, but I don't think his plants are more

dehydrated than the ones in pots like mine, although I water them regularly. The trees are not very high, but rather they branch out a lot from the ground, forming very large and leafy shrubs, literally covered with flowers. I do not think the shrub-like shape is due to drought but rather because of the strong winds blowing in these zones (Meltemi is one of them.). In the two pictures to the left, you can see examples of plumeria shrubs, the beautiful *Andaman* hiding Kostas and Joseph and *Elsie*,



unable to hide Kostas and me!

Finally, let me tell you about the endless variety of seedlings I've seen. Kostas, with Peter's advice and aid, every year pots a selection of

seeds. On the second or third year after planting them, he chooses the most promising seedlings, and he puts them in the ground. Many of them are already beginning to bloom from the fourth year. These seedlings are sometimes named after a friend, like the beautiful *Nick Lazaridis*, but in many cases, they are just tagged with the general name of "unknown beauty" or with the name of the parent followed by "seedling." For their beauty and their uniqueness, I think they deserve a better fate. When I told Kostas about my pain for his unnamed seedlings, he shrugged and said, "but they are too many." At this point I immediately suggested a solution: "You must create a Greek Register for plumerias." He just laughed bitterly and said, "I think Greeks must afford bigger problems in this moment."



In fact, I had never seen so many seedpods in my life—not even in the large nurseries that I visited in the tropical areas. I don't know if it's a question of air quality or climate, but in this pristine and pollution-free little island, there is a pollination factor which works with great alacrity—each plant has dozens and dozens of seedpods. Some varieties are more prolific than others, but all have at least two or three seedpods. During my stay in Paros, many plants were beginning to develop seedpods. I was able to collect thousands of seeds from last year's production, both from the ground and from the dried and open seedpods still clinging to the branches. I gifted these seeds to my plumeria friends, provided that they give the flowers names with a Greek origin. I'm sure that these seeds will generate new and beautiful varieties because they come from an island that is truly a heaven on earth.

P.S. Also Joseph was very happy with his Paros holiday!



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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.

*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 — 2012**

- January 12 .....meeting
- March 13 .....meeting
- May 8 .....meeting
- June 9 ..... Show & Sale I (Seabrook/Clear Lake)
- July 10.....meeting
- open .....Show & Sale II (Katy/Merrell Center)
- 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.

**PSA Officers/Committee Members—2012**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
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**volunteer position available**

- |                          |                                 |
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## Advances in Hybridizing Evergreen Plumeria

by Steven Prowse, Australia  
Sacred Garden Frangipanis

While the most colorful plumeria flowers are those of plumeria rubra origins and while evergreen plumerias generally have white flowers only, the focus regarding plumeria collecting and breeding has and will be on the P.rubra types. However, due to the beautiful foliage, varied plant shapes, and sizes of the various evergreen species, a few plumeria breeders with remarkable results over the past few years have been

concentrating on introducing more colors into the evergreen plumerias. The following are a few examples of the most recent, tremendous breakthroughs in hybridizing evergreen plumeria.



**Sacred Garden Yellow tuberculata** (as yet unnamed). It is a small, compact upright-growing shrub (excellent form) with complete plumeria rust resistance. The pure yellow flowers are of large size 65 mm. Bred by Steven Prowse.

### **Pink San Germain**

Pink San Germain is almost identical to San Germain in every way except this amazing new hybrid has pure dark pink/hot pink flowers. It has the same incredible perfume. I regard this as the plumeria world's greatest breakthrough in breeding color into evergreen plumerias. A red-flowered San Germain is now possible due to this incredible development. Being a San Germain hybrid with its plumeria caracasana parentage, it is completely rust free. Bred by Dr. Kukiart Tanteeratarm.



### **Sacred Garden "Annie Prowse"**

This new cultivar is also a P.caracasana hybrid. This variety is very cold tolerant, tolerating frosts, has completely rust-resistant foliage, and is a compact growing shrub 2.5m x 2.5m. The flowers are huge, averaging 80mm with very strong, sweet perfume. Flowers are held in very large bunches. Bred by Steven Prowse and named in honor of his wife Annie.

### **Angel of Love**

Angel of Love is another recent P.caracasana hybrid. This cultivar has an apically dominant (upright) growth habit, 3.8m high x 2.5m wide. It has beautiful, very large flowers in huge bunches with a mild sweet perfume. The flower bunches hang downwards on long peduncles. It has a very high degree of rust resistance with beautiful foliage—a strikingly beautiful plumeria.



### **Singapore obtusa cv. "Red Dawn"**

There have been several new Singapore obtusa hybrids developed recently. Non that I am aware of are as exciting as obtusa "Red Dawn." It has beautiful, dark green, glossy foliage on a medium-sized tree which produces medium-sized flowers in big bunches. The unopened flowers are deep, bright red. When opened the flowers are orangey red and pink, with the pink fading out to creamy white. Not only is this classic Singapore obtusa the best-colored obtusa of its type that I am aware of, but it will surely be the precursor of many new colors of obtusas including pure red flowers.



In part 2 (next article), we will look at recent interspecific evergreen hybrids such as the P.pudica x P.obtusa hybrids, etc. Exciting times!