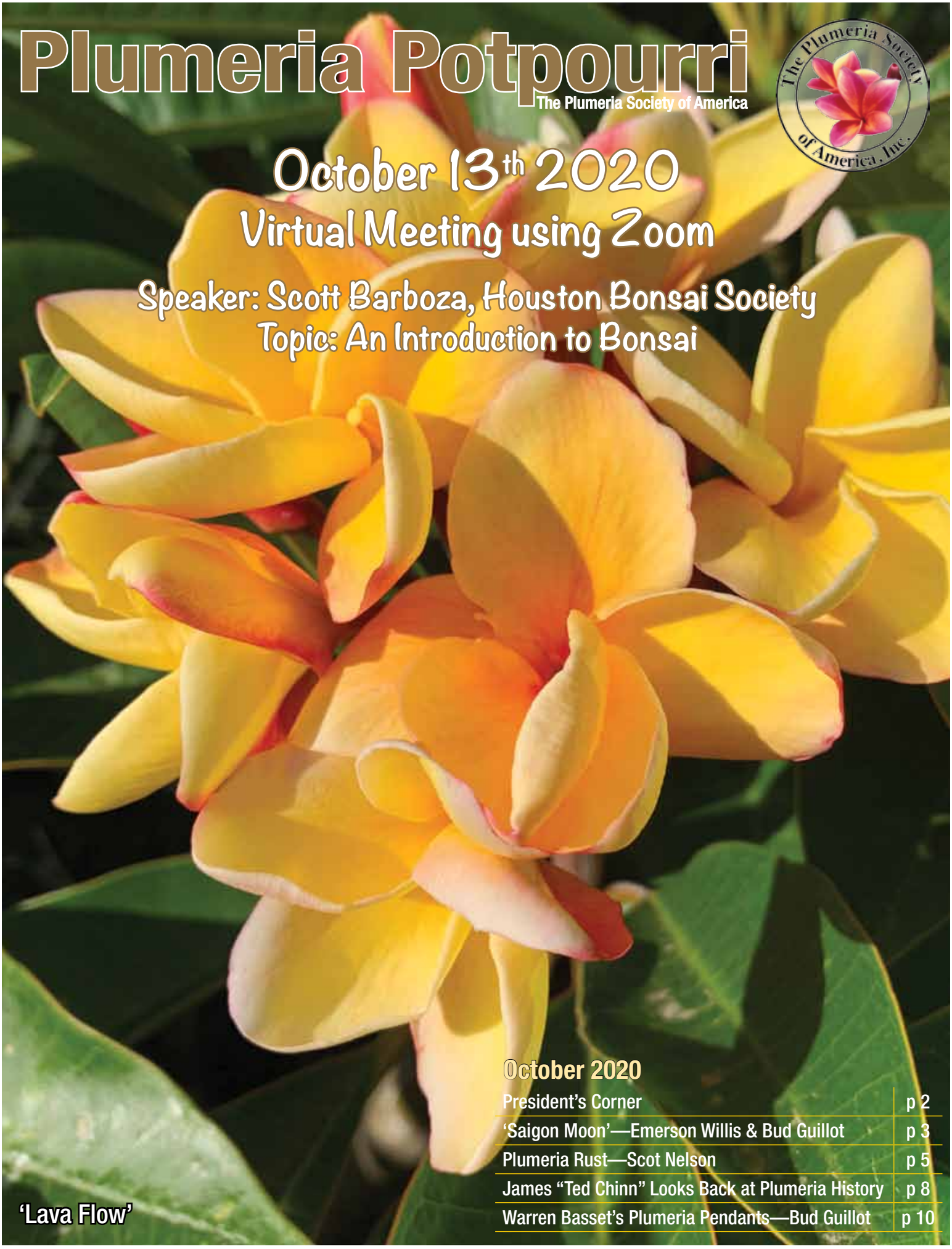
Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America

October 13th 2020
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Speaker: Scott Barboza, Houston Bonsai Society
Topic: An Introduction to Bonsai



'Lava Flow'

October 2020

President's Corner

by **Ray Allison** (RayAllison@GaryGreene.com)

Our plumeria seed giveaway and subsequent "Seedlings in September" membership promotion on Facebook have both worked better than any of us could have imagined. We have picked up new PSA Facebook page members and new paid PSA members.

The idea started by our giving plumeria seeds to new folks at our in-person meetings over the past years. With COVID this year and not having any in-person meetings or sales since March 2020, in August we moved our seed giveaway to our Facebook page. To date, we estimate about 11,000 plumeria seeds have been sent out, mostly from named seed pod varieties and some NOIDS, to perhaps about 400 different folks all over the country. All seeds were donated by members and friends of the PSA.

The seed giveaway also led the PSA Board to formulate a Facebook membership promotion—"Seedlings in September"—to generate some new paid PSA members.

It is very heart-warming to see people excited about growing plumeria seeds/seedlings. One new PSA member sent a very kind thank you note: "Our world may be struggling with discord and a pandemic" but the PSA through the seeds and seedlings "sends a kind and encouraging message. Here is a little bit of Hope, Peace and Love today."

The whole idea for both promotions was to create new plumeria enthusiasts and of course eventually new active members of the Society. We will very likely do these promotions again.

If you're on Instagram, join us at
https://instagram.com/p/BiuuQVwnZcF

The Plumeria Society of America

Social Media Guidelines and Information

(see the PSA Facebook Group Files section for the full document)

- Because the PSA is a non-profit organization, selling, trading, or offering for trade of any items is not allowed.
- Advertising, soliciting, self-promoting are not allowed (personal or for the business of others).
- Comments are to be kind and respectful.
- Posted photographs need to be labeled on the photo or in comments, even if a NOID.
- Ask permission before posting, copying, reusing, or sharing someone else's photo.
- When adding friends to the group, please let them know, so they can answer the required screening questions (to prevent spam).

Virtual Meeting - October 13th

Speaker: **Scott Barboza**
Houston Bonsai Society

Topic: **An Introduction to Bonsai**

- The Zoom waiting room will open at 7 pm on the meeting day; the speaker will start at about 7:30 pm.
- Like our PSA General Meetings, all are invited—we will give priority to our paid PSA members for questions to the speaker, etc.
- To update your contact information, email Sharon Wright at **slwmwwtogether@comcast.net**.

If you're on Facebook, join us at
https://www.facebook.com/groups/PlumeriaSocietyAmerica

Our page now has 4,045+ members from all over the world—a great place to ask a question or show off your blooms.

‘Saigon Moon’

by **Emerson Willis** & **Bud Guillot**

I think most plumeria nuts are curious as to where these beautiful plants came from, who named them, etc. I know I certainly am. Years ago a person on Don Herron’s Florida plumeria chat group asked me about the origin of the ‘Saigon Moon.’ I answered to Janet, “I know a little of the ‘Saigon Moon’s’ history, but the answer should come from Bud Guillot. I will say, it is not a Guillot seedling. Actually it found him—at his front door.” Here’s all of the story from Bud ...

Emerson’s little story of the origin of the ‘Saigon Moon’ is correct as usual ... BUT ... I will add a little more detail.

About 10 or 12 years ago, I drove by a home about three miles from mine. It had four plumeria plants growing in the front yard, and one of them caught my eye. The old “I can’t live without it” struck me. You, of

photos by Le Ann

course, know the feeling. My car just seems to automatically stop when I see an unusual plumeria growing in someone's yard. The blossom was a large creamy yellow with a good fragrance.

The original owner of the house had poured an extra wide cement driveway to his garage, and the current owner had taken a cement saw and cut two, 12 inch square holes in that cement slab and planted the creamy yellow plumeria in the cutout closest to the sidewalk and a 'Celadine' in the one closest to his garage.

The plant I was interested in was about 8 feet in diameter. Lower branches were laying on the cement, and the plant made a dome about 6 feet high with branches so thick you could hardly see the hole in the cement where it was planted. The branches were so thick a cat could not crawl through the plant.

I knocked on the door and a Vietnamese man came to the door. I explained to him that I lived nearby and had lots of nice plumerias growing in my yard and would like to trade for a cutting of his creamy yellow. He said OK when he had to trim it, but did not want to make cuttings now. I wrote out my name and address and gave it to him.

Not wanting to miss an opportunity for the trade, I went home and made several good cuttings of 'California Sally' and 'Guillot's Sunset' and took them to him within an hour.

I forgot about the half-way trade until about eight months later ... I told Vi I was going over and remind the man of the trade agreement. I went upstairs to get my keys, and the door bell rang. Vi answered the door and came upstairs and told me: "I think the man you were going to see about the plumerias is at the door." There he was with four cuttings. I planted one of the cuttings and sent one each to Emerson, Bruce Rankin, and Vickie Yates—all tagged with a description of the creamy yellow.

When my plant bloomed, it was exactly like the parent plant that was growing near my place. Soon afterwards, I received letters and photographs from the other three people saying: "I thought you said this plant was a creamy yellow." The shape of the blossoms in the picture was the same as mine, but the color was completely different than mine.

To be sure they came from the same tree, the next time I went to the man's home to trade for additional cuttings, he showed me the neat stack of cuttings in his back yard. Same thing happened again—each plant's bloom color was different, depending on where and how it is grown.

I told the owner of the parent plant that I would like to register the plant, and I wanted to name it 'Saigon Moon.' He agreed and was very pleased with the name.

I drove by his house last year. Now there is nothing growing in the front yard except grass. I knocked on the door and got no response. His car has not been parked in front of his house. I have not been able to catch any of the neighbors home to get information, so I assume he moved.

'Saigon Moon'

Plumeria Rust

by **Scot Nelson, Ph.D.**
Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
January 2009, reprinted with permission

Plumeria is a popular landscape plant and is important to Hawai'i's floriculture and nursery industries. It is widely grown on farms and in various public and private settings either as a specimen ornamental, for shade, or in plant groupings. In 2006, 15 plumeria farms in Hawai'i sold over 12 million flowers with total receipts of $372,000. The average annual sales value of plumeria flowers in the state over the past five years was about $505,000. These fragrant, beautiful flowers are used primarily in making lei.

In 1991, a leaf disease of plumeria became established on the island of O'ahu and rapidly spread throughout the state, affecting most plumeria trees. This now familiar fungal disease, plumeria rust, is known by its conspicuous, powdery, yellow-orange lesions on leaves. Most plumeria cultivars grown in Hawai'i are susceptible to the pathogen and have numerous powdery spore masses on the underside of leaves. Leaves can turn brown and fall from the plant as early as two months after the spring-time flush of new leaves is infected by the fungus.

The Host

Plumeria (common names frangipani, melia [Hawaiian], temple tree), are members of the Apocynaceae (dogbane family). They grow as small ornamental trees in parks and residential and commercial landscapes in Hawai'i. Plumeria cultivars also adorn roadways and public lands throughout the state and in certain plantations are cultivated for flowers to make lei and floral arrangements. Plumeria grows well in hot, dry areas and is common in Hawai'i up to about 2000 ft elevation. These popular plants bear their clusters of beautiful, fragrant flowers of various colors and sizes from May to November in Hawai'i.

The shade and fragrance of these plants make them ideal specimen trees in landscapes. Native to the West Indies, the two principal species grown in Hawai'i are *Plumeria obtusa* (Singapore plumeria) and *Plumeria rubra* (plumeria, temple tree). However, more than 100 cultivars and hybrids have been developed, and many of these are growing at UH-CTAHR research stations on the islands of O'ahu and Hawai'i. Some of the less common species appear to have some resistance to the rust pathogen (see Table 1).

The Pathogen

The plumeria rust pathogen is the fungus Coleosporium plumeriae Pat. In some locations worldwide, only uredinia are present on the undersides of leaves. The powdery, bright yellow or yellow-orange urediniospores are elliptical to sub-globose and echinulate. When telia are produced, they form later on diseased leaves. They are found among the uredinia on leaf undersides and are punctiform, erumpent, and smooth. They are not easily rubbed from leaves. Teliospores are smooth, oblong or club-shaped, orange-yellow, oily, and refractile. Basidiospores produced from teliospores are smooth-walled and ellipsoid. Spermagonial and aecial stages of this rust fungus are unknown.

Distribution of Plumeria Rust

Plumeria rust was first recorded on *Plumeria alba* on the West Indies island of Guadaloupe in 1902 and later spread to Central America. The rust was first reported on O'ahu in 1991, but where it came from and how it arrived is unknown. It has since been reported on plumeria on all of the main islands of Hawai'i.

More recently, plumeria rust was found in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan, India, and Africa. It has also been reported from the Caribbean Islands, Central

Table 1. Plumeria species or cultivars and their reaction to plumeria rust on the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i.*

Highly susceptible	Moderately susceptible	Moderately resistant	Highly resistant
All *Plumeria rubra* types	*Plumeria obtusa*	*P. obtusa* var. *sericifolia*	*Plumeria stenopetala*
P. obtusa–P. rubra hybrids		*Plumeria pudica*	*Plumeria caracasana*
		Plumeria alba	One accession from Puerto Rico (cultivar 'San Germain')
			CTAHR also has some unknown *Plumeria* species that are resistant, but these not yet available for release to general public.

*Information from Richard Criley (UH-CTAHR)

America, Mexico, northern South America, the United States, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Indonesia, Panama, Puerto Rico, and many island territories and nations in the Pacific, such as Micronesia, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

Disease Symptoms

The undersides of infected leaves show numerous tiny, raised, yellow-orange, powdery rust pustules (uredinia). The pustules may emerge sparsely on the upper surface of heavily diseased leaves. Spores are easily rubbed from the leaves. The pathogen does not infect stems or flowers.

Erumpent rust pustules on the underside of a leaf contain powdery masses of orange fungal spores.

Yellow spots are visible on the upper leaf surface, opposite to the infected sites on the lower surface. As lesions age, enlarge and coalesce, these yellow areas develop into sunken, angular, and grayish to brown spots. When leaves are severely diseased, they may dry, curl, become distorted, and fall. Premature defoliation can approach 100 percent.

Pathogen Infection and Survival

Most infections are caused by windborne urediniospores that stick to moist leaves under wet or humid conditions. Spores germinate on leaves, penetrate the surface, and grow as fungal hyphae that infect cells inside the leaf. Successful infections erupt back through the epidermis to create uredinial sori full of powdery spores that are dispersed to new infection sites on the same or other leaves. The pathogen survives on infected leaves and leaf debris. C. plumeriae adapts to changing environmental conditions by creating more distinct and fit progeny through sexual reproduction.

Host Reactions to Plumeria Rust in Hilo, Hawai'i (2008)

All of the approximately 100 plumeria cultivars and hybrids growing in the UH-CTAHR collection in Hilo, Hawai'i, were susceptible to infection in 2008 (S. C. Nelson, unpublished data). However, some

plumeria cultivars and hybids were highly susceptible and suffered faster leaf colonization and leaf abscission than a few of the less susceptible cultivars. For example, leaves of most cultivars in the collection showed rust lesions shortly after leaf emergence in early May, 2008. By July 26, highly susceptible cultivars such as 'Rainbow HAES 3-2' and 'Red Moragne' already showed significant leaf spotting, yellowing, necrosis, and defoliation. Less susceptible cultivars such as 'Moragne 18' and 'Kimo' had developed only minor leaf symptoms. By the end of August, however, all cultivars showed significant disease symptoms, including premature defoliation.

Leaves of diseased trees turn yellow before they turn brown, curl, and fall from the tree.

Integrated Management

Host selection. Plant resistant Plumeria species or hybrids.

Sanitation. Pick up fallen leaves and destroy them, or remove and destroy severely infected leaves from trees early in the season. The pathogen can survive on fallen leaves, which are a source of new infections.

Choice of planting location. Planting in drier, less humid areas may reduce infection and disease development.

Fungicide sprays. Use approved fungicides when necessary; follow label instructions and rotate between fungicide products with different modes of action to inhibit the development of fungicide resistance in populations (Table 2).

Table 2. Some fungicides registered in Hawai'i for management of plumeria rust.*

Product names	Active ingredient(s)	Formulation
Eagle 40WP	mycobutanil (40%)	wettable powder
Eagle 20EW	mycobutanil (19.7%)	emulsion in water
Heritage	azoxystrobin (50%)	water dispersible granule

*Table 2 contains examples of product names and active ingredients and/or formulations. Application of a product in greenhouses, shade-houses, outdoor nurseries, etc., must be consistent with label directions. Data are from the Hawaii Pesticide Information Retrieval System (HPIRS). Before using a fungicide on a large scale, conduct a small test to see if there is any damage to the plants.

Biological control. There are a number of reported fungal hyperparasites plumeria as well as an insect predator (a midge). Although these agents are not likely to eradicate the disease, they can reduce it. However, sprays of fungicides or insecticides on plumeria foliage may interrupt the life cycles of these biological control agents.

Weed control. To reduce relative humidity and increase air flow in the plumeria canopy, prevent tall weeds from growing near plumeria trees.

Plant spacing and intercropping. Avoid over-crowding of plumeria plants. Wider spacing will enhance aeration in the canopy and the drying of leaf surfaces after rainfall. Intercrop plumeria with non-hosts. Avoid extensive monocropping of susceptible Plumeria species or hybrids.

James "Ted" Chinn Looks Back at Plumeria History

I started my academic career at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa on Oahu. After receiving my Bachelor of Science, I went to the University of California, Davis for my Master's degree in plant genetics. While at UC Davis, I worked in agronomy, studying grains and grasses, developing new strains of alfalfa in particular.

Graduate work led me back to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where I helped develop new strains of tomato which were wilt resistant. I was hired as a junior horticulturist in the horticulture department.

At this time Donald Angus, a philanthropist, wanted to fund plumeria-related projects. In 1964 the first project started was surveying and cataloging Hawaiian varieties found on Oahu. Professors I worked with were Dr. Richard Criley, Dr. Donald Watson, and Dr. Horace Clay.

"Thanks to the PSA for acknowledging Ted as a major contributor in the history of plumeria."

—Jim Little

Thirty-five varieties of plumeria were tabulated and included in CTAHR Research Bulletin 158, Plumeria Cultivars in Hawai'i, by James T. Chinn and Richard A. Criley (1982). This document is out of print now. However, Research Bulletin 158 was updated and included in a 2005 publication by Dr. Richard Criley called Plumeria in Hawai'i. This document can be found on the Internet ...

http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/OF-31.pdf

During this time, a plumeria growing field was started at Waimanalo for research. One project was to develop new varieties which would produce flowers suitable for lei making. It was decided to open pollinate 'Samoan Fluff' and 'Gold' aka 'Peterson's Yellow.'

'Samoan Fluff' is a large white flower with a yellow center. The flower petals overlap, and the flower has good-keeping qualities. 'Gold' is a smaller flower, but bright yellow with excellent texture. A pod on 'Samoan Fluff' produced 40 seeds. These seeds were planted and the ensuing flowers evaluated. Two new varieties were selected as excellent lei flowers: 'Elena' (named for my mother) and 'Kimo' (named for my father ... Kimo means James in Hawaiian).

'Samoan Fluff'

'Gold'
aka 'Peterson's Yellow'

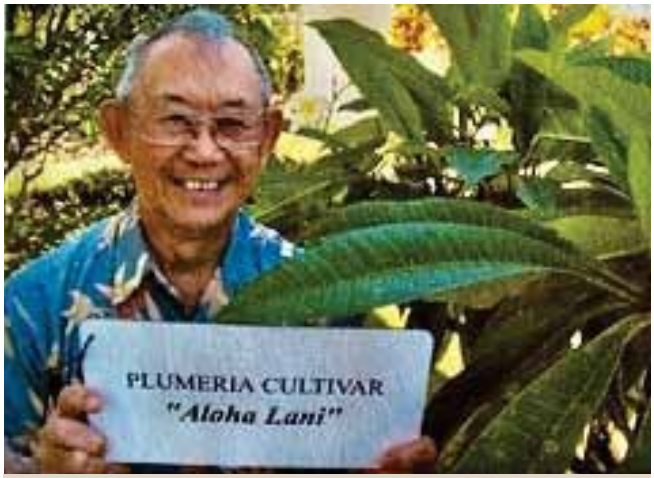
In 1969 I left the University of Hawai'i at Manoa to pursue private sector landscaping businesses. In my later years, I became a blind vendor and managed contracts at several federal and military food service facilities, the most recent being Schofield Barracks.

In my spare time, I started a plumeria breeding program at my home. I decided to cross 'Kimo' and 'Elena.' I cross-pollinated these two flowers both

ways—each was a recipient of pollen from the other. A pod developed on 'Elena' out of which came 30 seeds. I planted them out and evaluated those that bloomed. In genetic terminology, the progeny of the cross were F1 hybrids.


'Kimo'

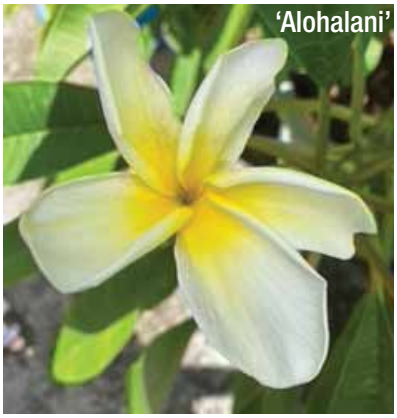

'Elena'

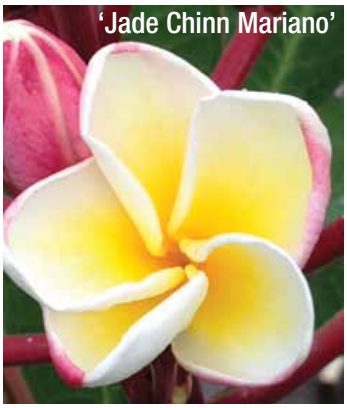


Ted Chinn with 'Alohalani'

Two outstanding flowers for lei-making were produced, both being white flowers. I named one of the flowers 'Alohalani' for my wife; it is a 3 inch cream-colored flower. The other flower I named for my daughter, 'Jade Chinn Mariano.' It is a 2.5 inch shell flower.

All of these flowers—'Elena,' 'Kimo,' 'Alohalani,' and 'Jade Chinn Mariano'—have been registered with the PSA.


'Alohalani'


'Jade Chinn Mariano'

Ted Chinn in the center with Jim Little on the left and Dr. Richard Criley on the right

Warren Basset's Plumeria Pendants

by **Bud Guillot, Southern California**

In the early days (before year 2000) of forming the South Coast Plumeria Society, Warren Basset was visiting me. The plumeria blossoms were beautiful and in full bloom. We were both picking blossoms and expounding on their beauty and how unique each individual blossom projected itself. Warren was holding and admiring a large, beautiful 'Guillot's Sunset' blossom. Warren said, "I could make you a nice silver pendant in that shape to wear around your neck." I had not known that Warren was a very skilled and artistic jeweler. My reply was a hasty, "Yes! Yes, it would be great."

Warren came back in about a week with a wax carving of a full size plumeria blossom. It was gorgeous. Warren made a few minor changes to his wax carving on the spot and said it was ready for the mold. About a week later, Warren delivered to me a beautiful silver plumeria pendant, and I still have it and still treasure it.

Being a good friend of Warren and giving Warren lots of free advertising, orders started coming in, but the new orders were for gold pendants.

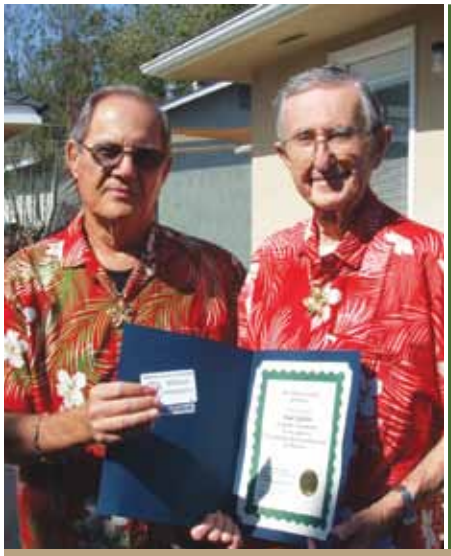
Three of the gold plumeria pendants left California: #3 owned by Emerson Willis in Texas, #8 owned by Laura Jones in Virginia Beach, and the #5 gold pendant was purchased by Jim Little in Hawai'i for his loving wife, Doric.

Gold pendant #1 was Warren Basset's, but he states that he melted #1 down and used the gold for another piece of jewelry. Gold pendant #2 belonged to Henry Dupree, one of the founders of the Southern California Plumeria Society in San Diego. The current location of gold plumeria pendant #2 is unknown. The #4 gold plumeria pendant is around my neck, and yes, my silver plumeria is in a safe place. Gold plumeria pendant #6 belongs to the all-time friend of plumerias and plumeria expert, Dwaine Callahan. Dwaine's gold plumeria pendant has his birth stone mounted in the center.

Warren tells me he made one other gold plumeria pendant for a non-plumeria grower. He said it was someone he did not know and has no record of his name. I assume that was #7.

Clockwise, pendants owned by
Laura Jones
Dewaine Callahan
Emerson Willis

Left to right, pendants owned by Emerson Willis and Bud Guillot



The first pendant—in silver

Emerson Willis and Bud Guillot wearing their gold plumeria pendants

http://www.thePlumeriasociety.org

Our new website is easier to navigate and to find information about plumeria care, cultivar registration, society news, events, and much more! Since the website is new, please check for updates and to see added features such as the flower identification database and a members only newsletter archive! Below is the current MEMBERS ONLY login and password information that will be needed to access the website's newsletter archive.

Log in: **psamember** Password: **Scottpratt93**

Twitter feed: **@Plumeriasociety**

JOIN US ON facebook

Joining the PSA ...

www.theplumeriasociety.org

Click on "Join the PSA" tab at the top of the home page.
To join by mail, select PDF.
To join online, select Online Form (Paypal).

When joining by mail, send a check to:
The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 22791
Houston TX 77227-2791, USA

Dues are $35 per year

When does your PSA membership expire?

Your newsletter envelope mailing label has your membership expiration date.

2020 PSA Calendar

January 14 .....meeting
March 10 .....meeting
~~May 12 .....meeting~~
~~June 13 Bay Area Community Center Seabrook/ Clear Lake.....Show & Sale I~~
July 21.....virtual meeting
~~July 25 Harris County Activity Center/ Pasadena.....Show & Sale 2~~
October 13.....virtual meeting

- Meetings are held at Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas.
- Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. You're welcome to come 30–45 minutes before the meeting for snacks and chat.
- We have a raffle, guest speakers, and more.
- Non-members are always welcome!
- Join us to learn about plumeria care and collecting.
- Bring plants, cuttings, etc. for door prizes! These can be anything, not just plumerias.

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.

2020 PSA Officers and Directors

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