

Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America



October 12th 2021
In-Person and Virtual Meeting using Zoom
Social

October 2021

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'Rainbow 36'

President's Corner

by Ray Allison (RayAllison@GaryGreene.com)

Our meeting held at Cheri Flores on October 12th is a social, both in person and via Zoom. The PSA will supply the main food choices, and we ask that our wonderful cooks fill in the rest of the meal.

The slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for the 2022–2023 term will be announced. Each candidate will have the opportunity to address the group and campaign a little. Per the By-Laws, those PSA members of record on 10.31.2021 are eligible to vote. The winners will be announced at the January 2022 meeting.

Many on the current PSA Board members are term limited, so you will see a lot of new faces and personalities and a few from different regions of the country as we increase the PSA's footprint. The nominations are open to all PSA members. If you have interest in running for a position, please contact our Nominating Committee headed by past president Mark Wright.

Plumeria enthusiasts are at the end of another glorious bloom season. Both the June and July PSA Bloom Shows and Sales in Clear Lake enjoyed excellent turnouts and wonderful overall sales. We look forward to seeing everyone next year in Clear Lake for the June and July sales.

Certainly one of the worst but ultimately one of best things about 2021 was the horrible freeze that hit Texas and many southern states of the U.S. and affected so many in our extended plumeria family. We continue to thank all that made donations from our very large plumeria family, those who have given seedlings, cuttings, seeds, etc., to "Rebuilding Texas Plumeria Gardens" and for other U.S. locales. We have gifted perhaps 2,000 cuttings, plants, etc. during this program this year. If anyone wishes to donate or receive donations, please go to The Plumeria Society of America's Facebook page and send a Facebook message to the PSA for additional instructions.

Plumeria Word Search Game

Look in the list below and then find in the diagram, the species, cultivar names, and names of persons associated with plumeria. Words can run horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and letters can appear in order or reversed. One name is not in the list ... hidden clue: Who originally named the plumeria?

Thank you to Dr. Richard Criley for the puzzle game!

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DONALD ANGUS																		
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SAN GERMAIN																		

My Plumeria Journey

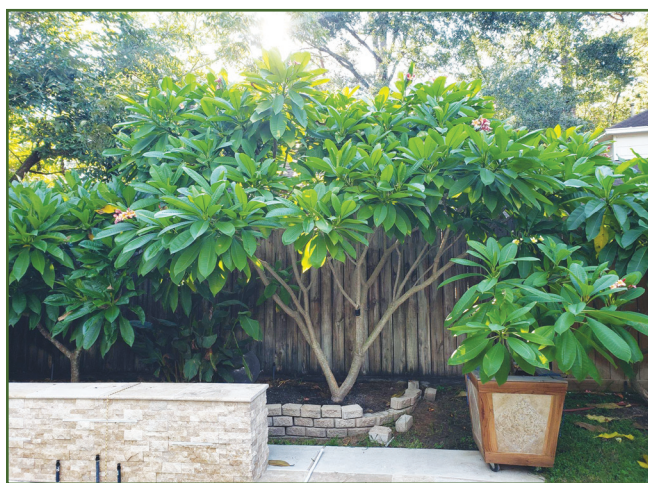
by John T. Burford, Texas

When and how did you come across your first plumeria?

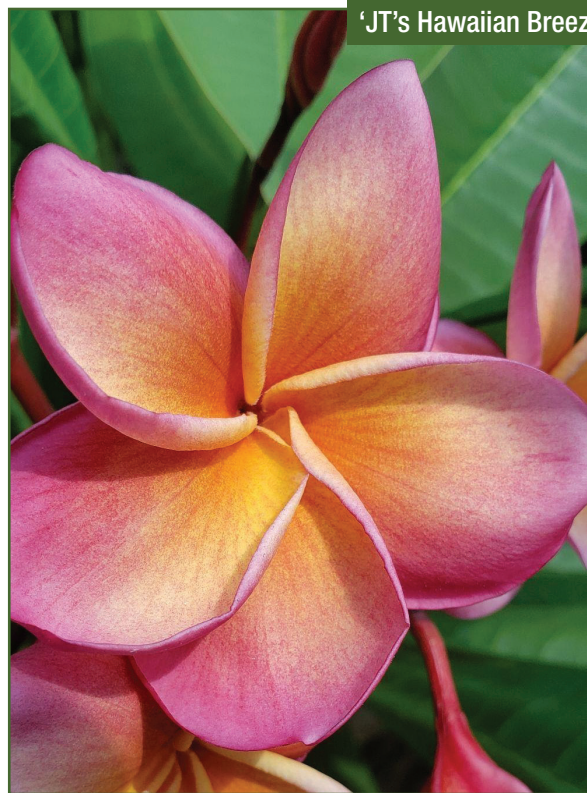
On our first trip to Hawaii in 2009, I simply fell head over heels in love with them—the variety of different colors and differently shaped blooms as well as the variety of different fragrances.

What variety was your first plumeria?

A neighbor gave me what I have since self-named ‘JT’s Hawaiian Breeze.’ It was just a small “V” trunk rooted cutting about two feet tall that 10 years later is over 13 feet tall and almost as wide.



‘JT’s Hawaiian Breeze’



Do you have a favorite plumeria?

I have to go back to ‘JT’s Hawaiian Breeze.’ She has been and always will be the Plumeria Love of my Life! I have shared her cuttings and half of her main trunk after a storm split her in early 2020. She gets posted on various Facebook pages, and that really touches my heart to see others enjoying her. She was and still is a prolific bloomer. I currently have 15 cuttings from her that I am keeping.

Approximately how many plumerias do you have now?

Currently I have just a touch over 200. They range from older mature mother trees to current rooted seedlings.

What soil mix do you use?

I buy just a generic planting mix which I combine with perlite in a 60/40 ratio. I have found the general bagged mix has enough of a mixture of organic matter and “by products” that keeps the soil well draining and does not promote compaction while increasing root growth.



What fertilizer(s) do you use?

I use a custom 50/50 blend of two simple products: 1) 13-13-13 which is just a general all around fertilizer and 2) Hi-Yield Triple Super Phosphate. The Hi-Yield TSP is a non-accumulating phosphate which is vital to long-term soil and plant health. Accumulating phosphates will poison your soil and kill all plants within the area. 13-13-13 gives all of your garden the general nutrients needed.

What's your preferred rooting method?

I gang root as often as possible due to two main factors:

1. I can control moisture better with a few 35 gallon gang rooting pots under our pergola.
2. I have a limited amount of space to root 20 to 30 cuttings a year. The gang rooting method allows me to do this in a small area.

Do you protect them during the colder months of the year?

I build greenhouses in the yard and run 60K BTU of natural gas heaters. During the freeze of 2021, I managed to only lose two branches, two feet each.



Do you need to protect them from too much heat/sun during the summer?

This depends—if your plants have been exposed to direct sunlight from late spring when you pulled them from dormancy, then, no. Now if you have newly rooted cuttings or seedlings that have only been housed under a shade cloth, then, yes. Leave them under the protective cover until we get past the July/August blistering heat. It is far more important to increase your watering during this period and keep all of your plants, not just our beloved plumerias, hydrated.

Do you grow seedlings?

Yes, rooting seedlings is one of my favorite projects in dealing with plumerias. To paraphrase Forrest Gump, "Seedlings are like a box of chocolates. You

never know what you're going to get!" I love looking at seedlings, taking notes of early development, stalk and leaf edge coloration. I will experiment with them by cutting them back at 6 to 8 weeks old, forcing them to branch before they are 8" tall. These various experiments can give a grower insight to manipulating plant growth.

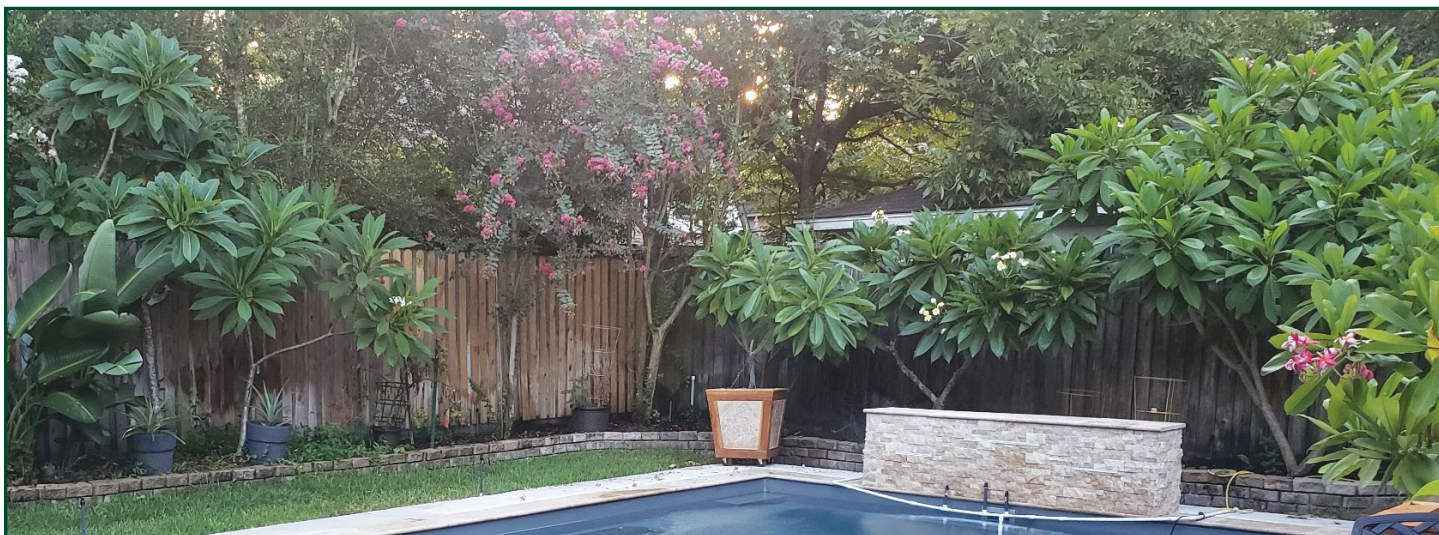


Do you graft? If so, what type of graft and rootstock do you prefer?

I have not really attempted grafting in a serious way. I have discussed the topic of grafting with another member for an upcoming meeting so the knowledge base can be shared.

Any tips you'd like to share on growing or grafting?

On grafting, no. On growing, yes. Do not be afraid to experiment. Take a couple seedlings at one-year old and feed them only a high phosphate fertilizer like I do above. The faster you can get a plumeria to push an inflo, the quicker you can start shaping her for different growth patterns. Cut some branches back on a yearly or semi-yearly basis. It may come at a



sacrifice of blooms for one growing season, however, when you have a four-year old blooming bush-shaped plumeria, as opposed to a six foot tall stick, you will be much happier in the end

Any story about plumerias you would like to share?

I have two stories—one involves Bud Guillot and Mike Kennedy, and the second story involves Balboa Park and the Southern California Plumeria Society. It was late spring of I guess 2016. I had heard of Bud Guillot but had no idea how influential Bud is and has been in our world. I had a few questions and found Bud's phone number and called him. I introduced myself and simply asked if I could stop by Saturday. Bud graciously accepted, and we set a time for roughly 10 am local. I hung up with Bud and called Mike Kennedy and said "Mike, do you know who this guy Bud Guillot is?" Mike chuckled and said yeah, why?" I replied, "I am flying to California tomorrow to meet him and wanted to know if he is important." Well our call lasted an hour or two, and I became educated on Bud Guillot.

Bud was as gracious of a host as one could ask for—he showed us all around his home and the incredible plumerias he has. When we were leaving Bud asked me, "John, are you a member of the PSA?" I honestly said, "No sir I am not." He replied, "Too bad, I would have given you one of those cuttings over there if you were." Now I am running for President of the PSA.

Fast forward to Labor Day 2019, and the wife and I were checking off bucket list items. One of items was to visit every major horse racing track in North America. We were in San Diego for the closing weekend of the Del Mar summer meet, and were watching the local news. They did a feature on the Hawaiian Festival in Balboa Park put on by the Southern California Plumeria Society. I looked over at Sheryl and she just shook her head. We hiked almost five miles to see and meet fellow growers at the show. I met Mike Atkinson along with a few other SCPS members, and saw and learned about beloved rainbow-grafted plumerias. What an incredible idea for passionate plumeria growers with limited space!



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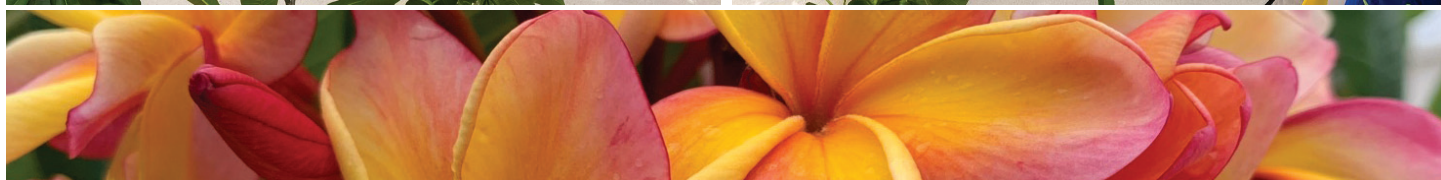


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Contact: jimlittleplumeriahawaii@gmail.com
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PSA Plumeria Sale—July 24th





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Huntington Beach Once More

by Emerson Willis, Texas

A few months ago Nan and I did something we don't do often. We bought her a new automobile. This was a difficult purchase for her because she loved her old car very, very much. It was just exhausting having the Smithsonian contacting us over and over again

OK, so here we are sporting a brand new toy—the Texas Gulf Coast sun blazing through 95% humidity with highs in the upper 90's and the lows not very. Let me see, where could we drive where the highs are in the 70's, lows in the 60's AND huge frangipanis are blooming their hearts out for all to see (and smell). Driving to Hawaii was out, and we promised ourselves in the 60s we would never drive in Mexico again. This narrowed our choices down to “Look out Bud, a big Lincoln is heading your way!”

We have been visiting Bud for 27 years but not very many of those visits have been in the blooming season, so it is a nice treat to once again see the colors.

We arrived just in time for the South Coast Plumeria Society's yard tour. With Phil Kinoshita's help, Bud's yard was sparkling indeed. It also was so nice to see our newsletter's hard working and under appreciated editor Irene Jones and her hubby Dale.

I am going to try to describe Bud's front yard arrangement. The largest tree is 'California Sally.' Next is the much older, but a little smaller, the original 1950 'Guillot's Sunset.' To the right from the street side is a 'Jeannie Moragne.' On the driveway side is 'Saigon Moon,' 'San Miguel,' and 'Sparky.'



I can't begin to describe the backyard, so I will give you a hint. Stepping through the patio door you see a mass of blossoming cultivars well over head high. In the center of all this beauty rising almost to the power



'Saigon Moon'



'California Sally'



'Jeannie Moragne'

lines is a green dome of a tree adorned with uncountable large yellow flowers. This beautiful tree was the first cutting from my little tree which was taken from Elizabeth Thornton's original seedling named 'Lemon Drop.' It is meaningless to everyone

Moragne,' 'Ralph's 'Rainbow,' 'J-105,' 'Queen Kapiolani,' and a strange growing 'Miami Rose.' There are many more cultivars, and surely I will think of several as soon as I send this bit to Irene.

The difficult part of our trip came saying goodbye to our good friend Bud. How grateful I am to those two California ladies, whose names escaped me many years ago, for giving me a number and saying, "You just have to talk to this old man in Huntington Beach because he knows all about plumerias." That old man was then eleven years younger than I am today. That phone number and that "old man" opened for me many new chapters in my hobby and in my life.



but me, of course, but I like to think of it as the first one on the West Coast. The year was 1994 when Nancy and I made our first motor home trip to meet the soon to become legendary Bud Guillot.

I cannot possibly remember all of the trees in Bud's backyard but for fun I will give it a go: 'Viola G,' 'Sgt. Guillot,' 'Mr. Ambassador,' 'Sally Moragne,' 'My Valentine,' 'Dean Conklin,' 'Hanalei,' 'Makaha Sunn,' 'Moragne #23,' 'Show Off,' 'Teufel,' 'Toba's Fire,' 'Gena,' 'Charlotte Ebert,' 'Penang Peach,' 'Luc's Magnum Opus,' 'Nancy,' 'Tropicana,' 'Titanic,' 'Katie



'Lemon Drop'



'Makaha Sunn'



'Mr. Ambassador'

How My Plumeria Survived the Snow Storm of 2021

by Karen Abrams, Texas

First of all, one word describes this—
Catastrophic!

No part of Texas was spared from the massive freeze that engulfed our state. Entire collections were wiped out. As an administrator of both the PSA and Texas Plumeria groups, we started warning Texas and surrounding states 10 days out. Sadly for many this went on deaf ears till it was too late. Lots of folks were touting the 100% of protection of wrapping in Christmas lights. We all knew that would not work, and we all know how this ended. A friend that is a local meteorologist had called and told me that potentially a catastrophic mess was headed our way. No truer words were ever spoken.

My Greenhouses

In Fort Worth we sustained -4° temps for four days with a windchill of -30° for 5 days. I had two greenhouses full of plumeria and other tropical plants. I've been through similar conditions many times, but this would prove to be vastly different. Two times in my life I have lost contents of a greenhouse due to power loss. Due to the enormity of power needed during this storm (gas and electric), demands on the Texas' power grid failed, plunging homes and businesses across the state into subzero conditions. I was so fortunate to have FWFD Engine 18 as a neighbor, because we share the same protected power grid. Even if you had power like I did, the heaters can trip your breakers during these conditions. I made the decision to turn down the thermostat of the electric heaters and rely on gas. The greenhouses stayed in the 40's!

Planning: I set up the greenhouses with additional electric heaters and non-electric propane heaters, all the while crossing my fingers the power would hold. If we did lose power, at least the propane would hold the greenhouses. As much as possible, I moved all plant material as far away from

edges and ends of the greenhouses. Frantically, I went out buying every propane tank that I could get my hands on. These tanks held to the last day, but one more day of subzero temperatures would have wiped me out. The main greenhouse has roughly 200 mature trees inside.

Storage: For the past few years, I have been using a bare root storage method. I condense 200 bare root masses into two 4' x 6' boxes. The roots are covered in coarse perlite and nutrients. Heat loss from the bottom of the boxes is blocked with thick sheets of insulation and styrofoam.



My totally new system of winter housing was put to the test with the snow storm. One big question that kept me up at night during all of the freezing weather was about the ground

temperatures. How much would the insulation and styrofoam below the boxes protect the plant roots from the cold coming up from below? With freeze damage it is not always immediate to tell in a greenhouse. Weeks later freeze damage can start showing up.

Watering: I watered the plants in each greenhouse a week before the big freeze, and made peace with whatever the outcome—it was truly out of my hands.

While this was happening, I called Ray and proposed a crazy idea of “Rebuilding Texas Plumeria Gardens” via social media. The outpouring from across the U.S. and world was incredible. The need is still great for your basic plumeria. A tremendous thank you to all that donated cuttings, seeds, money, and time in this effort. The stories shared while collecting info from people brought tears many times. One member of the PSA had lost her home and collection to a tornado a few years earlier ... and now the snow storm of 2021 wiped out her collection again.

I’m happy to report that I only lost three trees ... the insulation and styrofoam protected the roots and the air temperature in the 40’s was enough for them to survive. The plants came out of winter storage with white, fluffy roots and started to push inflos in early February. October has seen another round of bloom spikes.



If you're on Facebook, join us at
**[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
PlumeriaSocietyAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PlumeriaSocietyAmerica)**

Our Facebook page now has 4,620+ members from all over the world—a great place to ask a question or show off your blooms.

<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**

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The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

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Dues are \$35 per year

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.

When does your PSA membership expire?

Your newsletter envelope mailing label has your membership expiration date.

2021 PSA Calendar

February 9 ZOOM meeting only
March 9 ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting
May 11 ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting
June 12 Show & Sale I—Clear Lake
July 13 ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting
July 24 Show & Sale 2—Clear Lake
October 12 ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting

- Meetings are held at Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas.
- Meetings begin at 6:00 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.

2021 PSA Officers and Directors

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