

Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America



July 13th 2021

In-Person and Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Speaker: Donald R. Hodel

Topic: The Species of Plumeria

July 2021

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'Edi Moragne'

President's Corner

by Ray Allison (RayAllison@GaryGreene.com)

Our next meeting on July 13th will be in-person at Cheri Flores Garden Pavilion and via Zoom. Our speaker, Donald R. Hodel, will be in California and speaking to us all via Zoom.

Plumeria enthusiasts are in the middle of another glorious bloom season which is bitter sweet after so many losses due to the historic Arctic freeze many experienced in February.

The June PSA Bloom Show and Sale in Clear Lake enjoyed an excellent turnout, and we look forward to seeing everyone back indoors for the July sale. Yes, we will have air conditioning for the July sale! See our PSA Facebook page for more details on the second sale.

We surprised many attendees at the June sale with gifted cuttings and plants in addition to the wonderful selection for sale from our growers. We will have some plants and cuttings to gift at the second sale in July as we have donations. All donations are thanks to our very large plumeria family who supplied us with seedlings, cuttings, seeds, etc. to "Rebuild Texas Plumeria Gardens" and for other U.S. locales.

We have gifted perhaps 2,000 cuttings, plants, etc. during this program. 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.

PSA Sale Photos—June 12th



My Plumeria Journey

by German Collazos, Texas

When and how did you come across your first plumeria?

My plumeria obsession began about 20 years ago when a good friend gave me a cutting. We had been running together at Huntsville State Park that day. When we returned to his house to drop him off, I saw a lot of sticks in his garage. He explained that they were cuttings of plumeria and offered me one. When he said that he would root it for me, I told him that I would take it and root it, thinking that I might not get the plant later.

I planted the cutting in my backyard with hopes that it would grow into something beautiful. I had an Airedale Terrier puppy at the time, and shortly after I planted the cutting, I saw the dog running around with the cutting in its mouth! I kept replanting the cutting, and the dog kept digging it up. The cutting somehow managed to root and grew into a beautiful 'Lemon Chiffon.'

Approximately how many plumerias do you have now?

Right now I have about 150 plumerias, all growing in my yard in Jersey Village, Texas.

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

I do graft. I make a wedge on the plumeria to be grafted and cut the rooting stock so that the wedge will fit tight. I then tape the graft tightly. For rootstock, I use seedlings that have well-developed roots.



Do you have a favorite plumeria?

Some of my favorite plumerias are 'Lemon Drop,' 'Raspberry Sundae,' 'Penang Peach,' and 'German's Pink.'

Any you have registered with the PSA?

I have registered several plumerias, including 'German's Pink,' 'Danny Pie,' and 'Sara Pie.'



What fertilizer do you use?

The only fertilizer I use is Epsom salt. I sprinkle the Epsom salt on top of the soil in the pot and water it in.

What soil mix do you use?

For soil, I mix half rose soil and half perlite.

What's your preferred rooting method?

To root cuttings, I use a one-gallon pot for each cutting. I water once when the cutting is planted and again when leaves form.

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

Living in Texas near Houston, it is necessary to protect the plumerias during the winter. Each year I begin defoliating in October and begin moving plants into the garage in early November. My goal is to have all of the plants in the garage by Thanksgiving.

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

For normal summers I do not need to protect the plumerias from too much sun. During severe summers, when the temperature is over 100° F. for



'Danny Pie'

several weeks, I will move the plumerias to a spot where they receive some afternoon shade.

Do you grow seedlings?

I do grow seedlings, but I've learned to use restraint and to control the number of seeds that I plant.



'Sarah Pie'

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join us at*
<https://instagram.com/p/BiuuQVwnZcF>

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Southwest Fertilizer is celebrating
64 years of operation. PSA members receive a
10% discount on fertilizers, soils, and tools.
Each year in February there is a plant society
appreciation week—members get a 15% discount.



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Happy Recipients of PSA Giveaway







My Plumeria Journey

by Mary Jane Fortney, Texas



Hi, my name is Mary Jane Fortney, I am addicted to plumeria!

My story begins almost 40 years ago when my husband, Bryon, and I moved to Houston. We bought a brand new home that

needed to be landscaped in a zone that we were not used to gardening in—zone 9 versus zone 6.

Needless to say, I spent a good deal of time at the local library (way before the Internet was in existence) and read every gardening book, magazine, etc. that I could get. One of the first books I read about gardening on the Texas Gulf Coast was the *Houston Garden Book*. The plumeria section made me stop dead in my tracks. Oh, the inspiring garden photos! I read that the plumeria fragrance was very distinctive, and every color had a different and always pleasing aroma. A mature plumeria will produce a continuous show of color in Houston gardens and patios from May through October. I read locating plumeria in Houston nurseries (back then...) was not easy, but finding plumeria lovers was! Their devotion to this eye-appealing, spectacular tropical was contagious!

My gardening buddy, a transplant from California, and I attended our first PSA plumeria sale in Clear Lake, just south of Houston. We were like kids in a candy store with the selection of plumeria for sale under one roof. One of my first plumeria purchased that day was an unnamed seedling purchased from Milton Pierson. It was a beautiful rainbow plumeria that I still have today. That sale was the first of many PSA plumeria sales I have attended over the past years since the early 1980's.

I have made so many friends with the common thread of the love of plumeria. I have been to Nancy and Emerson Willis' plumeria heaven (aka Nan and

the Plumeria Man), to come home with a SUV filled with plumeria and tomatoes! I learned from them, tomatoes make a great under story plant growing with plumeria—especially under their gorgeous, huge Elizabeth Thornton's 'Lemon Drop' tree in their front yard. They suggested I join the PSA many moons ago, and so glad I did! I attended events at Eulas and Lake Stafford's property, seeing the magnificent plumeria collection they had. And the plumeria tree they had with multiple tips grafted with countless varieties. And to admire the beautiful plumeria Eulas donated in Lake's honor to the Extension office of Galveston County.

I have been to Hawaii, Belize, and Costa Rica, admiring how huge blooming plumeria trees can get,



planted in ground with tropical weather. Their beauty left me wanting more. Also a couple of vacations in southern California, found me bringing home a few of Jungle Jack's 'California Sunset' for souvenirs.

Yes, my collection has grown to over a hundred potted plumeria, all in pots not larger than ten gallons. They are all around our tropical pebble lagoon pool with double moss rock waterfalls. Because of our location near the coast and with the pool, we have created a microclimate that helps us

push the limits in growing many a variety of tropicals.

My favorite plumeria right now (which seems to change from time to time) is 'Ammaron's Curly White' aka ACW. It has long, thin, twisting 4" or larger, curled white petals forming nice-sized clusters. The white flowers with a touch of yellow are sweetly scented ribbons hanging down. ACW was named by a past PSA president, Rick Stone, after his son.

My favorite fertilizer is Excalibur Plumeria Fertilizer® from Florida Colors. I am currently using the 9-month, slow release, 11-11-13 NPK with enhanced micronutrients. It is a supreme quality fertilizer designed for plumeria. Since the majority of my plumeria collection is in 10-gallon black nursery pots, we apply 8 tablespoons to each in early April. If the trees are not to be repotted that year, we top the fertilizer with an inch or so of soil along with an inch of fresh bark mulch. One advantage of using this slow-release fertilizer is that this is done only once a year—at the beginning of the growing season. I have had excellent results with Excalibur!

Since we live on the Texas Gulf Coast, we make sure we use fertile, well-draining cactus mix amended with perlite. Last summer during the pandemic, Bryon and I re-potted every single plumeria we had! We had a daily standing date where we would evaluate and re-pot at least five plumeria. Using his engineering talents, he developed a PVC pipe stake to guide any leaning trees. The PVC vertical support is painted to blend in with the foliage and when not needed, it can be pulled out and reused. When repotting, the root



section is removed from the base and also can be reused. Bryon will be upgrading the PVC tree



support as he has found a five-point connector which will give even more stability.

Also, last summer when repotting, we made cuttings along the way to be shared with friends to



Cuttings for sharing we made during the pandemic

spread the plumeria love. Propagation by cuttings taken May through July is my most successful method. Cuttings produce plants true to the parent plant in color and in leaf form.

Since plumeria are sensitive to our winters, we take them into our garage just prior to Thanksgiving. A few days prior to moving them into the garage, we trim all the leaves off, leaving a half inch or so of the leaf stem. That way we are not leaving a leaf scar on

the plumeria stem that could leave the plumeria open to infection. We then place the pots on a carpeted section, keeping them on the dry side until spring.

This year, with an extreme cold snap in February, we had to take extra precautionary measures. Since the temperatures went so low into the teens, my husband moved all the plumeria into the house. Then we lost power, so we lit our double-sided gas fireplace to provide at least some warmth to the plumeria. It worked, and because of these extra efforts, we didn't lose a single one!

Starting March 15th every year, I begin to monitor the predicted temperatures two weeks out. Since we have our own microclimate, we are able to push the boundaries some, determining when to move the plumeria outdoors around the pool. The Texas sun/heat can be intense where watering the trees on a daily basis can be crucial to their survival. Some of the pots are on a drip irrigation system and the rest are watered every day by hand.

I am a proud Texas Master Gardener, joining the Galveston County Master Gardeners (aka GCMG) a few years ago. I remember going in front of the GCMG interview board, and the final question to me was: "Being a plumeria grower yourself, how would

you convince a young male, who is without extra money, to grow plumeria?" After I gathered my thoughts, I replied: "To be given a plumeria cutting, you are holding hope in your hands. From this unimpressive stick, you can nurture it into a beautiful plumeria tree. With a little care, it can reward you with nature's beauty!" One of the board members rolled up his sleeves and showed me his goosebumps, he was so touched by my heartfelt emotion. As he shook my hand, he said it was quite evident I wanted to share my



Plumerias by the fireplace during the February freeze

deep-rooted love of plumeria with others. They called me within an hour to offer me a slot in the next GCMG class!

I would like to say that my plumeria journey would not have been possible without the help of my loving husband, Bryon, and our two sons, Ian and Sean. They have always been willing to help water the plumeria, re-pot when needed, and participate in the de-leafing parties at the end of the growing seasons. And lastly, they have helped cart the numerous plumeria in and out of winter storage and when anticipating the huge storms and hurricanes off the Texas Gulf. Also, my dog, Daisy, who is my daily gardening companion, tests the water from the hose and keeps the lizards at bay while I garden. I will be forever grateful for their love and support.



My support team!

The sweet smelling, gorgeous plumeria is a good thing! Spread the word ... as my dear departed gardening mentor, Dr. William Johnson, CEA-HORT and Master Gardener Program Coordinator GCMGA, said, "knowledge not shared is knowledge lost."



'Pink Pansy' (JL)



'Aztec Gold'



'Candy Stripe'



'Ammaron's Curly White'

My current favorite!

<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**



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.

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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

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.

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