

Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America



March 9th 2021

In-Person and Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Speaker: Kerrie Siebert
Topic: Plumeria of Australia

March 2021

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'Fantasia' (KT)

President's Corner

by Ray Allison (RayAllison@GaryGreene.com)

On the eve of spring and what we had all hoped would be another glorious growing season, many suffered an historic Arctic freeze and many people lost plumeria. Thanks to all who have reached out and donated plants, seedlings, cuttings, seeds, etc. to replenish Texas' plumeria gardens. So many from our very large plumeria family have been so very generous after the historic Arctic freeze in Texas and other southern U.S. states.

If anyone wishes to donate or receive donations, please go to The Plumeria Society of America's Facebook page and follow the instructions.

The March meeting is both a Zoom meeting with Kerrie Siebert and an in-person social. Also time will be allotted to go through the donated cuttings and seeds received from so many donors. We will need to get these ready for distribution to those who lost plumeria.

Just a reminder that this is an election year for the PSA, and many current officers and Board members are term limited out of running or being reelected. If you have interest in running for office, let us know.

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).

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

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

Our Facebook page now has 4,139+ members from all over the world—a great place to ask a question or show off your blooms.

Virtual Meeting - March 9th

Speaker: Kerrie Siebert

Topic: Plumeria of Australia

- 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.



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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.

Bringing Out of Dormancy

by Laura Jones, Virginia Beach



These plants were barerooted and stored indoors over winter. When brought outside, they are kept out of direct sun so they can acclimate, then planted in the ground for the spring/summer months.



These plants were barerooted and stored indoors in a trash can over winter. When brought outside, they are repotted with a fresh mix for the spring/summer months.

This photo shows the planters used for plunging. This area is protected from direct sun because of large pine trees in the yard. I always wait until the nighttime temperatures are at least 50° F. before I bring my plants outside. I will then place them in the shade to acclimate them. I will water and let them rest, keeping them from the direct sun to prevent burning of the stem. When they start to leaf out, then I will plunge some of them and place others around the pool. Again, I don't place them in direct sun before they have leaves for protection. I'll place them off to the side for awhile and then move them to their proper places.



Pots ready to be unwrapped and placed around the yard.



Seedlings



Example of 'Cherokee Geisha' with root ball from storage and then placed into the ground. The photo on the right shows the leaves during the summer.



The photo on the left shows cuttings which are gang rooting. After the cuttings have roots, I gently separate each rooted cutting and place it in a cup with slits at the bottom (for good drainage). When the plants show a good root ball in the cups, I transfer them to a one-gallon pot.



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Easy-to-Make Plumeria Headpiece

by Margery Ohlson, Southern California

This wili-style technique can be used to create a hairpiece, wrist adornment, or full lei. Either fresh or artificial flowers can be used. Practicing on a smaller headpiece is a great way to develop your technique before attempting a full lei.



Materials: Green or natural-colored raffia, three plumeria, assorted greenery, and filler flowers.



Cut the raffia so there are six strands 12" in length and one strand four feet in length (for wrapping).

Tie together all seven strands of raffia with a knot.



Divide the six strands of raffia into three sections. Begin braiding the raffia. The four foot piece stays out to use later for wrapping.



Continue braiding until the length is approximately five inches.

TIP: W2xPS means wrap twice with the raffia and pull snug.



Finish the braid with a snug knot and trim the ends. Be sure to leave the four foot strand of raffia attached.



Choose a well-shaped piece of greenery to cover the knot. Hold the greenery with your thumb. Using the raffia, wrap twice around the greenery stem. Pull snug on the raffia (W2xPS).



Add a second piece of greenery and some filler flowers, then W2xPS.



Add the first plumeria, then W2xPS.



After the first plumeria, add two pieces of greenery, angling them to the sides, then W2xPS.



Add two pieces of filler flowers and W2xPS. Add two pieces of fern, angling them to the sides and W2xPS. Ideally, there will be about an inch of greenery and filler flowers between the plumeria.

TIP: If the stems of the greenery, filler flowers, and plumerias are too long, clip them to reduce bulkiness.



Add the second plumeria, then W2xPS.



After the second plumeria, add two pieces of greenery, angling them to the sides, then W2xPS. Also, add two pieces of filler flowers, angling them to the sides, then W2xPS. And add another two pieces of greenery, angling and W2xPS. Again, there will be about an inch of greenery and filler flowers between the plumeria.



Add the third plumeria, then W2xPS.



Add greenery after the third plumeria, then W2xPS.



Add filler flowers after the third plumeria, then W2xPS. Add greenery to finish off your hairpiece and cover the knot on the braid base. W2xPS.



Tie a secure knot to finish the end.

TIP: For a nice balanced look, use similar greenery at the beginning and the end of the braid.

My Plumeria Journey

by Karen Orgeron Gulotta, Louisiana

In 1999 Peter and I went to visit some long time friends of his in Spring, Texas. The four of us are very much alike, but in reverse. Roger and I are both plant nuts, and Peter and LeAnn couldn't care less.

They had the most beautiful yard I had ever seen. Roger had two trees growing in big pots that I had never seen before, and they were blooming. I had never seen flowers like that, nor smelled anything even close. They took my breath away! My curiosity got the better of me and I asked. They were plumerias—he broke off a branch of each and gave them to me. I had no idea what to do with them, so I did what he said. Much to my surprise, they rooted.

As directed, I moved them inside during the winter and in two years they both bloomed. He had no idea of the varieties, but later on I figured out they were 'Celadine' and 'Slaughter Pink.' A few years went by, and they grew and did very well.

About that time eBay was the big way to find things. One day I decided to type in plumeria and OMG the Plumeria World opened before my eyes!



I had no idea so many varieties existed. I found a grower in Florida (Angus Thom) and decided to give

him a shot; I bid on a couple of plants and won. Upon arrival I was very impressed at how well they were rooted and had no problem getting them replanted. Over the next few years I probably bought 30 plants from him. Meanwhile, my first two were growing like crazy. Angus and I had become friends via email.



'Moragne 23' and 'Boca III' and 'Divine'

Finally my plants got too big to move inside, and I realized I needed to prune. Angus called and walked me through it over the phone. (I was crying like a baby.) He told me to suck-it-up, stop crying, and that my trees would look better the next year for it. He was right. Poor man, I must have driven him crazy with my millions of questions, but he was patient and answered them all.

By this time about six years had rolled by and it was 2005. I had all these nicely rooted cuttings that I wanted to sell, so I took a single 10' x 10' booth at my local spring garden show. Like most of you, I can't throw away a piece of anything that breaks off any plant, so I had my plumerias and a bunch of other stuff. Much to my surprise, I sold every plumeria and most of the other plants.

Later on that year I found out that there was a larger plant show in Baton Rouge at the LSU campus. I called Angus, and we decided to give it a shot. He was from Baton Rouge, so he would go

home to visit his mom a couple of times a year. We just timed it for the show. Sometimes you just throw something against the wall and see if it sticks! Worst case would have been Angus going back to Florida with the plants. (Spring 2006)



While setting up the booth the Thursday afternoon before the show, the local Baton Rouge TV news station was getting some footage to help boost attendance. They got some footage of our booth and some basic growing information. Of course I was dirty, hot, and sweaty, but the footage made it to the news that night and again Friday night.

Angus and I arrived early Saturday morning, anxious and nervous, not knowing what to expect—we had a 10' x 20' booth packed full of plumerias. We had **so** many people come into our booth that had never been to the show before, but had seen the news and came just to get a plumeria. We had created a flyer with basic care information and my

contact info that we gave out with each purchase and to anyone passing by. It wasn't a sell out but it was close. I kept the left over plants and sold them from home.

In 2007 a friend that has a gift shop of garden wares (pots, fountains, decor) asked me if I would like to set up a tent and have a few plants outside. I did and attracted a local agriculture inspector. Little did I know that I had to have a license to sell plants to the public. I thought I was in trouble, but he was so nice. He explained to me that Louisiana wants to see more new nurseries and made an appointment to come to my house and walk me through the process. He did and I became the owner of Plumeria Crazy Nursery. Angus and I have been doing this together since then.

Angus grows, I sell. He likes it that way—he drops off the plants and goes home and waits for the money to roll in. We are not a big nursery like some, but we move about 300–400 rooted plants a year. He prunes his trees in May, gets them rooting, then brings them to me the following spring. By the time I get them, they have a 10–12 month root system. Poor guy, I refer to him as my business husband, but he puts up with me.

I've grown many varieties over the last 23 years but I believe my all time favorite is my 'Singapore.' I happen to love white flowers—they just seem to be fresh and pure to me. Singapore is the quintessential plumeria scent in my opinion. In spring I move it out



to the spot closest to my rocking chair on my back porch. Nothing like just breathing that scent while having my morning coffee. I also love that it is a true evergreen and mine blooms till late December.

Right now I am probably down to about 70 varieties. I use to have double that. We had a very hard freeze in January of 2010, and I lost about 30 plants. The only one I replaced was my 'Coral Cream.' That is when I realized that I could live without some. I have been culling down my personal collection since then. But it is getting harder and harder to choose which ones to let go of. I'm trying to get to my favorite 50.



Dollies made from pressure-treated wood for the largest plants

I have my own system of rooting, planting, and feeding. I was a lab tech for 20 years, so I had a lot of experience with creating blends of different products to see which works best. I am still working on my soil mixture as new and different things are coming out. Right now I am using one-half bag of Miracle-Gro® (orange bag) Cactus, Palm & Citrus mix, four large shovelfuls of soil conditioner (ground pine bark), four large shovelfuls of perlite, one bag of potting soil that has a good bit of sand in it, and one-

half to one bag of compost. I mix it all up in a wheelbarrow, and I plant everything in it. Since most plants don't like sitting in water, it seems to drain well, and I use it for everything including my cactus. Every one should experiment and find what works best for them.

There was a time when there was no plumeria fertilizer on the market. I contacted a friend who was a professor of biology at LSU and told her what I wanted to do—I needed information on how different chemicals affected plant structure and growth. She asked what was in it for her ... free plumerias ... a deal was struck! She got me the info I needed, and I began making blends for my NPK. I kept a notebook of which plant got which blend, how much sun each one got, and how well each one did.

After a few years I hit on a good formula, and I've stuck with it every since. Friends have asked what I use, and I always tell them it is what I make for my own plants. They wanted some, so I gave it to them. They loved it and encouraged me to bag and sell it, and we do, mostly at local shows. It does have a higher middle number of 26. Many people have told me that my plants will die—I'm still waiting. They get fed in April and August.

I am not the most proficient person at rooting. Been doing it for a long time but no method works all the time for me. I don't know anyone that doesn't lose some, no matter how long they've been growing. Again, I tell people to try different things and do what works best for them. Things like sun, heat, temperature, and humidity make all the difference in success, depending on where you live.

Wintering over is usually the easy part for me. I used my garage for years, then closed in a part of my back patio that was already under roof. Also, we had a part of the side yard that was kind of unusable for anything, so I cemented it over, added French drains, and put up a 10' x 20' tent that I have used since as both a greenhouse and nursery area. In the summer they come out, and I give them as much sun as possible. I find that they need at least six

hours of sun to bloom. They seem to love the Louisiana heat and humidity.



Greenhouse and nursery area with over-wintering blooming 'Dwarf Singapore Pink' (below)



I do like to grow seedlings. Sometimes I keep a few till they bloom, but if I have some, I usually give them away with a plumeria purchase as “thank you” plants at plant shows. I know people can buy a plant from lots of people online, so it’s just a little way to say that we appreciate them giving our little nursery a chance.

People need to understand that a seedling will not bloom the same as the pod producer. It can have some of the mother plant’s characteristics or none. I leave the pollinating up to Mother Nature, so I never know who the “daddy” is. I like surprises!



As most of you know, Louisiana got hit by multiple hurricanes this last summer. My greenhouse was pretty well damaged, so I will be getting a much bigger one custom built. I will be doubling my winter storage space. My hubby said “build what you want.” **OK then!** I’m excited and hope to begin in March. I’ll try to get pics posted on the PSA Facebook page as we tear down the old and put up the new.

My plumeria advice is to try, try, try. I have bought and killed more than I care to admit. Even now I prefer to buy a plant already rooted or grafted onto a rooted seedling. Grafting is not my talent and I accept that. Don’t give up, the smell of success is indeed **very sweet!**



<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—Tentative Location: Clear Lake
July 13..... ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting
July 17 ... Show & Sale 2—Tentative Location: 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 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.

2021 PSA Officers and Directors

Ray Allison <i>President</i>	RayAllison@GaryGreene.com 832-689-9938
Fred Yoder <i>Vice President</i>	Yoderma@sbcglobal.net 281-630-7577
David Holloway <i>Secretary</i>	d-holloway@sbcglobal.net 281-384-9816
John T. Burford <i>Treasurer</i>	psatreasurerusa@gmail.com 281-796-7185
Sharon Wright <i>Membership</i>	slwmwwtogether@comcast.net 281-438-3653
Loretta O'Steen <i>Director</i>	Lofresh@aol.com 409-939-4765
Mike Kennedy <i>Director</i>	Fishjunky103@yahoo.com 409-771-0308
Karen Abrams <i>Director</i>	Cocobid@aol.com 817-846-6300
Mark Wright <i>Registration</i>	slwmwwtogether@comcast.net 281-438-3653
Paula Furtwangler <i>Publicity</i>	plumerialady@gmail.com 281-579-3237
Renee Riley <i>Director, Plant Sales</i>	renee11riley@yahoo.com 713-485-9652
Denise Dawson <i>Programs</i>	deniseedawson@aol.com 979-865-5015
Linda Brooks-Hart <i>Webmaster</i>	lindabrookshart@gmail.com 817-271-9809
Irene Jones <i>Newsletter</i>	ijplume@sbcglobal.net 760-436-6885