

The Plumerian

VOL. V, ISSUE 2

THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF SOUTH TEXAS

MAY, 1997

Notice of Next Meeting:

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 28, 1997, 7:00 p.m.

Place: Garden Center, 5325 Greely Drive

Program: "Plumerias in Mexico" by John Murray

A slide presentation will be presented by John Murray on his 4500 mile Mexico journey in search of Plumerias and favorite comments on the Plumeria. John is an expert Plumerian and personally owns a collection of 400 plants of which 250 are different varieties. John Murray is a member of the Plumeria Society of America, Inc. in Houston.

PSST PLANT SALE.

August 23, 1997, Center Court, Padre Staples Mall, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

OTHER PLUMERIA ACTIVITIES

June 14, 1997 - Plant Sale sponsored by the Plumeria Society of America, Hermann Park Garden Center, Houston, Texas, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

July 12, 1997 - Plant Sale sponsored by the Plumeria Society of America, Clear Lake Park, Clear Lake, Texas, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCING THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 1997

President:	Bob Owen
Vice President:	John "Jocko" Taylor
Secretary:	Fred Allon
Treasurer:	Johnny Smolik

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Who would have imagined, our Plumeria Society is pursuing it's fifth year with great vigor. Our membership is growing at 50+. We have purpose with the Plumeria collection at the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens to care for. As you see, we have a dedicated group of officers. I encourage you to support "us" and do your share of the work load by taking a small job on one of the Committees.

We are so fortunate to have John Murray as speaker for the May 28 meeting. He is "rich" in Plumeria lore besides having a great slide show. John is willing to answer any of your questions about Plumerias. John will be returning from a trip to Hawaii and hopes to get over the jet lag before coming to Corpus Christi. Yes, he will cuttings to sell.

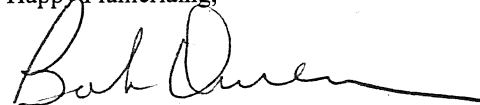
Refreshments for the April meeting were provided by June Owen and Jocko Taylor. To these people, we thank you.

Welcome new member, Rodney Griffin, from Port Aransas. He informs us that there are others in Port A growing Plumerias.

Watch for Fred Allon, who will announce the May 28th meeting on the Channel 6 Garden Show next Friday at 6:00 a.m.

Start your seedlings and cuttings now for our Plant Sale in August. Remember, we sell rooted plants only. I encourage you to be ambitious by growing a large crop of plants for the sale. We need the proceeds to finance our Botanical Garden project.

Happy Plumeriaing,



Bob Owen, President

1997 BOTANICAL GARDEN SCHEDULE

Every member should take his or her turn for one week caring for the Plumeria Collection at the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens. Care means to: (1) Water only when moisture meter indicates but not more than once a week; (2) Fertilize with Super Bloom once a week, 1/2 tablespoon per gallon of water; (3) Remove any weeds; (4) Look for signs of fungus or other problems and report to curator Jocko Taylor (887-0252) for proper treatment. Contact Paul Thornton for moisture meter and Super Bloom. Listed below is the schedule. Notice, there are openings. Please pick a date and call in to Fred Allon (993-2554).

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Member</u>
May 4	Barbara Winship
May 11	Leatrice and Marie Koch
May 18	John Balcar
May 25	Newell "Mac" McQuerry
June 1	Jocko Taylor and Ann Yeager
June 8	"The Three Musketeers" - Ann McCord, Rose Milleur, Joan Merriman

SEED GERMINATION

by Jocko Taylor

During my 1994 Thanksgiving visit at Casa de Wilson located one-half mile from Diamond Head Point in Oahu, Hawaii, I noted that several large Plumeria trees were surrounding my lush, immediate environment. Having been exposed to the exotic Plumerias in Maui a few years before and my good friend's (Bob Lacy, Jr.) backyard collection, I became a young, eager, Plumeria enthusiast. While cooking breakfast one morning, I observed a large 4" x 10" seed pod right outside the kitchen door raining down some 75 seeds (they kind of resembled squashed, tan-colored tadpoles). I scooped them up and placed them into a baggie and into my suitcase. Little did I know from that point on, I was hooked for life.

When I got home, I laid my baggie-filled treasure on my drafting table and forgot about them until about February the next year. At that time I began wondering how to germinate the seeds, all the time thinking about their 40-foot parent tree in Oahu. Below is my scenario I used, successfully obtaining a near perfect (100%) success rate.

Obtained a 12" wide, hinged, "clam shell" looking acrylic dish as a wedding gift.

Found an old dark wash cloth.

Checked seeds for viability by determining cross sectional thickness.

Placed wash cloth under warm, running water and wrung out excess.

Placed wash cloth in bottom of portable green house (clam shell dish).

Spread seeds out onto 1/2 of moistened wash cloth and folded over remaining portion of wash cloth taco-style.

Placed a 75-watt lamp pointed at seeds about 10" to 12" above dish, maintaining an 80° - 90° minimum temperature inside.

Came back in 3 to 4 days checking for moisture in wash cloth. (It is very important to always maintain moisture and a temperature of about 80° - 90° inside.) Seeds should now have begun to swell up.

Came back a few days later and checked for moisture again.

At about 7 to 9 days, seeds should have a root structure forming out of seed.

When root is about 1/2" to 5/8" long, remove sprouted seed and plant about 1/2" deep in rich, well-drained potting soil in a small pot (transplant in about 4-6 months to a larger pot).

Continue checking other seeds for foot lengths and plant as described above.

Now, you should be on your way to happy plumeriaing!

Footnote to my story above: Back in 1990, I found myself caring for some 75 seedlings that were just about too much at that time to handle. So, I began trading for other varieties of plants and giving them away as gifts. What a great way to make new friends. Right - Howard, Bob and Ann?

June 15	Debbie Hallowell and Phil Anderson
June 22	Barbara Gill and Mary Lois Webster
July 6	Lois Millard and Fred Allon
July 13	Leonard Howard
July 20	Johnny Smolik
July 27	Lucian Willoughby
August 3	Bob Owen
August 10	_____
August 17	_____
August 24	_____

TEXAS A&M AT CORPUS CHRISTI

Randy Hager, Chief Landscaper (994-2328) at the Texas A&M University campus, has been contacted and is agreeable to accept donated Plumeria plants from our members. The groundskeepers will take complete care of the plants, providing we furnish them a care bulletin. If you have a surplus plant, make arrangements with Randy to deliver the plant to his office on the campus.

In Memory of Jack Klatt

The following morning after our April meeting, PSST member Jack Klatt passed away. Jack was a special friend to our Plumeria Society in that he and Mary Lou and four other members came up with the idea to form a Plumeria Society in Corpus Christi. You might say Jack was one of our founders. Jack was good at growing healthy Plumerias and had the skill to encourage his plants to bloom profusely, especially that lovely "Bob's Mexican Pink" variety. His generosity to donate plants to the sale and willingness to serve our Plumeria Society will always be remembered.

NEW ADDRESS

Please make note that the new address for the Plumeria Society of South Texas is:

P. O. Box 2153
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403