

THE PLUMERIAN

VOL. VI, ISSUE 4

THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF SOUTH TEXAS

OCTOBER, 1998

Notice of Next Meeting:

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 28, 1998, 7:00 p.m.

Place: Garden Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas

Program: "Cultivating Plumerias Commercially" – Presented by "The Plumeria People", Harry Leuzinger, Leander, Texas

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since the awakening of the 1998 growing season, experiences have been non-stop: First, the "coming out" work day at the Botanical Gardens in March followed by getting cuttings ready for the August plant sale; then the lining up of the 1st Annual Homes Garden Tour and Picnic; and finally, the Plant and Seed Sale in August. Man, what a busy year for the Society and what great support!

During the last 5 plus years, and especially this past year, I have enjoyed working alongside each of the members while promoting our mutual love for Plumeria cultivating. It's been quite awesome when I reflect on where we started and where we've come to. Imagine over 400 more plants being sold at the Plant Sale and hundreds more being sold this week end at the Botanical Gardens Plant Sale. The enthusiasm of Plumeria growing just keeps on spreading like a wild fire. I feel so privileged to have been part of the scene. Of course, I couldn't have done it alone and want to thank all the supporters, especially John Balcar (Vice President) for his general assistance; Johnny Smolik and Leatrice Koch for keeping "the books" in check; Fred Allon for his support for taking minutes, assisting in promotions, and creating a beautiful directory; Ann Yeager for her continued support in publishing and distributing the Newsletter; Lucian Willoughby, Leonard Howard, and Lloyd Holmes for assisting and overseeing the Botanical Gardens Exhibit; the Botanical Gardens staff for all their assistance and cooperation; and to all the Society members for their gracious support. It truly has been a very memorable year for me.

Since the summer's end, the Society has been blessed with a continuation of a flood of new members. This message is to them... Please come and enjoy Plumeria gardening as many of us are sure to share an experience with you. Part of the fun for all of us is sharing ideas and experiences with new members. It's truly rewarding to have grown a 10' tree from a single seed and reap the rewards.

At our next meeting, a commercial grower located in Leander, Texas, the "Plumeria People" will be talking about what they have learned buying, selling, growing, and loving Plumerias. They will also discuss where they are headed commercially and will give us a preview of new Plumeria cultivars. Their slide show presentation is "simply a beautiful collection of pictures that is always enjoyed by Plumeria fanciers". Basic care and their explanation of growing procedures, along with the history of the Plumeria,

will be discussed. This should be a great program to finish out the season with. So, please come and enjoy.

Our next meeting will also include the election of officers for 1999. Please get involved if you can. Your Society will appreciate your support.

In retrospect, it's been a great year meeting and working with new and old friends while enjoying the wonderful experience of Plumeria cultivating. The support has been overwhelming and I again thank all of you for this. Financially, the Society is quite sound and the Botanical Gardens Exhibit is flourishing. Next year I hope to spend more time assisting with the exhibit.

Thanks again for all the support.

Aloha,

Jocko Taylor

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1999

At our October meeting, we will be electing new officers for 1999. If you can assist and wish to participate in an executive manner, please contact John Balcar (853-3782) or one of the officers to alert us. The success of this organization depends upon the continued commitment from all its members (not just a few). Please assist if you can. Your Society thanks you.

CORPUS CHRISTI GARDEN COUNCIL HOST LUNCHEON & STYLE SHOW

The Corpus Christi Garden Council is sponsoring a luncheon and style show on November 20, 1998, at 12:00 p.m. at King's Crossing Country Club. Tickets may be obtained for a \$20 donation from Leatrice Koch. Fashions will be provided by The Lady Bug.

1998 BOTANICAL GARDEN SCHEDULE

Every member should take his or her turn for at least 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) Remove any weeds; (3) Look for signs of fungus or other problems and report to Curator Jocko Taylor (887-0252) for proper treatment; (4) After completing your task, please indicate status on chart located at the Lath House. Contact Paul Thornton for moisture meter at the Botanical Gardens Office, if required. Listed below is the schedule. Notice, there are openings. Please pick a date and call in to Fred Allon (993-2554). A hearty thanks to those that have volunteered. Keep up the good work.

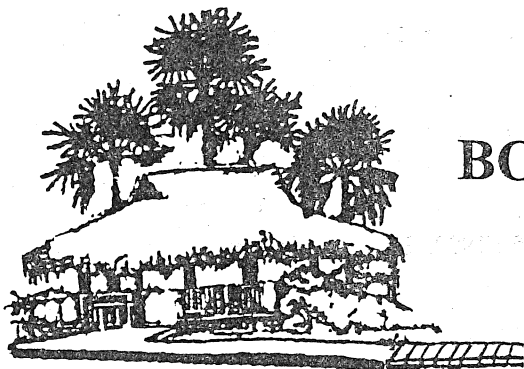
Week of Member Week of Member

October 26 John & Valerie Balcar

November 15, 1998 – Work Day. Remove plants and store in greenhouse. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

March 13, 1999 – Work Day – Post dormancy of Botanical Gardens Exhibit

By the way, if you noticed new benches alongside the exhibit and were wondering about their origin, let me put your mind at ease. Many hours of sweat equity were donated by Lucian Willoughby, Lloyd Holmes, and other helpers. Thanks again for your hard work.



Corpus Christi BOTANICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Corpus Christi, Texas 78413
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TO: Plant Societies, Garden Clubs, Individual Vendors July 30, 1998
FROM: The C.C. Botanical Gardens
RE: Aunt Flora's Gigantic Fall Plant Sale, Friday & Sat, Oct 23/24

We were thrilled to see an increase in plant societies participating in our Spring plant sale! Despite the rain and chill, the Botanical Gardens netted over \$5,000! AND we'd like to see even more of you at "Aunt Flora's Gigantic Fall Plant Sale."

Friday, October 23rd, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. is the Member's Presale.
Saturday, October 24th, from 9 to 5, we're open to public.

Arrangements are basically the same. We're scheduling set-up from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Friday. The Botanical Gardens share of your sales at the fall event will again be 25%.

You may participate as a society/club; or individuals may sell their own plants, decorative pots, vases (etc). Vendors will need to bring their own tables, and handle their own sales. Chairs will be available. Soft drinks will be available on site.

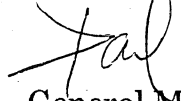
We ask that you let us know of your participation by September 1, or sooner, so we can include you and your wares in publicity. With each plant sale, vendor count has increased. So space is limited.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Michael Womack


Event Chair

Paul Thornton


General Manager

WINTER STORAGE

With winter season approaching, it is time to think about bringing your Plumerias inside to protect them from freezing. Plumerias will not survive temperatures below 37°F. When the outside temperature reaches 40°F, usually by late November, it is time to store your plants in the garage, storeroom, attic, greenhouse, or makeshift cover on the patio. Provide temperature control to keep above 37°F. Personally, I feel secure when I can keep the temperature above 40°F.

Many experts advise to cease fertilizing your Plumerias in August to allow the plant to harden up for the winter. This practice greatly reduces the chance of getting black tip on the end of the branches, especially when frostbite occurs. Check stem for soft to touch feel indicating rot from black tip. Prune branch to "white wood". Personally, I keep my Plumerias "fired up" with fertilizer for blooming on into October on the chance that we might have an Indian Summer. I do keep a watchful eye on the temperature.

If your plants are in pots, you can store them in the pots. Cut away any roots protruding out the drain holes in the pot. Remove as many leaves (leave 1" of the leaf stem) as desired to reduce moisture loss. Do not water the plants once in storage to avoid rot.

If your Plumerias have been planted in the ground, it is best to root prune with a sharpshooter shovel about 18" out from the trunk before pulling out of the ground. Bare root the plant by shaking or hosing off the dirt. This job is made easier by preparing a friable, organic soil to start with in the spring. After taking the Plumeria out of the ground, let dry in the shade for 2 or 3 days, providing temperatures are above 40°F. Place roots in a paper bag, newspaper, or "gunny sack" dry. Some store their plants with the dirt on, so long as you keep the root ball dry. Keep branches and roots from touching concrete as the lime in the cement will cause plant damage. The Plumerias will go dormant for the next 3 or 4 months. Bare root plants can be hung upside down or stacked like cordwood. If not careful, rough treatment will result in the bark being scraped off like it had been in a good fight. In time, the scars will heal over. However, best to handle with care to insure a healthy looking plant.

After about 3 months of storage, some of your Plumerias will wrinkle or shrivel up due to moisture loss. Not to worry. Next spring, when you bring the plants out of storage after the last freeze and when temperatures are above 40°F, usually sometime in March, add water and watch the limbs fill out quickly.

Under sufficient light and controlled temperatures, Plumerias can be grown indoors during the winter without leaf loss. However, without adequate candlepower, the Plumeria will go into dormancy and drop leaves.

Invariably, a branch will break off while moving plants to storage. Simply place broken branch on the shelf in the garage, leave it until next April at which time it can be placed in a pot for rooting. Treat the wound in the mother plant with a fungicide.

The Plumeria is like your faithful dog when treated properly, it will be most obedient.

Please Pay 1999 Dues Now

Let this be a notice that dues for 1999 in the amount of \$10.00 can be paid in advance. Please pay Johnny Smolik or Leatrice Koch at the next meeting or kindly mail your check to the:

Plumeria Society of South Texas
P. O. Box 2153
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Wednesday, October 28, 1998 7:00 p.m.	P.S.S.T. Meeting – Plumeria Cultivation w/ The Plumeria People from Leander, Texas Election of Officers, Garden Center
Saturday, October 24, 1998 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Fall Plant Sale Botanical Gardens, Corpus Christi
Saturday, November 15, 1998 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Work Day @ the Botanical Gardens (Winterizing Plumeria Collection)

*Revised date

Note: Please feel free to contact us ASAP should you know of any upcoming events. Thanks.

RECAP ON 1ST ANNUAL HOMES GARDEN TOUR AND PICNIC – JULY 25, 1998

Hot! Hot! Hot!...Humid! Humid! Humid! But what a treat for the attendees! About 25 Society members and guests attended the event. The first annual Homes Garden Tour and Picnic.

Meeting at the Botanical Gardens around 2:00 p.m. and gathering the leis of Plumeria enthusiasts, the onlookers made their way through the city to Jocko Taylor's house. There, onlookers got to see about 150 varieties in a self-watering, low-maintenance, homemade greenhouse setting. As a treat, Jocko handed out giant Bird of Paradise seeds he had gotten in the interior of Mexico. Filing into cars and venturing onward, Leatrice Koch's garden tour was next. Members got to see about 25 "blooming" varieties among some 50 others with a blooming "Pudica" being one of the most unusual. As a treat Leatrice, too, handed out seedlings of an unusual blooming vine. This is also where I met Harry Leuzinger with The Plumeria People from Leander, Texas.

Barbara and Dan Gill's house was next on the tour, displaying large blooming Plumerias complementing her front entry. Here we were able to catch a glimpse of about 160 cuttings she was preparing for the August 15 Plant Sale.

Around the corner, Leonard Howard showed us his collection as we drank refreshments and perused his back yard, noticing germinating secrets and seeing another blooming "Pudica".

At our concluding homes tour location, Phil and Linda Anderson's collection presented an incredible blooming array of many colorful specimens and a fence attached, drip irrigation system wrapped around a low-maintenance hot tub environment.

Making our way back to the Botanical Gardens, Ann McCord and Joan Merryman treated us to a feast fit for several luaus. All in all, it was quite interesting to see so many different techniques for cultivating Plumerias. We even noticed that one of Barbara Gill's extremely unusual blooms came from a cutting she had gotten from Phil Anderson, of which Phil had donated the plant to the Botanical Garden collection with some ten different color configurations in one inflorescence.

Many thanks go to hosts of each collection and a huge thanks to Ann and Joan for all their support.

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