



*Plumeria
obtusata*

The Plumerian

VOL. VII, ISSUE 4

THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF SOUTH TEXAS

SEPTEMBER, 1999

Notice of Next Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 13, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

Place: Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens, 8546 South Staples, Corpus Christi, Texas

Program: By-law's

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well the 1999 Plumeria season is almost over. It has certainly been a busy season with bugs and diseases at every turn, and then to top it off, Hurricane Brett played havoc with the Plumerias at the Botanical Gardens.

On July 26th we called for help to strip leaves from plants at the Botanical Gardens that were infected with a virus (black spots) and some of the plants also had scale. Fred Allon, Barbara & Dan Gill, Ernest Wood and my wife "Valerie" showed up to work.

On August 23rd Leonard Howard called me about the damage to the exhibit at the Botanical Gardens by Hurricane Brett. When Valerie & I arrived at the Garden it looked like a war zone. We picked up broken limbs, trying to match limbs to plants in order to identify the pieces. On August 26th we called for a work crew to rake up leaves and stake fallen plants. Leonard Howard, Joan Merriman, Rosa Meilleur, Johnny Smolik, Ernest Wood, Valerie Balcar and myself worked about two hours. Joan brought refreshments which were very much appreciated.

July Picnic and yard tours: This year Billy Johnson, Rosa Meilleur, John Balcar and Phil Anderson invited the club to tour their yards. This was enjoyed by all who participated. Food Chairman Joan Merriman and her crew did an outstanding job providing refreshments for the picnic after the tours.

Plant Sale. The August 14th plant sale was a big success again this year in spite of not having enough tables. Please remember to pay for your table in advance next year to assure that you will have a table if you want to sell plants. Fred Allan donated 10 cuttings and 30 seedlings to be sold for the Society. I donated 7 cutting and 27 seedlings.

Georgeann Smith, James Etter, Ernest Wood's Granddaughter Abby, Barbara Winship, Carol Balcar and Sarah Balcar helped out at the sale even though they did not sell plants.

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed so much to the club this year, I could not have done this without your support. Ernest Wood (Vice President) was the Plumeria Sales Chairman and my right hand man all year. Johnny Smolik (Treasurer) did a fine job with the finances. Fred Allon has been an outstanding Secretary. Also thanks to Ann Yeager who put the news letter together. Jocko Taylor (Past President) Lucian Willoughby and Leonard Howard for overseeing the Botanical Gardens exhibit. Lucian did the fertilizing and weed control all year. Joan Merriman and her crew who provided those wonderful refreshments every time we got together. Thanks also to the Botanical Gardens staff for all of their assistance and cooperation, and to all of the Society Members for their support. Thanks to my wife "Valerie" who corrected everything I wrote and to the Angel who guided me this year.

Dues. Dues for 2000 are due on the first of January and members who have not paid up by the first meeting in February will not be included in the booklet for the year. Johnny gave Fred an up to date member listing and there are ten new members. Non paying members will be removed from the listing and this.

E-mail. If you have an E-mail address let me know so it can be included in our next Society book.

Garden center building report. Because building estimates came in above the amount of money allotted for building, the architects had to revise the plans. Another round of bids will be taken and hopefully they will come in under budget. If this happens, the target date to start is January 1, 2000 and the date for substantial completion is October 7, 2000.

Thanks for all your support. John Balcar

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2000: At our October meeting, we will be electing new officers for 2000. If you can assist and wish to participate in an executive manner, please contact Ernest Wood (980-1640) or one of the officers to alert us. The success of this organization depends upon the continued commitment from all its members. Please assist if you can. Your Society welcomes you.

Watering Schedule for P.S.S.T. Exhibit at C.C. Botanical Gardens:

Oct. 19th Rosa Meilleur & Joan Merriman 852-3806 & 855-7307
Oct. 26th John & Valerie Balcar 853-3782

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.

* Wednesday, October 13, 1999 OUR Plumeria Society Meeting
7:00 p.m. @ Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens

Saturday, October 23, 1999 Fall Plant Sale
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Botanical Gardens, Corpus Christi

Saturday, November 13, 1999 Work Day @ Botanical Gardens
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Winterizing Plumeria Collection)
Remove plants and store in greenhouse

Saturday, March 11, 2000 Work Day-Post dormancy @ Botanical Gardens Exhibit

*****NOTICE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE OCTOBER 13Th*****

A copy of the changes to the By-law's is included in this newsletter. Please review and be prepared to discuss and vote at the October meeting. Chairman was Fred Allon with Ernest Wood, Leatrice Koch and John Balcar on the committee.

Leonard Howard had major surgery this September, please remember him in your prayers.

Year 2000 the plant sale will be in July.

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

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.