



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 41 NO. 4

HONOLULU, HAWAII

APRIL 2018

APRIL VISIT TO FANTASTIC GARDENS HAWAII

HBS members are in for a real treat this month, as David and Sandy Fell have invited us to tour their home and gardens in Windward Honolulu. The founders and long-time operators of Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery, the Fells have now “semi-retired,” by opening a home business, Fantastic Gardens Hawaii, where David is focusing on cultivating and growing collectible bromeliads, especially variegated cultivars, such as the *Vriesea* ‘Pink Tiger,’ which received the Mulford Foster Award for Best in Show at the World Bromeliad Conference in Orlando



in 2012. Besides bromeliad shadehouses, the grounds, at the foot of the Koolau mountains, also feature stands of hearts of palm and pineapple; clove, nutmeg, and allspice trees; and fruit trees, including lesser known species like jabotica. Members will be able to tour the grounds, get a close up view of the facilities, and see how David creates his one-of-a-kind bromeliad cultivars. There may even be a few bargains for sale!

ABOVE: one of the shadehouses at Fantastic Gardens Hawaii.

LEFT: “Now . . . if I just cross this *Alcantarea* with a mini-*Neoregelia* . . .”

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APRIL MEETING

This Saturday, April 28,
we meet at David Fell's
at 12:30.

Our hospitality hosts are
Gail and John and Stan.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 31, 2018

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Dina Chuensangueonsat, Merrill Cutting, David Fell, Sherry Fieser, Naty Hopewell, Gail Ishihara, Terese Leber (presiding), Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong, Val Wong. GUEST: Aziz Agis.

CONVENED: 12:50; ADJOURNED: 2:10.

Terese welcomed everyone, and thanked Dolores and Jaime and Karen for serving as hospitality hosts for the meeting, and especially for providing the great salad and banana lumpia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Terese reminded members about the upcoming Garden Club of America flower show, “Rooted in Paradise.” Sponsored by the Garden Club of Honolulu, the event will be held at the Honolulu Museum of Art from May 11 to 13.

TREASURER: Dolores reported that our March balance was \$12,601.92, which includes deposits of \$40 from the Windward Orchid Society, \$100 in membership dues, and \$186 from the February auction, as well as a \$108 debit for the annual renewal fee for our post office box.

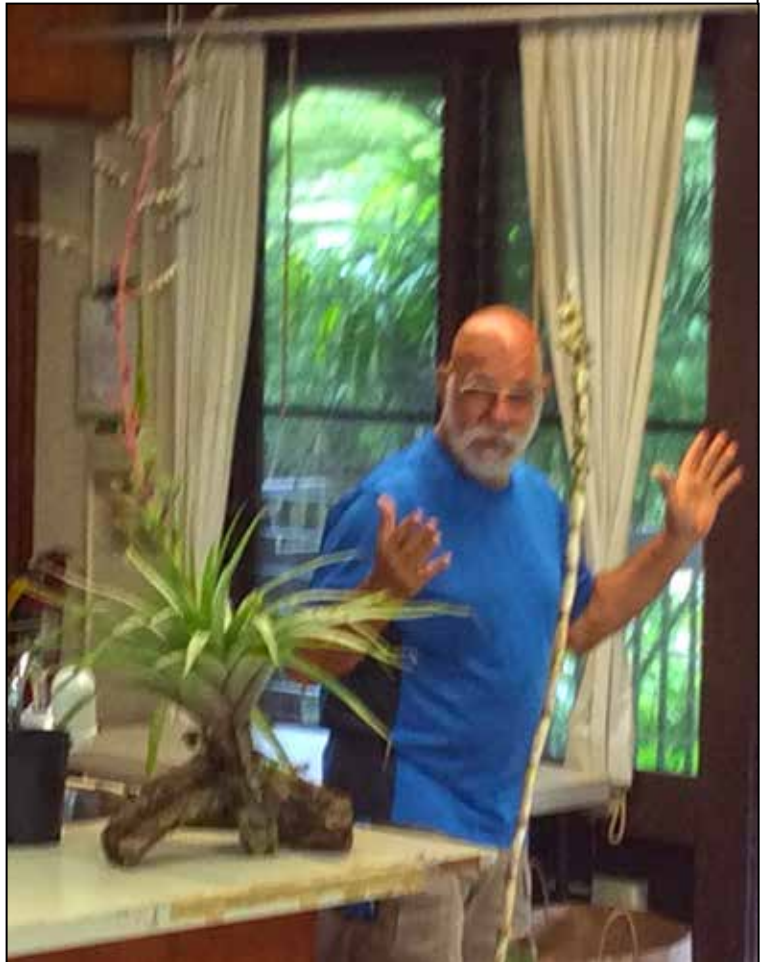
LIBRARY: Merrill reported that the desiccant she had added to our library cabinet was doing a good job, counteracting the musty environment. HBS has received the shipment of bromeliad guides ordered from the Bromeliad Society International; they are now in the cabinet. Members should contact Merrill if they wish to purchase a copy—or borrow any of the other books or journals in our collection.

HOSPITALITY: Our hospitality hosts for April are Gail and John (food) and Stan (drinks). If you are interested in volunteering as a hospitality host, contact Susan; hosts are needed for the July meetings.

PROGRAMS: Gail reported that the April meeting will feature a field trip to David’s home and a tour of his nursery and outdoor gardens.

OLD BUSINESS—WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW: Terese thanked all who came to help with the set up and break down of the HBS display at the Windward Orchid Society spring show; Jaime’s screen created design options unavailable in previous years. Terese especially thanked all members who provided plants for the display, and reminded everyone to make sure that they got back what they loaned. She noted that we received \$40 from the Windward Orchid Society for our display, and an invitation to return next year, when the show will be held from March 22–24. For our participation, we also received a “thank you” ceramic pot, which was won by Naty in a drawing. Terese noted how well organized the event had been this year, and thanked Gail for agreeing to again coordinate next year’s display.

AUCTION: Many thanks to David for serving as auctioneer. Besides unclaimed plants from our orchid show display, including Ed’s wood-mounted *Vriesea* (right), members scored some great specimens of *Achmea blanchetiana* and *Achmea fasciata*, from Merrill; hybrid *Vriesea* seedlings, from Larry, via Gail; and, also from Gail, a host of mini-*Neoregelia*, including ‘Mo Peppa Please,’ ‘Red Waif’ and the Lisa Vinzant cultivars ‘Apricot Brandy’ (a “large mini!”), “ ‘Klingon,’ ‘Popcorn,’ ‘Popoki,’ and ‘Tiki Torch.’

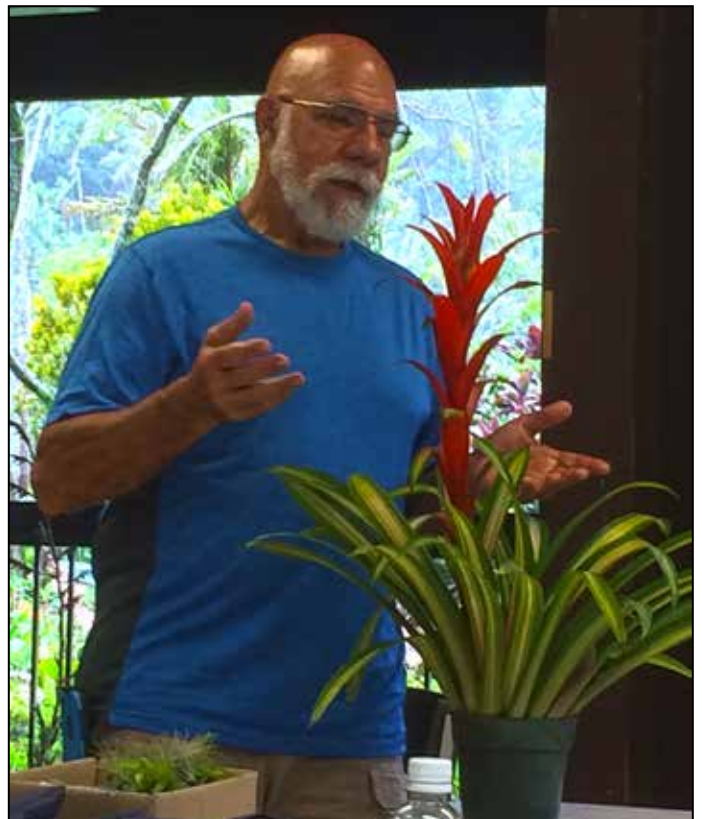


MEMBERS SHOW AND TELL

Our March meeting featured entertaining and informative tales about some particular plants or collections.



Gail discussed her growing collection of mini-*Neoregelia*, and how their endless variety of color and variegation, from shocking pinks, to deep reds and purples, to delicate oranges and almost every shade of green, always made her smile—a variety evident in the specimens she shared of ‘Apricot Brandy,’ ‘Klingon,’ ‘Mo Peppa Please,’ ‘Opihi,’ ‘Orange Crush,’ ‘Popoki,’ ‘Popcorn,’ ‘Red Waif,’ ‘Tiki Torch,’ and ‘Zoe’



David shared a magnificently blooming specimen of *Guzmania* ‘Georgia,’ explaining that the cultivar was a “variegated sport” of *Guzmania Rana*—through which we learned that, in bromeliad cultivation, variegation refers to lengthwise, or longitudinal stripes that contrast with the normal color of the leaf, and sport means an apparent mutation to part of the plant.



Lynette, in addition to a blooming *Tillandsia* hybrid, showed how this *Guzmania* ‘Ice Cream,’ a variegated cultivar of *Lingu-lata minor*, can get away with full sun in rainy Mānoa valley.

MEMBERS' PLANTS HIGHLIGHTED AT MEETING



Dina described how she had rediscovered this beautiful specimen of *Vriesea*, and discussed the mystery of its name. She had thought that most of the plants she had obtained from renowned hybridizer John Arden had died over the years, but just recently, looking out of her window, she noticed an inflorescence, and found this *Vriesea* 'Corralina'—a plant first recorded in 1870, then misidentified as synonymous with *Vriesea platynema*, later listed in the cultivar registry as *Corralina rubra superba*, and finally identified by John Arden in 2000 as the Charles Wiley cultivar 'Yellow Tail,' which the Bromeliad Society International now considers the correct name for the Corralina. Whatever the name, it's a beautiful plant; thanks, Dina, for sharing it.



"What Is This," Terese asked, referring to a plant she had recently acquired at the Punahou Carnival. She found it in the bromeliad section, but didn't recognize it as any bromeliad she had ever seen—and that's because, members decided, it was a member of the yucca family!

"ROOTED IN PARADISE" TO FEATURE LEGACY OF MAY MOIR

Every three years, the Garden of Club of Honolulu, affiliated with the Garden Club of America, hosts a competitive flower show at the Honolulu Museum of Art. This May 11–13, the Club will sponsor "Rooted in Paradise," one of only three Garden Club of America shows to be held nationwide in 2018. With even more categories to judge than a Bromeliad Society International conference, the show will feature a stunning range of floral design and horticulture exhibits. The show also features categories for botanical jewelry, photography, needlework, and conservation.

A highlight of this show promises to be the Floral Traditions exhibit, which will honor May Moir, director of the floral program at the Honolulu Academy of Arts from 1963 to 1998, where she was responsible for creating the tropical arrangements that welcomed visitors at the museum's entrances. The arrangements often featured bromeliads, as Moir was an early advocate of landscaping with bromeliads and succulents. Together with her husband, Goodale Moir, an honorary trustee of the Bromeliad Society International and long-time head of the Hawaiian Sugar Planter's Association, she introduced several bromeliad varieties to Honolulu.