



Newsletter of the

# *Hawai'i Bromeliad Society*

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

AUGUST 2015

## LIFETIME TIPS FROM ELSIE HORIKAWA

When Lynette Wageman introduced our July guest speaker, Elsie Horikawa, she described Elsie as someone with a green thumb, green fingers, green toes, and green everything in between. Over the next hour she was proved absolutely right, as Elsie entertained and informed our members with tips and tricks learned through a lifetime of growing plants of all kinds—bromeliads, of course, but also orchids, anthuriums, bamboo, cactus, and other succulents.

Well known to many members, Ms. Horikawa was for many years very active in the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society, as well as in a wide range of other horticultural groups and activities around town. Besides HBS, she has been a director of both the Hawaii Anthurium Society and the Cactus and Succulent Society of Hawaii.

Elsie was truly a treasure trove of information and expertise, as she let us in on some of her “secrets” for growing healthy plants in Hawai'i, and sharing with us some of the tools and supplies that she finds most useful.

Among the tips she shared was a list of her “indispensable” tools (and where to get them cheaply), starting with a carpenter's apron, which she found to be much sturdier than the aprons designed for gardening, and an old, lightweight, multipurpose aluminum scoop that she picked up at a garage sale.



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### 2015 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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## AUGUST MEETING

This Saturday, August 29,  
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**  
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are  
**Susan and Naty.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JULY 25, 2015

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Marcy Doseo, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Naty Hopewell, John Ishihara, Annetta Kinnicutt, Tessie Labra. Terese Leber (presiding), Larry McGraw, Gail Rabideau, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Sid Sneider, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong, Val Wong. Guests: Edie (Sid's daughter), Linda McGraw, San-Ji Gupta.

CONVENED: 12:50 ADJOURNED: 2:45

Warmest congratulations from all to Gail and John, who were married on June 30.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dolores reported that the current balance is \$9,732.42. Terese passed on very grateful thanks from Jill Laughlin and the rest of Lyon's staff for the \$600 HBS contribution to the Arboretum, which will use the money for, among other purposes, one of its "wish list" purchases of a wormdrive skill saw. Dolores investigated savings, money market, and CD rates for Hawai'i banks, and circulated a listing of current rates—all of which are woefully small. Naty observed that, unless a substantial portion of our balance were invested for several years, we would only wind up earning something like \$10 to \$20 a year. Members decided not to invest in a CD at this time.

**HOSPITALITY:** Thank you Terese and Stan for the pupus and drinks. August hosts are Susan and Naty.

**PROGRAMS:** Lynette reported that so far nine members have signed up for the September 26 trip to Hawai'i Island to visit nurseries and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. She and Marie have been investigating logistics for the trip. Lynette noted that a Roberts eleven-passenger van, rented for the full day, would cost over a thousand dollars, and so they are exploring alternatives, such as renting two cars. At present, plans are to visit two nurseries in the morning—Lynette has asked David Shiigi about good times to come—then have lunch at Nani Mau gardens, and visit the national park in the afternoon. Lynette is also checking with the nurseries about shipping plant purchases back to O'ahu. Marie will investigate times and costs of flights. Lynette suggested that if members decide to go early enough, the group could stop by the Hilo Farmers' Market before going to the nurseries. Lynette and Marie will contact members who have signed up for the trip—and if you are interested in going but have not yet signed up, please contact Lynette or Marie.

**OLD BUSINESS—LYON ARBORETUM BROMELIAD GARDEN:** A sign up sheet was circulated for members who would like to volunteer to help maintain the bromeliad garden. HBS needs to give the list, along with volunteer application forms, to the Arboretum so that a memo of understanding can be drawn up covering the volunteer activity.

**NEW BUSINESS—BYLAWS:** Terese explained how, at the last meeting, at the Hālawa Xeriscape Garden, Tom Stuart had raised the question of what constituted a quorum for HBS meetings and decisions. Upon looking over the bylaws, she realized that they had not been updated since 1992, and were designed for an organization with a much larger membership. Tom, Naty, and Marie have agreed to form a bylaws revision committee to go over the current bylaws and recommend amendments.

**NEW BUSINESS—THE MOIR SLIDES AND PAPERS:** Lynette reported that HBS has been given a couple of boxes of material that had belonged to the late May and W. W. Goodale Moir. The boxes contain photographs, slides, newspaper clippings, articles, and notes relating to bromeliad cultivation. Stan agreed to look through the boxes to see about digitizing and preserving the material.

**NEW BUSINESS—DONATED CUPS:** Lynette reported that Adele, the concierge of the Ala Moana Hotel, where we hosted the BSI World Bromeliad Conference last year, has been so impressed by the plants that she remembered us, and was giving the Society a number of Japanese cups that had belonged to her mother and could be used for planting and display. The cups will be brought to the next meeting.

**SHOW AND TELL & AUCTION:** Thank you, Larry, for serving as auctioneer, and thank you to all who contributed plants, including Gail's varieties of *Aechmea fasciata*, *Aechmea nudicaulis*, and *Neoregelia* "Milagro"



## TIPS AND TRICKS FROM ELSIE HORIKAWA

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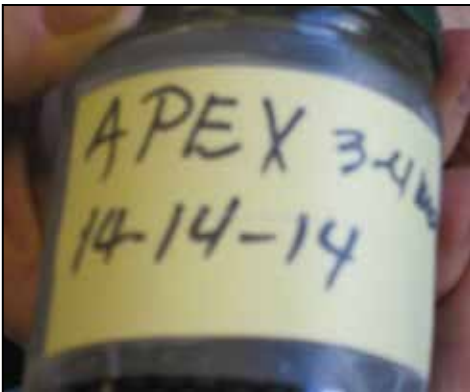
If you happen to see Elsie walking around her yard carrying an old bus-boy tray, she's not serving her plants drinks; that's how she carries around her equipment—and she has different set ups for whether she's working with her bromeliads, anthuriums, orchids, etc. Among the tools she favors are Yard Shark shears (she uses an older model that you might see at a swap meet for \$100); a rice sickle, with which she is very careful, because she wants to keep all her fingers; brightly colored grading or surveyor's tape (she prefers red), which she puts on her tools so that they are easy to find; pliers; saw; tweezers; clothes pins; S-hooks of all sizes; coated telephone wire (but not if it is so old the copper is starting to show through); scissors; and tags and a #1 pencil for marking everything. She uses all brass hose endings, rather than the cheaper plastic ones that break or leak, and pieces of raphis palm for a dibble stick.

Elsie uses different potting mixes for her bromeliads, anthuriums, and succulents, but favors coir for rooting bromeliads. Of the commercial potting mixes, she prefers the Sunshine blend (from Pacific Agriculture), and also uses kiwi bark, peat moss and medium cinders.

Her fertilizer of choice is a slow release 14-14-14 mix of Apex gray beads, as effective as Nutricote but cheaper; Elsie includes a little bit in her potting mixes.

For bugs and pests, Elsie favors a Bayer Advanced 3 in 1 insect disease and mite control spray, widely available at Longs and Walmart, which she uses on bromeliads, succulents, and anthuriums. For slugs and snails, she prepares a 16 to 1 dilution ammonia spray.

Years ago, Elsie's admits, she started by making a garden plan. She put up a green house, but as she said, "things keep growing and every day you get older." It's our good fortune that Elsie still spends several hours a day working with her plants, continuing to learn and to pass on her expertise and joy.



## A FIRST LOOK AT THE MOIR ARCHIVES

HBS was recently given two boxes of bromeliad-related material that had belonged to May and W. W. Goodale Moir. The boxes contain hundreds of slides and photographs, articles from newspapers, and pages from books and journals relating to cultivating bromeliads. The slides are labeled, and usually note the full name of the bromeliad—except for the occasional “Mystery Plant.” As befits records kept by a cultivator and hybridizer, the photos are accompanied by detailed notes about the plants, where they came from (and how much, if anything, they cost), and how they grew.

May Moir was born in 1907, in the Kap‘iolani Maternity Home, and raised in Kaimuki, surrounded from a young age by a great variety of plants. After her first husband passed away, in 1949 she married W. W. Goodale Moir, a local-born, Cornell-trained agronomist who was chair of the Hawaii Sugar Planters Association. Together they settled in the Nuuanu home they called Lipolani, which they turned into a well-known and widely viewed garden. Much of their time was spent collecting and cultivating tropical plants, discovered on trips around the world, and especially to Central America, Southeast Asia, Madagascar, and Australia. Bromeliads were one of May’s specialties, and she used them extensively in landscaping and flower arranging. For more than fifty years, May served as the head volunteer floral decorator at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, where her arrangements frequently featured both fresh and dried bromeliads. She was also the author of several book on gardening, including *Flower Sculpture in Hawaii: A Handbook* and *The Garden Watcher*.



LEFT: *Guzmania zahonii*, from a 1993 HBS show.

MIDDLE: *Neoregelia* ‘Orange Glow’ from Koolau Farmers (\$5.95 in 1990), one grown in sun, one in shade.

BELOW LEFT: section of a *Tillandsia* tree at Lipolani.



May Moir, describing a new crossbreed: *About four years ago I made the cross of Aechmea fendleri x Aech. dichlamydia trinitensis in the reverse to the cross made by Howard Yamamoto. It turned out so well I decided that Howard’s cross be named “Howard’s Blue” since no name had been given to it. There was a great range of color in the leaves of these plants all the way from lettuce green to deep lavender. The first one to bloom was one of the intermedium colors with dark areas on the ends of the leaves and of compact growth. The second one to flower was one of the green leafed ones and it has the deeper color to peduncle in red and of a lovelier intense light blue. The surprising thing was that the spike was so lovely and erect in the second one. But as each flower opened it adds weight to the peduncle and the first one to bloom started to bend over. But the second one still has kept its erectness. The darker leafed ones shall be interesting to see whether they will be lighter blue or darker. These plants are only one half the size of dichlamydia and even slightly smaller than fendleri. But they are a very fine hybrid to have in the garden.*

