



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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SHARING IMAGES FROM MEMBERS' GARDENS

Ever wonder what treasures can be found in HBS members' gardens? Each meeting members bring in beautiful bromeliads for auction and show and tell. It makes us curious about what our members' gardens look like, and the tricks and techniques we have developed for showcasing certain plants or garden features. Beginning with our February meeting, HBS Program Chairs Marie Ferdun, Gail Rabideau Ishihara, and John Ishihara are turning that curiosity into a recurring feature of HBS meetings.

Members are invited to bring in photos of their gardens. The photos could be of large growing areas or of particular microclimates or even of individual plants or small groupings. Pictures could show off display ideas, spectacular blooms, or striking foliage—or problem areas, where we're looking for help and suggestions.

Photos could be printed out or digital; we'll work with the Arboretum and members on how best to display the images. And we'll be asking for volunteers, for members willing to share photos of their growing environments and displays, greatest successes, and interesting "not successes"; this could also be a good way to get help in naming that plant whose ID has been lost or forgotten.

Our February meeting will feature photos of Gail and John's bromeliads, along with the stories of how they got the plants and how they are growing—we may even recognize some from HBS auctions.

As an example of a great display technique, here from our last auction is a photo of one of Ed Nishiyama's wood mountings. The more we learn about the amount of work that goes into making one of these—choosing and cutting the wood, hollowing out interior spaces without damaging the bark rim, and selecting and mounting the bromeliads to their best advantage—the more we'll treasure the occasional opportunity to buy one at auction.

Photo by Terese Leber.



2015 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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Open

LIBRARY

Karen Gollero & Tessie Labra

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org

FEBRUARY MEETING

This Saturday, February 27,
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are
Gail and John.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2016

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Nancy Arakaki, Frances Arakaki, Marcy Doseo, Marie Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Naty Hopewell, Gail Rabideau Ishihara, John Ishihara, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber (presiding), Sally Mist, Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Gail Rabideau, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Tom Stuart, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong. Guest: Carrie Okata.

CONVENED: 12:45 ADJOURNED: 2:45.

Terese welcomed everyone to a new year of Hawai'i Bromeliad Society meetings, and to a special "demonstration/work" session of the HBS.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dolores circulated a comprehensive report of HBS 2015 expenses and current accounting; contact Terese if you wish to receive a copy. For 2015, we spent \$342.28 more than we took in; as of January 30, 2016, our checking account balance was \$9,354.90 (just for comparison, our January 2014, pre-BSI conference total was \$2,528.77).

MEMBERSHIP: We currently have no Membership Chair; annual dues—\$15 per person, \$20 per family—should be paid to Dolores.

HOSPITALITY: Susan circulated a sign up sheet for hospitality hosts for 2016. Our February hosts are Gail and John.

PROGRAMS: Terese thanked the members and Program Chairs for suggesting several promising events. March Madness—a field trip! We will convene our March meeting at Val and Randy's house. In April, with Naty's help, we hope to host Angel Ramos, renowned sansevieria grower and mainstay of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Hawaii. For May, another field trip may be in order, to the Koko Crater Botanical Garden. Ideas for upcoming meetings include field trips to Sharon Petersen's and David Yearian's nurseries in Waimānalo; additional program suggestions are always welcome.

LIBRARY: Because of ongoing renovations and cleanup, the HBS "library cabinet," containing our reference collection, BSI journals, and HBS scrapbooks, has been moved to a less secure—and damper—greenhouse area. Lynette will follow up with the Arboretum to see how long the material is expected to remain there.

NEW BUSINESS: Anna Becker, of the Arboretum Plant Collections and Grounds staff, came by to introduce herself and to reaffirm Lyon's interest in working with HBS on maintaining the Bromeliad Garden. Karen Rohter agreed to serve as HBS liaison with Lyon on this project. Anyone interested in helping out in the Garden, please contact Terese or Karen, so that we can assemble a roster of volunteers and coordinate a work schedule with the Arboretum. We are especially interested in knowing if members can volunteer during the week or only on weekends.

SHOW AND TELL: Lynette provided a *Guzmania* identification refresher course and quiz, highlighting the genus's soft, non-serrated leaves, torch inflorescence, and need for air and light but not sun. And then she tricked us with a specimen of the reclassified *Aechmea/Guzmania* spectabilis, with its rare blue flowers.

AUCTION: Thanks to all who brought plants to auction. Besides three special examples of Ed's wood mounted bromeliads, the auction featured several *Neoregelia* hybrids, including Lisa Vinzant's 'Wallflower' and two Chester Skotak cultivars, 'Hannibal Lector' and 'PHITS.'



Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference Houston, Texas USA • June 13–19, 2016

Host: Bromeliad Society of Houston, Inc. • Conference Chair: Dr. Steven Reynolds
Early summer in Texas is great . . . the Best time to visit—not too hot and before hurricane season. Bromeliads love it and show it!

The deadline for the \$250 Early Conference Registration Fee is February 29th.
For the conference program and information on speakers, events, sales, and judging, as well as accommodations and registration, visit the BSI conference corner:

<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner>.

SCENES FROM THE HYPERTUFA FACTORY



HBS began the year with a hands-on project, making pots and planters with hypertufa, an artificial stone material consisting of portland cement mixed, in this case, with peat moss and perlite. Since the 1930s, hypertufa mixtures have been used to make lightweight, inexpensive planters. Members brought in molds of all shapes and sizes, from single-plant cups to Zippys containers to pails, to use as the bases for hand-building their creations. A month or so of curing and we'll see the fruits of our labor.

LEFT: Tessie, Nancie, Frances, and a future master gardener.

MIDDLE LEFT: Dolores making a double mold.

MIDDLE CENTER: Naty's Upsidedown Volcano pot.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Gail and Carrie hard at work

BOTTOM LEFT: Stan and Randy mix up a batch of hypertufa.

BOTTOM MIDDLE: Marcy shaping her creation.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Marie adding her finishing touches.

Photos by Terese Leber.



LYON SEED LAB JOINS FIGHT AGAINST RAPID ‘ŌHI‘A DEATH

‘Ōhi‘a trees are one of the glories of the native forests of Hawai‘i. Considered a keystone species, the trees provide habitat for native birds, insects, and snails, and other wildlife and plants, and their canopy protects smaller trees and native shrubs, while anchoring the watersheds that recharge our water supply. Symbolizing strength, beauty, and sanctity, as a manifestation of Kū, the ‘ōhi‘a also has great cultural significance—try to imagine a Merrie Monarch festival, for instance, if hālau cannot go into the forests to gather the plants and flowers represented in the mele and hula.

A recently identified disease called Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death has already killed over a hundred thousand ‘ōhi‘a trees on Hawai‘i Island and infected tens of thousands of acres. Aerial surveys show the disease to be spreading quickly from where it was first located in the Puna and Hilo districts, as infected trees typically die within a few weeks.

The disease has been identified as a vascular wilt fungus (related to a sweet potato disease), and currently there is no effective treatment. But Lyon Arboretum has begun to tackle the problem through the #OhiaLove Project. Staff members and partners of the Arboretum’s Seed Conservation Lab, led by lab manager Marian M. Chau, are systematically collecting and storing ‘ōhi‘a seeds from around the state in an attempt to identify trees resistant to the disease and to preserve genetic diversity for a time when reforestation can begin.

More information on the disease and attempts to fight it can be found on the websites friendsoflyon.com/ohia-love; ohialove.com; and www3.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/disease/ohia-wilt.html#article, and on February 17, Hawai‘i Public Radio featured a discussion of the disease and its cultural impact (http://cpa.ds.npr.org/khpr/audio/2016/02/ohia_0217.mp3). Finally, Lyon has set up a fund where people can contribute to its seed collection and restoration effort, gofundme.com/ohialove.

NEW CLASSES AT THE ARBORETUM

Air Layering: Woody Plant Propagation

Instructors: Liz Huppman & Gerrit Evensen

Air layering is a good way to propagate woody plants by growing healthy rooted branches directly from the parent plant. Air layers are genetically identical to the parent plant and will flower sooner than plants grown from seed. This technique is especially useful for plants that are hard to grow from cuttings, and works well with woody ornamentals and fruit trees, including azaleas, croton, hibiscus, citrus, and avocado. Wednesday, March 2, 2016: 2–3:30 pm. \$25.

Lei Making & Lei Plants: A 3-Session Workshop

Instructor: Brian Choy

Master lei maker Brian Choy’s first class will focus on the wili method of lei making, the second on making haku lei with ti, and the third on planting and maintaining a lei garden. Enrollment includes all three classes. 3 Saturdays: March 5, March 12, and March 19, 2016: 8:30–11:30 am. \$55

Basic Pruning and Tree Care

Instructor: Tristan Williams

Learn best care practices for healthy trees. Tristan Williams, the Lyon Arboretum’s arborist teaches this basic tree class, covering pruning tools and techniques, tree care, and how to know when it’s time to call in an arborist for professional help. Saturday, April 23, 2016: 9–11 am. \$25

To register, call the Arboretum at 988-0456, or visit their website manoa.hawaii.edu/lyonarboretum.

MOSQUITOES, AGAIN

Mosquitoes are a nuisance. But with dengue fever, and now the zika virus, they can actually be a hazard, and because bromeliads hold water in their center cups, they have a reputation as breeding grounds for mosquitoes—and a good reason for your neighbors to complain. A mosquito’s life cycle goes from egg, to larva, to pupa, to adult, but if that cycle is interrupted, mosquitoes can’t reproduce.

Prevent Standing Water: Eliminate breeding grounds by walking around your yard looking for anything that can hold water, such as plant saucers and empty pots.

Flush with Fresh Water: You can flush out old or standing water from your plants with a strong squirt from a hose. Be sure to get all of your bromeliads, flush each one well, and repeat weekly.

Spray with Soap Solution: Adult mosquitoes rest on top of the water, and the other forms hang below the surface. If the surface tension is broken, then the life cycle is interrupted. You can break the surface tension of the water by spraying your plants weekly with a mild liquid soap, in a solution of one tablespoon of soap to one gallon of water.