



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

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## LESSONS WITH LYNETTE AND LARRY

Our February meeting will feature presentations by our own HBS stalwarts Lynette Wageman and Larry McGraw.

We'll begin with another of Lynette's "Bromeliad Basics" programs. This month she'll be dishing the dirt on pots, potting media, and related "how tos," in a talk that is sure to be educational and engaging for new members and old alike.

Next, Larry McGraw will be holding a "hands on" workshop for mounting and displaying bromeliads using Tillywire and Tillytacker. Larry will be working mostly with *Tillandsia* and miniature *Neoregelia*. Materials and plants will be provided, so members will have a newly mounted plant to take home.

One display feature Larry will be discussing is a beautiful, light, easy-to-make outdoor hanging wall he has created for his bromeliads using Everbilt plastic chicken coop wire and UV resistant zip ties. Because the wall doesn't require any media, plants can easily be added, subtracted, or swapped out; lighting can be added; and the entire wall can be disassembled or moved to display area.

After the workshop, members are invited to Larry's home to view the hanging plant wall and tour his garden.

TOP: Lynette discussing identifying marks on different types of bromeliads.

BOTTOM: screen shot of Larry's "wall"; you can see the real thing with a site visit after the meeting on Saturday.



### 2017 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Terese Leber

TREASURER

Dolores Roldan

HOSPITALITY

Susan Andrade

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Stanley Schab

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR

Gail & John Ishihara

MEMBERSHIP

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

[www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org](http://www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org)

## FEBRUARY MEETING

This Saturday, February 25,  
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**  
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are  
**Lynette and Stan.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2017

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Francis Arakaki, Nancy Arakaki, Katherine Casey, Paulette Casey, Merrill Cutting (and daughter-in-law Jean), Naty Hopewell, Gail Rabideau Ishihara, John Ishihara, Terese Leber (presiding), Larry McGraw, Ed Nishiyama, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong, and Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:50; ADJOURNED: 2:20.

Terese welcomed everyone to a new year of HBS activities. She introduced several new members who were attending their inaugural meeting, and applauded the dedicated efforts of old hands for spreading the word about HBS. In particular, she thanked Gail and Val for their work with the 2016 East-West Center Craft Fair, which raised a record net profit of \$801.34 for the Society, due to the enthusiastic participation and generous donations of plants and materials by our members. She also heartily thanked Val and Randy for the delicious Year of the Rooster hospitality spread.

For the benefit of new members (and to refresh our older memories), Terese outlined the HBS by-laws, revised last year (thank you, Naty), particularly as they set out the purpose of the Society, and the roles of the various officers and committees.

TREASURER: Dolores reported that our current balance is a whopping \$10,764.18.

HOSPITALITY: Susan explained the duties of hospitality hosts for our meetings, and circulated a sign-up list for 2017. Our hospitality hosts for February are Lynette and Stan.

MEMBERSHIP: Terese circulated a membership list, asking those present to correct their contact information, if necessary, and to confirm that they had paid their dues for 2017. She also explained the duties of the Membership Chair, and welcomed volunteers for the position, while thanking Dolores for currently doubling up by looking after the membership roll.

NEW BUSINESS: WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW: Terese explained that in 2012, 2013, and 2015, HBS had been invited to present a display at the Spring Show of the Windward Orchid Society, and that we have again been invited to prepare a display for the 2017 show, which will be held March 24, 25, and 26, in the King Intermediate School gym. She showed pictures of our previous displays, described their creation process, and put out a call for volunteers (see page 4).

PROGRAMS: Gail presented a debriefing on the 2016 Craft Fair, highlighting what was most successful, and what we can learn going ahead. Because of the location and timing of the event, most of the customers were University of Hawai'i or East-West Center students or employees interested in attractive, but inexpensive and easy to care for, plants for rooms and offices. Larry's *Tillandsia* and *Vriesia*, at \$3 and \$8, sold well, as did the gilded, decorated clay pots Gail and her friends prepared (a steal at \$5 each). On the high end, Ed's wood-mounted plants and Dolores's wreaths sold well. *Tillandsia* proved to be the most popular variety. Gail noted that it was good to have four people staffing the tables and sales area, and most importantly for future events, that people wanted information on plant care, such as George Hidano's sheet on *Tillandsia* cultivation, as well as information about HBS membership.

Gail described forthcoming programs, which will include a seminar and workshop on using Tillywire and Tillytacker, led by Larry; field trips to Larry's, and to Val and Randy's home gardens; a return engagement by *Tillandsia* specialists Judy and George Hidano, who will focus on fertilizing and separating plants; and a trip to visit Hilo area nurseries. She also urged members to share presentations of our garden photos, so we can see and learn from what each other is doing.

SHOW AND TELL: Terese passed around some arm guards that the Lyon Bromeliad Garden team has been using, and Val and Randy sold several extra pairs they had brought.

AUCTION: Thank you to all who donated plants for the auction—especially Ed for his *Guzmania* (which clearly flourish with his use of 20/20/20 fertilizer), and cluster of *Neoregelia* 'Punini' growing in a coconut; Gail and John for their *Neoregelia* (including a Lisa Vinzant cultivar 'Popoki'); and Larry for an assortment of *Tillandsia*, including *balbisiana*, *bulbosa*, and *polystachia* (and for serving as auctioneer).





# BROMELIADS 101: A REFRESHER ON SEVEN POPULAR GENERA

To remind us that we're an *educational* society, program directors Gail and John asked Lynette to begin the year with a review of some of the more common varieties of bromeliad, with tips on how to distinguish them.



See how a plant's form, the shape and texture of its leaves, and its inflorescence can help us tell a *Neoregelia* 'Papaya Moonlight' (far left) from a *Vriesea splendens* (center) or an *Aechmea* 'Del Mar' (right, held by Tom Stuart).



**AECHMEA** are marked by thick leaves with sharp spines and a wide variation in color depending on exposure to the sun—because of their leaves, *Aechmea* can handle more sun than many other genera; their inflorescences are often spectacular, with very long-lasting flowers and stalks of colorful berries.

**BILLBERGIA** are characterized by vase-shaped, tubular rosettes of green, banded, variegated, or spotted leaves, with spines; they can flourish in rock gardens; and their often red or pink inflorescences are showy but very short-lived, so *Billbergia* are usually cultivated for their shape and color.

Popular in dish gardens, **CRYPTANTHUS** are also known as "Earth Stars"; small and often prolific puppers, most *Cryptanthus* are grown for their colorfully patterned, crinkly, leaves; prone to sunburn, they do best in filtered light—in nature they generally grow on jungle floors.

**GUZMANIA** feature soft, smooth, green or striped leaves, without spines; they are favored for their dramatic inflorescences, which go straight up, like torches or candles; because of the thinness and softness of their leaves, they do better in filtered sunlight, with more shade than most other bromeliad genera.

**NEOREGELIA** are marked by spiral arrangements of brightly colored or patterned, spiny leaves that open out around a central well, where small flowers appear; they are among the varieties most favored for landscaping, as they can thrive in a range of conditions.

Epiphytic by nature, **TILLANDSIA** feed through their leaves, which are non-serrated and slender; species range from the moss-like *T. usneoides*, to the small, decorative, *T. ionantha*, to ten-foot tall *T. grandis*; most *Tillandsia* can adjust to a wide range of sunlight, and appreciate a lot of air circulation.

**VRIESEA** are soft-leaved plants, and need more shade and protection from the wind than do harder-leaved genera; *Vriesea* are known for their flat, showy, large, and long-lasting inflorescences. *Tillandsia* and *Vriesea* are very similar taxonomically, and some species can be hard to tell apart, particularly when not in bloom.

*These two informational pieces are excerpted from columns by Tom Stuart from the February 2011 HBS Newsletter.*

## TAXONOMY: BROMELIADS ARE FAMILY

Plants are scientifically classified by:

Kingdom, Division, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.

The scientific name for a bromeliad—its binomial—combines its genus and species names, like *Aechmea blanchetiana* or *Tillandsia bulbosa*; the genus is capitalized and comes first, followed by the species. Both are italicized (genus is singular, genera plural; species is both singular and plural). When listing plants, if multiple species in the same genus are referred to, the genus is usually abbreviated, such as *Ae. gamosepala*.

A hybrid is a cross between two naturally occurring species; a cultivar is a deliberately grown hybrid. For registered cultivars, the genus name is italicized, the hybrid name is not and is enclosed in single quotes, such as *Guzmania* 'Puna Gold.'

Bromeliads—the family *Bromeliaceae*—includes about sixty genera and thousands of species. The Bromeliad Society International maintains an active international working group on taxonomy that occasionally recategorizes and renames individuals and groups of plants.

## A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

That would mean that a thousand pictures are worth a million words—so you can save a lot of reading if you go to the web site of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies: [www.fcbs.org](http://www.fcbs.org). When you get to their homepage, look on the left side of the page for "Photo Index." There you will find a listing of genera. Choose a genus, such as *Aechmea*, then pick a species, and you will find the photographs. FCBS, for example, lists 225 species and 425 cultivars of *Aechmea*. The FCBS list is also the best single source for confirming the spelling of Bromeliad names.

Another good source for images is the web site of the Bromeliad Society International: [www.bsi.org](http://www.bsi.org). Its pictures are contained in a Genera Gallery ([www.bsi.org/brom\\_info/gallery](http://www.bsi.org/brom_info/gallery)).

If you don't have access to the internet, the HBS library has many books that can be borrowed. One of the best books is *Blooming Bromeliads*, by Ulrich and Ursula Baensch (Tropic Beauty, 1994). It has an easy to read text, with excellent photographs. HBS also has copies of *The Book of Bromeliads* by Ron Parkhurst of Maui (Pacific Isle, 2000).



# CALLING ALL PLANTS, FOR THE WOS SPRING SHOW

HBS has been invited to host a display of bromeliads at the Windward Orchid Society's thirty-seventh annual Spring Show, honoring the Diamond Jubilee of the WOS. The event will be held on March 24, 25, and 26, at King Intermediate School in Kane'ohe (46-155 Kamehameha Highway), from 9 am to 7 pm on Friday and Saturday, and from 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

Our HBS display area will be two six-foot-long by thirty-inch wide tables, and we can build as high structurally as we can safely and attractively go. The success of the display of course depends on YOUR plants, so we are once again calling on our members: the more the merrier. We want to showcase the variety and attractiveness of the different genera of bromeliads. Naturally we are looking for bloomers or bright colors, but also for interesting foliage and leaf patterns—whatever makes a plant special to you. Driftwood with bromeliads, or other interesting displays (Thank You, Karen, for the pagoda) are also welcome.

Remember, we are only borrowing your plants, caring for them like family, and returning them afterward. Security is provided at the show, so no worries. Please be generous.

- No need fancy pots; plastic pots, which we will cover, or even bare roots/NO pots are OK
- Any size is OK
- Blooming is best (but not necessary)
- Bright colors OR interesting Foliage/Leaf patterns
- Mounted or hanging plants are fine; the display is 3-D

It really helps in planning the display to SEE the plants beforehand. So please BRING plants to the HBS meeting at Lyon on February 25. If you cannot, or if your plants aren't ready yet, let Terese know, and she will arrange for a pick up or drop off location,

Besides plants, we also welcome all volunteers to help with the set-up, which will take place on Thursday, March 23, in the morning, and for the clean-up, which will take place Sunday at 4. The display itself does not have to be staffed; the show is free and open to the public.

**Windward Orchid Society**  
**37th Annual Show**  
**Diamond Jubilee - WOS 1957**

**Orchid Show and Plant Sale** S.W. King Intermediate School  
46-155 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe  
(Two Blocks North of Windward Mall)

Friday, March 24, 2017 &  
Saturday, March 25, 2017  
9:00am-7:00pm  
Sunday, March 26, 2017  
9:00am-4:00pm\*\*

**Educational Sessions**

Friday, March 24  
10:00am Orchid Growing Culture  
2:00pm Honohono Orchid Culture  
4:00pm General Orchid Culture

Saturday, March 25  
10:00am General Orchid Culture  
2:00pm Bonsai Culture  
4:00pm Honohono Orchid Culture

Sunday, March 26  
10:00am General Orchid Culture  
12:00pm Cactus Culture

\*\*Sunday Plant Sales will end @ 3pm

DISCOVER

