



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

JULY 2016

JULY MEETING TO FEATURE TILLANDSIA SPECIALISTS

For our July meeting, program chairs Gail and John Ishihara have arranged a special treat: a visit from Judy and George Hidano. Well established in local orchid circles for their award-winning hybrids and displays, the Hidanos have been devoting more of the time—and greenhouse space—to cultivating *Tillandsia*, which they have been collecting for over twenty years. Four years ago, they started to catalog and name their hybrids, and now *Tillandsia* are an increasing part of their gardening life.

Judy and George will “show and tell” about their collection, their cultivating techniques, and particularly their tips and tricks for best displaying their *Tillandsia*, in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, from condo living to greenhouses to backyards.

The Hidanos will bring some of their favorite hybrids to show and sell—loose, potted, and mounted —along with some of the special fertilizer that, from years of experience, they have found works best for *Tillandsia* cultivation.

SAYING FAREWELL TO MARIE

Family and friends gathered at O'ahu Cemetery on June 18 to say farewell to long-time HBS member Marie Ferdun, and to share stories of her life and many legacies of joy and compassion—organizing for open adoption records and procedures, working for the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, tending her feral cat colonies, roller blading!, and of course her many contributions to the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society.



2016 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org

JULY MEETING

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

Our hospitality hosts are
Naty and Stan.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2016

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Francis Arakaki, Nancy Arakaki, Karen Gollero, Naty Hopewell, Gail Rabideau Ishihara, John Ishihara, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber (presiding), Larry McGraw, Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong, Val Wong. GUESTS: Merrill Cutting, Linda McGraw.

CONVENED: 12:45; ADJOURNED: 2:25.

Terese welcomed everyone to the meeting, with special thanks to Karen G. and Lynette for providing food and drinks. Terese reported on the services for Marie Ferdun (see page 1), and agreed to check with Lyon Arboretum on the procedures and costs for HBS to endow a memorial plaque honoring her

TREASURER: Dolores reported that the May auction earned \$63, and that our balance as of May 31 was \$9,515.25. Lynette's reimbursement for her BSI conference registration fees is still forthcoming.

PROGRAMS: Our speakers for July will be Judy and George Hidano, whose garden was featured in the June 6, 2016 *Honolulu StarAdvertiser* garden feature. Additional program ideas—especially for field trips—are always welcome, as are volunteers willing to share photos of their gardens and displays.

HOSPITALITY: Our July hospitality hosts are Naty and Stan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS—EWA ORCHID SHOW: Nancy distributed free tickets to the 66th Annual Ewa Orchid Show, scheduled for July 15–17 at Ewa Elementary School, and reminded everyone that HBS members will be showing and selling at the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS—HYBRIDIZING EQUIPMENT: If any members are interested in purchasing the kind of tweezers we saw Sharon Petersen use in her hybridizing procedures, please let Dolores know by September, as she will be attending a trade show where they will be available at a good price.

SHOW AND TELL, AND AUCTION: A big mahalo to Ed for supplying an assortment of beautifully mounted plants for show and tell and auction, including several variegated

Vriesea (top photo); specimens of *Tillandsia balbisiana*, *Tillandsia variabilis*, and *Tillandsia polystachia*; a coconut-mounted *Neoregelia Fireball*, a wood-mounted *Neoregelia Red Waif* cluster (a *Zebrina* and *Fireball* cross); and a wood-mounted display of Lisa Vinzant's hybrid *Neoregelia Popcorn*' (a *Punctate Red*' and *Tigrina* cross; photo right). Ed reminded members that either too much or too little sun, or too much fertilizer, will turn the plants too green or too yellow.



KAREN'S KAHALA HILLSIDE

Carrying on the tradition initiated by Gail and John Ishihara at our February meeting, our June gathering featured Karen Rohter sharing stories and photos of how she has incorporated bromeliads into a variety of growing environments on her Waialae Nui hillside, above Kahala Mall. As Karen described the yard, landscaping challenges (or opportunities!) include sharp drop offs and slopes reaching down toward Kahala, some very large rocks, rock walls, storm drains, and a wide range of sun and shade. Her solutions include plantings of a variety of the sturdier bromeliads, mostly *Neoregelia* and *Aechmea*.

Karen doesn't do much to prepare the ground—basically, she digs a hole and puts in the plant—but because of her yard's microclimates and variations in sun and shade, her bromeliads, even of the same variety, can reveal wide differences in coloration and variegation—between, for example, a potted *Neoregelia* on her lower porch, where it receives full sun, and the same plant underneath one of her fruit trees, such as a big, shade-casting mango. To soften the look of some of the more exposed plants, Karen often uses asparagus ferns or similar greenery.

Karen also reports that when she leaves her thinnings or give-aways for the neighbors, they always disappear—showing that free Bromeliads are appreciated throughout the island.



BROMELIADS—TEXAS STYLE!

HBS members got to hear our own Lynette Wageman's best Southern drawl, as she reported on her recent trip to Houston and the Bromeliad Society International's Twenty-Second World conference, "Bromeliads—Texas Style!" The conference hotel air conditioning was working overtime, keeping the rooms in the low 60s, but the welcome was as warm as Houston's 90+ temperatures. Lynette remarked on how many people told her how much they enjoyed the 2014 Honolulu conference, as she was recognized as the HBS representative in Houston. She saw lots of familiar faces, including of course BSI vice president and conference coordinator Bonnie Boutwell.

The Houston conference shared some similarities with Honolulu (including the conference bag), but featured some notable events of its own. The conference banquet was a Texas barbecue, held at Jimbo's Nursery, featuring peach cobbler and brisket and demonstrations on plant mounting. "Bromeliads—Texas Style!" also featured a BSI-judged show, with dozens of categories of awards. Besides Lynette, another prominent Hawai'i representative at the conference was David Shiigi, who not only brought plants to show, but several paintings (photo below), which won awards in the art categories.

The conference highlighted some of the Bromeliad varieties less familiar to HBS members, especially *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia*, and *Orthophytum*, and after the show, most of the plants, even the award-winners, wound up for sale or auction. Resisting temptation, Lynette restricted herself to buying some small *Neoregelia* and *Cryptanthus*.

Incoming president Lyn Wegner, of the East London Bromeliad Society in South Africa (pictured below with our own Troy Odin), announced that the next conference will be held in San Diego, from May 29 to June 3, 2018. Start grooming your plants now!

