



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES: PINEAPPLE WOMEN OF HAWAI'I

So, who does the gardening in your house? Pineapples have been grown commercially in Hawai'i since the 1800s. During the summer months, students and homemakers often found temporary employment in the fields as weeders, cultivators, and pickers, and in the canneries as trimmers, packers, and warehouse workers. Many women, like Venicia Damasco Guiala, were year-round employees—but let's let her tell the story.

*I was born in Batac, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, in 1913. [My parents] were farmers. I wanted to be a nurse, but I could not pass the qualification physical. Because I'm [too] short. . . . I [also] wanted to be a lawyer. Because you know I love to talk, eh? I like to argue. . . . But we didn't have enough means. I took up teaching so I could help my younger sisters go to school. . . . I graduated and then after that, I taught ten years before I came to Hawai'i.*

Venicia and her husband, Ruperto, worked for many years in different capacities in the pineapple industry on the islands of Lāna'i and O'ahu, raising two sons, both college graduates. One of Venicia's first jobs was picking pineapple. Here she describes her work clothes:

*You cannot work without your hat or your goggles. You have to cover your head with a handkerchief, and another handkerchief covering your face. . . . You had to wear denim cloth. First you have your [inner] pants. Then you have the cover pants. You don't like to be poked [by the sharp pineapple leaves]. And then, when it rains, or early in the morning the pineapple leaves are wet, so you have to [wear] the rubber pants. And I don't like my feet to be wet so I have to use boots. [From wrist to shoulder], it's all protected. You have to put on an armband that you got to sew from the old pants. And we wear our own gloves. I used the rubber glove in the morning when there was dew and the plants were wet. Later in the day, I changed to the vinyl glove because it got too hot with the rubber glove.*

For more of Venicia's story, and others like hers, check out *Talking Hawai'i's Story: Oral Histories of an Island People*, edited by Michi Kodama-Nishimoto, Warren S. Nishimoto, and Cynthia A. Oshiro, or the archives of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Center for Oral History.

Venicia Damasco Guiala on her pineapple field work crew, and after retirement, in 1983.



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## JULY MEETING

This Saturday, July 26, we meet at

Lyon Arboretum at **12:30** (not Noon).

Our hospitality hosts are

**Gail and Helen** (food)

and **Lynette** (drinks).

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2014

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Helen Friend, Karen Gollero, Nancy Hiraoka, John Ishihara, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber (presiding), Larry McGraw, Gail Rabideau, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jamie Roldan, Stan Schab, and Lynette Wageman.

CONVENED: 12:10; ADJOURNED: 2:30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Because of another event at the Arboretum, our July 26 meeting will start at **12:30**, not at Noon.

MINUTES: The May 2014 Newsletter should be corrected to show that the \$450 contributed by Gail and her family was a donation to the HBS, not the World Bromeliad Conference; and that Lynette brought Sharon Petersen's plants to the meeting, not Tom Stuart.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Tessie reported an opening balance of \$2,839.77, and closing balance of \$3,847.77, with deposits of \$450 in donations (thank you, Gail!), \$70 in membership dues, \$3.50 in book sales, and a whopping \$484.50 from the auction. The closing balance does not reflect outstanding checks to Lyon Arboretum for \$200.

HOSPITALITY: Our hosts for July are Gail and Helen (food), and Lynette (drinks); and for August, Karen R. and Gail (food), and Ed (drinks).

LIBRARY: Lynette reported on her research into prices of *Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual*, the introductory guide by Herb Plever and Joyce L. Brehm published by BSI in 2003. HBS is almost out of copies, which we make available to new members. For purchases of 1 to 10 copies, the cost is \$3 each; for 11 to 49 copies, 2.50 each; and for 50 copies or more, \$2.25 each. HBS voted to

**purchase one hundred copies of *Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual*.**

Lynette will follow up on the purchase.

CONFERENCE: The conference committee chairs and organizing committee have been meeting regularly, and report progress on all fronts.

PLANT SALE: Lynette and Marie described a positive and helpful discussion with Sharon Petersen and her friend and colleague Cheryl Basic, an Australian horticulturalist and bromeliad grower affiliated with the Sunshine Coast Bromeliad Society and proprietor of Wildfire Garden bromeliad nursery. Cheryl provided good advice on conducting both the plant sale and the exhibition, including tips on staging and how to handle the sales proceeds and the exhibition awards.

Marie reminded us that anyone selling bromeliads must be both a BSI member and registered for the conference; people selling other plants or crafts do not need to be either a BSI member or a conference registrant (but BSI members will keep 75 percent of their sales, while non-members will keep 70). As of early June, five sellers have confirmed their participation, with four or five more growers on the fence. Because of the difficulties with obtaining, practicing with, and becoming adept at using cash registers, we have decided to go low tech at the sale, using cash boxes and calculators, while BSI handles credit card purchases. HBS will obtain and distribute to the sellers the two-part sales tickets needed for each plant; we will also collect boxes for plant buyers to use to carry off their treasures.

The organizing committee is considering how to divide the conference space to do justice to both the sale and exhibit. HBS will need to provide sellers, exhibitors, and display organizations with table protectors; we will also remind them about the hotel policies regarding planting and planting materials. Exhibitors, sellers, and displayers will be given specific information in August about when, where, why, and how to set up their displays. As part of our volunteer duties, HBS will be responsible for security for the display, sales, and exhibition areas, which may be subsections of the same room.

As of now, HBS is still holding onto its agreement with the Quarantine Station, until we are sure that no continental US or international growers will be shipping plants to the event. Lynette will coordinate with the State Department of Agriculture for on-site phyto certification at the sale, so that buyers can take their plant purchases out of state.

*Continued on page 4.*

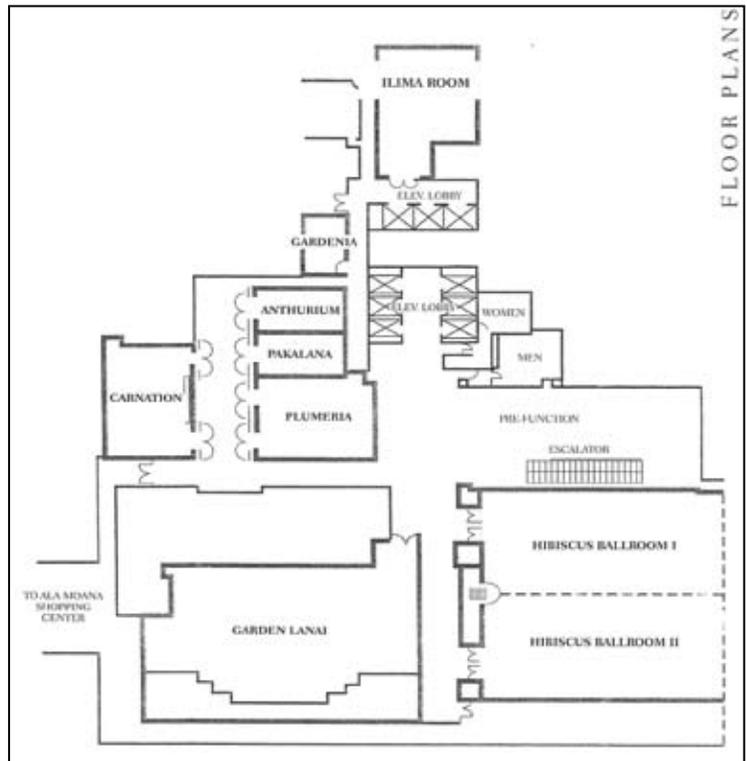


Several HBS members were able to tour the conference site with the Ala Moana Hotel liaison and banquet coordinator—who has already set the site for the bar (photo by Val Wong).

## REVISED CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<b>Monday, Sept. 8</b>	Arrivals / Hotel Check-in	
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 9</b>	8 am – 9 am 9 am – 9:30 am 9:30 am – 5 pm 9 am – 5 pm 12 noon – 1 pm 6:30 pm	Board Registration and Continental Breakfast — Carnation Room BSI Annual General Meeting — Carnation Room BSI Annual Board Meeting — Carnation room Judges School — Anthurium Room BSI Board and Judges School Luncheon — Carnation Room Board Cocktails and Dinner — Anthurium and Pakalana Rooms
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 10</b>	8 am – 5 pm 8 am – 3 pm 9:00 am – 10 am 10 am – 11 am 11 am – 12 noon 12 noon – 1 pm 1 pm – 2 pm 2 pm – 3 pm 5 pm – 9 pm	Conference Registration, Hospitality, and Aloha Baskets — Pre-Function Area Plant Sale Vendor, Exhibition, and Display Set-Up — Hibiscus Ballroom Welcome Address: Jay Thurrott, President — Garden Lanai Seminar: Pamela Koide-Hyatt on Tillandsia Hybridization — Garden Lanai Seminar: Geoff Lawn on BSI's Cultivar Registry — Garden Lanai Box Lunch for All Registrants — Pre-Function Area Seminar: Andy Siekkinen on the Bromeliads of Oaxaca — Garden Lanai Seminar: Nigel Thomson, Australian Bromeliad specialist — Garden Lanai A Hawaiian Evening at the Willows Restaurant — additional cost to registrants
<b>Thursday, Sept. 11</b>	8 am – 5 pm 8 am – 2 pm 9 am – 12 noon 12 noon – 2 pm 1 pm – 4 pm 2 pm – 9 pm	Conference Registration, Hospitality, and Aloha Baskets — Pre-Function Area Plant Sale Vendor, Exhibition, and Display Set-Up — Hibiscus Ballroom Home/Garden Tours free to all Registrants — Lyon Arboretum, Mānoa Heritage Center Luncheon free to all Registrants — Ala Moana Hotel restaurants City Tour free to all Registrants — Historic Honolulu sites Plant Sale, Exhibition, and Displays Open to Registrants Only — Hibiscus Ballroom
<b>Friday, Sept. 12</b>	8 am – 5 pm 9 am – 5 pm 9 am – 10 am 10 am – 11 noon 11 am – 12 noon 12 noon – 1 pm 1 pm – 5 pm	Conference Registration, Hospitality, and Aloha Baskets — Pre-Function Area Plant Sale, Exhibition, and Displays Open to the Public — Hibiscus Ballroom Seminar: Alan Herndon, BSI Director and Tradewind Tropicals proprietor — Garden Lanai Round Table Discussion: Bromeliads – Hawaiian Style — Garden Lanai Seminar: Heidi Leianueanue Bornhorst on pineapple cultivation in Hawai'i — Garden Lanai Box Lunch for All Registrants — Pre-Function Area Nursery Tours free to all Registrants — Waimānalo nurseries
<b>Saturday, Sept. 13</b>	9 am – 3 pm Plant Sale, Exhibition, and Displays Open to the Public — Hibiscus Ballroom  9 am – 5 pm Polynesian Cultural Center and Dole Plantation Village Tour — additional cost to registrants  6 pm – 10 pm Cash Bar, Banquet, Rare Plant and Art Auction, and Awards — Hibiscus Ballroom	
<b>Sunday, Sept. 14</b>	All-Day Tour to Hawai'i Island: David Fell's Sunshine Nursery, David Shiigi's Bromeliads Hawaii, Nani Mau Garden, and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park — additional cost to Registrants	

Most of the conference activities will take place in the Hibiscus Ballroom and the Garden Lanai; volunteer headquarters is yet to be determined, but most of the volunteer activity will take place in the Pre-Function Registration and Hospitality area, and in the Hibiscus Ballroom.



## THE LATEST DIRT ON DIRT

### AND WHY THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SHOULD PLANT YOUR BROMELIADS IN

Many thanks, Lynette, for the informative program on Bromeliad planting tips and techniques. We learned that in the wild, Bromeliads may live in various mixes of soil, mineral, and organic matter, on rocks, or attached to other plants or objects, but that no Bromeliad likes wet feet, and that all our plants will benefit from good drainage and air circulation—which is why dirt from our yards, or even pure potting soil would probably not be the best medium for our Bromeliads. Try various mixes, and talk to other growers about local conditions, to come up with a planting medium that provides support and nutrients, that holds moisture without becoming soggy, and that allows drainage and air circulation. Cinders, coir, orchid bark, sphagnum moss, perlite, sand, and potting soil are common ingredients in potting mixes. And as Lynette demonstrated, mixes also have to be adjusted according to the planters used, as concrete, plastic, and clay pots, for example, differently impact the success of the planting medium.



## MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Continued from page 2.*

**EXHIBIT:** The entries in most judged plant shows are anonymous, but that will not be the case for the *Bromeliads in Paradise* exhibition. With the approval of the growers and the BSI, it has been decided that a grower's name should accompany each of the plants on exhibit. The usual strict rules will still apply, however, to identifying each plant and its parentage. BSI judges, fresh out of their Tuesday judging school, will participate in awarding a limited number of prizes. Rather than the full complement of fifty-plus BSI show awards, a limited number of Exhibit categories will be selected over the next month.

**AUCTION:** Lynette announced that we have a licensed auctioneer lined up to help with the special auction in conjunction with the banquet on Saturday night.

**REGISTRATION:** Terese noted that the registration table will need to have both a cash box and credit card capability, and will have to be staffed accordingly.

**FINANCES:** Raleigh reported a balance of over \$10,000 in the World Bromeliad Conference account, with outstanding expenses of over \$1,000. Checks should be made payable to the World Bromeliad Conference 2014, but he has also received and been able to deposit checks made out variously to the HBS and BSI. Raleigh reminded everyone that to ensure reimbursement prior approval should be obtained from the conference committee for anything other than minor expenses.

**TOURS:** Raleigh reported that about forty-five people have registered for the Sunday Hawai'i Island trip, and about seventeen for the Saturday Dole Pineapple Village and Polynesian Cultural Center tour. Four free tours will be available to all conference registrants: Honolulu City tours scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, a Garden and Home tour scheduled for Thursday morning, and a Nursery tour scheduled for Friday afternoon. The Registration table will be responsible for providing tour information during the conference, and possibly for late sign-ups, which may need to be decided on a case by case basis at the conference. Troy Oden will oversee the tours; HBS is planning to bring Troy to Honolulu about a week before the conference.

**ALOHA BASKETS AND CONFERENCE BAGS:** Marie and Lynette reminded everyone that Bonnie Boutwell, BSI Vice President and Conference Director, will serve as the ultimate quality control and "decider" for what goes in the baskets and bags. Bonnie plans to arrive in mid-August to oversee the final stages of conference preparation.

**NEXT STEPS:** The conference organizers will prepare a letter to send to every registrant. The letter will set out a new schedule, describe the events, and provide a mechanism for signing up for the paid tours and events.